

Poison concert disappointment

Playing to a small but enthusiastic crowd, the rock band Poison brought its brand of pop-metal to the Smith Center Monday night.

But while Poison at its best can make the initiated fan jump up and down to the rhythm and have (as the group's own song puts it) "nothin' but a good time," Monday night's show was something of a disappointment.

The heavy metal band Tesla opened for Poison. Undoubtedly one of the most underrated hard-rock bands around today, Tesla jammed for about 50 minutes, drawing material from its two albums, *Mechanical Resonance* and *The Great Radio Controversy*. The band's act was tight, and it played as well to the Smith Center's about one-third capacity crowd as it did to the sellout crowd in Greensboro the last time it was in North Carolina, when it opened for Def Leppard.

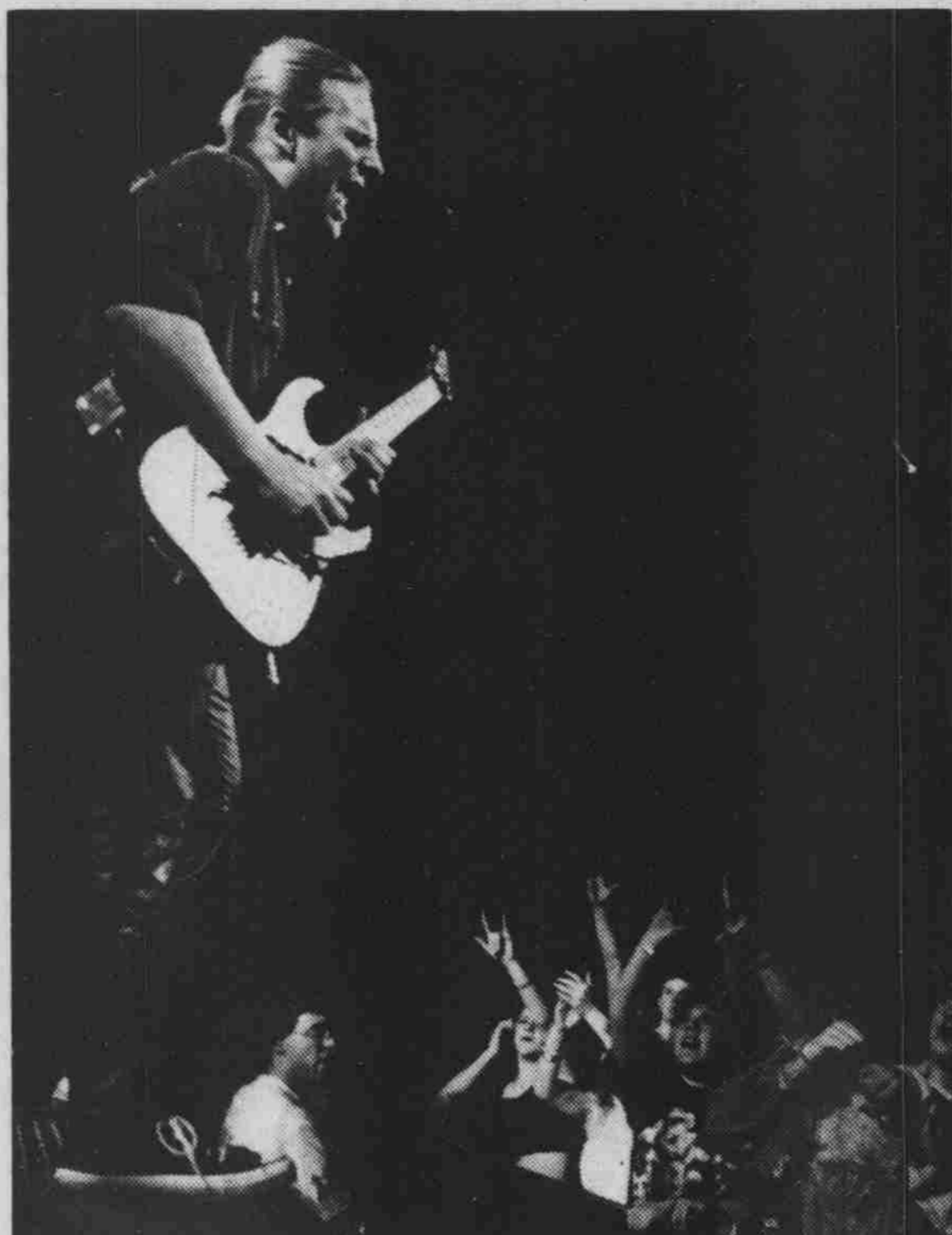
At 9:30 p.m., the boys who began their careers by making Tammy Bakker's makeup job look conservative took the stage, opening with the title cut from their first album, *Look What the Cat Dragged In*. Though they were without the glam look this time, they did play in a sea of dry ice smoke and against a backdrop of the cover from their most recent album, *Open Up and Say Ahhh!* Seeing the face of guitarist C.C. Deville for the first time, I realized why he opted for the Mary Kay look.

