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TOP STORY

Cage the Elephant performs live at WKU

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com Sep 8, 2018



Cage the Elephant lead singer Matt Shultz twisted and bounced across the stage at Western Kentucky University on Saturday as hundreds of students and fans sang along to hit songs by the Grammy Award-winning rock band from Bowling Green.

“We’re so thankful to Cage the Elephant, who are Bowling Green sons and have a long connection to WKU that they’d be willing to help us kick off our football season and the fall semester,” said WKU President Timothy Caboni, who reached out to the band on Twitter to invite them to perform before the university’s first home football game of the season.

For more than an hour, the band played crowd favorites including “Ain’t No Rest for the Wicked,” and “Come a Little Closer,” along with others like “Cigarette Daydreams,” “Spiderhead,” “Mess Around” and many others. Band members often made students a part of the show, with Shultz bounding off stage to crowd surf at one point.

McKenna Hunt, a junior from Bowling Green, has been following the band since middle school and graduated from Greenwood High School, the group’s alma mater. She described the group as “lyrically genius” and original.

“It makes me feel wonderful when I hear their music,” she said.

Michael Harrell, a Somerset native planning to attend grad school at WKU, was introduced to the band when “Ain’t No Rest for the Wicked” was used as the intro-theme for “Borderlands 2,” a popular first-person shooter video game.

“I think it’s awesome,” Harrell said of the concert, which was free to WKU students with valid IDs and people with game tickets. “They’re still there for the students ... I think it’s really awesome that Caboni reached out to them.”

It was Harrell's first experience seeing the band play live. He said the band's Bowling Green origins are "one of my favorite things about them."

Casey Oakley, a Bowling Green resident, shared that view.

"They're small-town rockstars," he said, adding he appreciates the band's willingness to remember its roots.



Jared Coffell, a graduate student from Bowling Green, remembers being introduced to the band through music videos on MTV.

"I find it really easy to vibe too," especially in the car, he said. With it also being his first time hearing the band live, Coffell called it a "good start to the fall semester."

Caboni also counted himself among the band’s fans, naming his favorite song as “Ain’t No Rest for the Wicked.”

“What an amazing experience for our young people and for our entire community that an internationally known Grammy-winning band comes here for our first football game,” Caboni said. “This is something that these kids are never going to forget, something I’m never going to forget and it’s a remarkable day on the Hill.”

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