

Badfinger

Updated version of old favorite rocks Columbia

When the rock band Badfinger rolled into town January 27, the crowds were waiting at the Blue Note. People came to hear the group perform its hits from the early 1970s — songs like “Day After Day,” “Baby Blue,” “No Matter What” and “Come and Get It.”

The crowd's energy was definitely high after the opening band, The Edge, finished its set. When Badfinger came on, the opening number was marred by technical difficulties, for the lead singer's microphone malfunctioned and left the number without vocals. Quick thinking by the band and some good rhythm and blues improvisation saved the day.

Badfinger, once known as the Ivys, was discovered by Paul McCartney in 1969. The band's music had a distinct Beatles influence and the boys had a “nice” image. They decided to make their image a little rougher and changed the band's name to Badfinger. The group released a string of hits in the early 1970s, and one of their songs, “Day After Day,” was a gold record. Badfinger broke up in 1975 when lead singer Pete Ham hanged himself.

The band regrouped in 1978 and released an album which received a lot of airplay but sold few copies. They released another album, “Say No More,” in April 1980 and it, too, received much airplay with few sales. When their record company suggested that the band go out and tour, Joey Molland, the remaining original member of the band, was the only one who was enthusiastic.

Molland and the three new members have been touring since November, and are working on a soundtrack to a film due to be released late this year or early 1983.

Despite the technical difficulties throughout the show, Badfinger shined at some points during the performance. Shortly after the announcement of Mizzou's number one basketball ranking, the group played an encore of “Baby Blue” with feeling and energy. All in all it was a well-performed show with some rough spots. The band had been playing only a month before descending on Columbia, and this version of Badfinger needs to work out some of the bugs. If they do, they will be just as good as the band of ten years ago.



Badfinger regaled crowds at the Blue Note