Finishing the opening song, the band launched into "I Want Action" followed by "Good Lovin'," with lead singer Brett Michaels playing harmonica. Though this was a plus for the songs, Michaels' solo did detract from the momentum the band had thus far built.

In fact, this was a problem throughout the entire show. Poison is indeed a good-time band, but it is a band without any bona fide superstar musicians (e.g., Eddie Van Halen) capable of carrying the show on individual talent for an extended period of time. Though Michaels is a good front man and Deville a competent guitarist, their grandstanding was most inappropriate.

Deville was especially guilty of this. Though one could tell that he enjoyed doing 18 guitar solos per song, his pleasure was much greater than that of his audience. Even avid guitar fans would have been annoyed by the pretentiousness of Deville's playing. Quantity rarely, if ever, surpasses quality, and this was no exception.

And Deville was not the only one who was guilty of musical self-indulgence. Drummer Rikki Rockett, who, considering that he is only a



DTH/Steven Exum

Lead guitarist for Poison plays Monday night in the Smith Center

Paul Stewart Concert

drummer, has an incredible amount of stage panache, performed the perfunctory drum solo of the evening. There are few drummers who are so talented that they can hold an audience's attention for a five- to 10-minute drum solo. Needless to say, he wasn't one of them.

As the evening wore on, the band's performance got even sloppier. Michaels' guitar intro to "I Won't Forget You" was too long and spoiled the timing of the song. He also muffed the words to "Fallen Angel" and "Nothin' But a Good Time."

Definitely the low point of the concert, though, was Deville's guitar solo. It was an excruciating 15 minutes long, and by its end had nearly everyone in the audience

sitting down. While I realize that Poison has only two albums to its credit, and fans usually expect guitar and drum solos at heavy metal concerts, the group could have done better. If it felt that it needed to fill space, missed performances of "Cry Tough" and Poison's version of Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Nite" would have been more than welcome to the audience.

For the encore, bassist Bobby Dall did a solo, playing the Pink Panther Theme. It was well performed and mercifully short. The rest of the band joined him for the Poison classic, "Talk Dirty to Me."

I saw Poison open for David Lee Roth last July. It played 45 minutes of non-stop rock 'n' roll with more heart and less bull than Diamond Dave has been able to muster in years. But if it is unable to keep that up as a headlining act, the 15-year-old girls will soon give their allegiance to a band that can.

Subcommittee supports highway bill

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — The \$8.6 billion highway construction bill cleared its first legislative hurdle Tuesday, gaining backing of a House subcommittee after a formula was added to ensure fair statewide distribution of the money.

The House Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways unanimously endorsed what would be the biggest road-building program in North Carolina history. Lawmakers hope to enact the package by April 15 so its

revenue provisions could take effect July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The bill's next step is the full Infrastructure Committee. If approved there, it would go to the Finance Committee.

The Senate Transportation Committee is expected to vote on the measure Wednesday.

The distribution formula represents a compromise between the state Department of Transportation and House members of the joint legisla-

tive study commission that crafted the bill. The two sides hammered out the agreement last week.

Rep. Bob Hunter, D-McDowell, the bill's chief House sponsor, said the formula was designed to reassure legislators and the public that no region would be shortchanged.

"It's a balanced approach," Hunter said. "Everybody's going to be able to look at it and feel confident that their area's going to get some of the money."

Sports

DeVoe resigns Tennessee hoops post amid rumors

From Associated Press reports

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Don DeVoe resigned Tuesday after 11 years as head coach of the University of Tennessee basketball team, saying the move was "an effort to stop the persistent rumors surrounding my status."

DeVoe gave the reason for his departure in a letter to athletic director Doug Dickey, who called a news conference for Tuesday afternoon following news reports that DeVoe was about to be fired.

Dickey declined to say whether the coach would have been ousted had he not quit.

DeVoe led Tennessee to a 19-11 record and an NCAA tournament berth this season, his first NCAA bid in six years. His overall record at Tennessee was 204-137.

Dickey said no particular incident precipitated the "negotiated resignation."

"We have continued to discuss our situation together and I think all of the circumstances that surround our program have brought both Don and I to the position where I think where we are is in the best interest of both of us concerned," he said.

The Nashville Tennessean and The Knoxville News-Sentinel both quoted unidentified sources in Tuesday's

editions as saying Dickey planned to fire DeVoe.

DeVoe has two years remaining on his \$72,345 contract. He also receives income from a radio and television package, proceeds from a summer camp and a contract with Converse shoe company.

"I don't need to defend myself or the job I've done," he said earlier. "This basketball program has been pretty solid through the years."

The Vols lose five senior starters off a team that went 19-11 this season. DeVoe's 11-year record at Tennessee is 204-137. He came to UT after a two-year tenure at Wyoming. DeVoe, a former assistant coach under Bobby Knight at Army, began his head coaching career at Virginia Tech.

