

PEARL JAM

Mesa Amphitheatre, Saturday

Pearl Jam delivered the energy to fight dipping temperatures at Saturday's sold-out performance at Mesa Amphitheatre.

This wasn't your wine-and-cheese-on-a-blanket crowd, so the majority of the 4,200 in attendance were pushed up near the stage drawing warmth and generating it with furious dancing.

The big-selling Seattle quintet proved its mettle with more than 90 minutes of king-size anthems, including *Jeremy*, the band's biggest hit, in a surprisingly early slot (second).

But that timing wasn't risky. Big-hit fans didn't go flying out the exits. The crowd already knew the tunes from the new album, *Vs.*, such as *Leash*, and greeted them with the enthusiasm usually reserved for old favorites.

Lead singer Eddie Vedder proved the act's linchpin with an offhanded, druggy delivery (real or Memorex, who knows?).

That's no surprise though. The band's videos and records focus squarely on Vedder, his distinctive voice and lyrics.

Onstage, guitarists Mike McCready and Stone Gossard took a good chunk of the spotlight with fingers flying on the necks. Keeping warm, no doubt.

— Salvatore Caputo