

The Springfield Union

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BADFINGER: "No Dice"

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SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS GOOD... PICKING APPLES – Turns out that 1970 may yet end on a nice note (or notes, in this case) thanks to the friendly folks at Apple Records, the home of the Beatles. What with John, Paul, George and Ringo having split during '70 it looked like a bleak Christmas for rock fans, but Apple has come up with the next best thing to reuniting The Beatles – they've given us Badfinger (Mike Gibbons [Gibbins], Joe Molland, Pete Ham and Tom Evans).

SOUND-ALIKES... If you really dug the Beatles (as most of us did) you may be instantly turned on by the fact that Badfinger sounds just like the Liverpool lads. Then again, you may be instantly turned off, figuring they're just a cheap imitation. They're the guys who did "Come And Get It" the theme from the Ringo-Peter Sellers flick, "Magic Christian," but that disc didn't do them justice.

Now, they're very much into what's going on with a new LP, No Dice. There's nothing here but pure no-gimmick rock, both fast and slow. Their hit single, "No Matter What" (which sounds so much like the Beatles of '65 it's uncanny) is here, along with 11 other good ones (you don't find many LP's with 12 cuts any more, but this is one of them) and the level of performance on every number is so high that it's up to the standard of the Beatles in every department.

The guys wrote all the material and Pete Ham, although he isn't in the Lennon-McCartney class quite yet, seems to have the kind of talent for getting it all down on paper that John and Paul had in happier days.

In addition to “No Matter What,” we especially liked “Blodwyn,” “Better Days,” “Midnight Caller” and “Without You.”

To make a long story shorter, if you’re only going to get one record for Christmas, make it this one. This could be the group of the ‘70s.