

Pearl Jam's fans finally get their reward

By Kim Estep

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It finally happened.

And, man, was it cool.

"Pearl Jam was really rockin'," 18-year-old Joel Frozena of Green Bay said of the rock group's Saturday night concert in Milwaukee. "They really didn't slow down."

The band's rollicking, nearly two-hour concert at Summerfest was the reward many local fans took home for riding out the prob-

lems that riddled the Summerfest tour dates.

Fans endured a snafu involving the ticket sales lottery, which sent some fans home empty-handed. Local Pearl Jam lovers also sweated out the announcement two weeks ago of a Summerfest cancellation, due to Pearl Jam's feud with national ticket distribution agency Ticketmaster.

But the band rescheduled the Saturday and Sunday dates at the Marcus Amphitheater a few days

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later, and those holding tickets to this weekend's show said it was worth the hassle.

"Everyone was really excited to see them," Frozena said. "People were body-passing. They were just

having a good time."

The band ripped through crowd favorites, such as *Not For You*, *Porch* and *Jeremy*. The audience stood the whole time and sang along, said Richard Evans, 18, of Allouez, who also saw Saturday night's show.

Pearl Jam's lead vocalist, Eddie Vedder, explained to fans that stories about the band and Ticketmaster were getting "blown out of proportion," Evans said.

"He just wanted to make sure we

understood the fans are the ones that mattered," Evans said.

And on Sunday night, Evans said he was still feeling the excitement the concert generated.

"I definitely wish I was there again," he said. "This was definitely an unforgettable event."

Pearl Jam's energy and presence on stage is what makes the group unique, Frozena said.

"I think they're the '90s Led Zeppelin," he said. "They're definitely worth seeing live."