Investigation follows Rose

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Baseball took a back seat to the media sideshow Tuesday as Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose ducked questions about the investigation of his reported gambling involvement.

Rose arrived about an hour before the Reds' exhibition game against the St. Louis Cardinals, walked briskly through a throng of two dozen reporters and photographers, and

remained in his office under armed guard until game time.

Rose gave his customary pregame radio interview to Reds radio broadcaster Marty Brennaman, but shed no light on the investigation revealed in a statement Monday by baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth and Commissioner-elect A. Bartlett Giamatti.

"The office of the commissioner, which was founded to preserve the integrity of the game, has for several months been conducting a full inquiry into serious allegations involving Mr. Pete Rose," the statement said.

The investigation reportedly involves gambling and could result in a suspension for Rose, a baseball source has told The Associated Press.

Reds first baseman Todd Benzing, acquired from Boston over the winter, said the media attention to off-field allegations was familiar.

"This feels like Boston," Benzing said.

Third baseman Chris Sabo echoed Rose's hope that the matter is settled soon.

"I don't know what's going on. It's between Pete and (the commissioner's office)," Sabo said. "It's none of my business. We just go play and hope it all works out very soon."

DTH sports staff picks Heels

By ANDREW PODOLSKY
Assistant Sports Editor

Ahhh. Tournament time. It's a time when more people have more opinions about more teams than Dick Vitale has obnoxious traits (and he has a ton of those).

As NCAA Sweet Sixteen round begins, we, the 18 DTH sports staffers, feel confident enough to tell the world who will go to the big dance in Seattle (like we really hold a lot of water as hoops analysts).

We avoided picking the upset-prone first-round games (12 of the 32 games were upsets). I could say "I picked Evansville, I really did. Oh and I picked Siena too, yeah, that's the ticket. I've only missed one game so far." But you would rightfully say "Sure pal, have another beer and shut up. Oh, and pass the peanuts while you're at it."

I only have two points to make. Remember, you heard it here first:

(1) N.C. State will beat Georgetown.

(2) UNC will win the title over Indiana.

If I'm wrong, eh, it's no big deal (I usually am). Most of you don't know what I look like anyway. But if I'm right, you'll endure an obnoxious northerner who will tell anyone within throwing distance of a BA 180 book just how right I was. It won't be a pretty sight.

DTH Sportswriters NCAA picks

	Southeast	East	Midwest	West
Dave Glenn	Oklahoma	Duke	Syracuse	Arizona
Andrew Podolsky	UNC	Duke	Missouri	Indiana
Jamie Rosenberg	UNC	Duke	Illinois	Indiana
Jay Reed	UNC	N.C. State	Illinois	Indiana
Mike Berardino	UNC	Georgetown	Louisville	Indiana
Chris Spencer	UNC	Duke	Illinois	Arizona
Neil Amato	UNC	Duke	Illinois	Arizona
Mark Anderson	UNC	Georgetown	Missouri	Arizona
John Bland	Oklahoma	Duke	Louisville	Indiana
Christina Frohock	UNC	Georgetown	Louisville	Arizona
Scott Gold	Virginia	N.C. State	Illinois	Indiana
Doug Hoogervorst	UNC	Georgetown	Illinois	UNLV
Dave Kupstas	UNC	Georgetown	Illinois	Indiana
Bethany Litton	UNC	Georgetown	Missouri	Arizona
Bobby McCrusky	UNC	Georgetown	Illinois	Indiana
Natalie Sekicky	Oklahoma	Georgetown	Illinois	Indiana
Dave Surowiecki	UNC	Georgetown	Illinois	Seton Hall
Eric Wagnon	UNC	Georgetown	Illinois	Arizona

Champion pick in bold

Anyway, UNC got the most Final Four picks. Sure, we know that our championship chances are pretty low. We're in a tough bracket and J.R. and Rodney have been known to enjoy whooping it up with the locals until the wee hours of the morning singing Dixie in a bar. (I wonder, if it had been daylight savings time, would those two have been in at 2:05 instead of 1:05? Hmhmhmhm . . .)

But, we would feel pretty stupid

if we told everyone that we didn't think that our Tar Heels would make it to the Final Four and then they went ahead and won it all.

Sports Editor Dave (I Love Mike Krzyzewski) Glenn didn't pick UNC to win it all. Glenn philosophically pointed out "Hey man, I don't want to jinx them. I love these guys too much to do that." Yeah, right Dave.

Anyway, on to the results. The first number totals the number of Final Four votes. The number of championship votes follows in parentheses.

UNC 14 (3), Illinois 11 (5), Georgetown 10 (7), Indiana 8 (1), Arizona 7 (2), Duke 6, Louisville 4, Missouri 3, Oklahoma 3, N.C. State 2, Virginia 1, Seton Hall 1, UNLV 1, Syracuse 1.

Hey, who said it was dumb to bet with your heart and not your brain?

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