

Pearl Jam 'Vs.' high profile image

By TOM ROLAND/Staff Writer

Two albums, 11 million records sold and a Murphy Center sellout in 22 minutes.

Not bad for a band whose lead singer is a high school dropout and who was pumping gas barely three years ago.

Pearl Jam, fronted by Eddie Vedder, makes its way to Murfreesboro Saturday for a highly anticipated sold-out show, with King's X opening. Pearl Jam remains at odds with the media craze surrounding it — they hated it when they got a cover story in *Time* magazine and reportedly prefer playing more intimate

club dates over massive, high-grossing arenas.

Seattle's "alternative" export — including drummer Dave Abbruzzese, guitarists Mike McRady and Stone Gossard and bass player Jeff Ament — has nonetheless captured a mega-audience, selling 6 million copies of its debut album, *Ten*, and another 5 million of its follow-up, *Vs.*, which also topped *Billboard's* national album chart last fall.

Despite its anti-media stance, the group plans a free live broadcast of its April 3 concert in Atlanta to any radio station around the country interested in

airing it. And Pearl Jam is slated to guest on *Saturday Night Live* April 16, at the conclusion of its current tour. Another unusual twist for the tour: on April 4, the band performs in Rock Hill, N.C., in a show that won't start until midnight, allowing fans to go to both their show and the NCAA basketball championship the same night in Charlotte.

King's X, a hard-rocking trio that formed in Springfield, Mo., in 1980, is touring behind its current album *Dogman*. The band is best-known for its 1990 hit *It's Love* — marked by Beatlesque vocal harmonies. ■



Jeff Ament, left, and Eddie Vedder pace Pearl Jam in an MTSU show Saturday.