

Pearl Jam cancels rest of tour

SEATTLE (AP) — Pearl Jam's jinxed concert tour has bitten the dust for good, and the band's feud with Ticketmaster is getting the blame.

The wildly popular grunge-rock band announced Sunday it is canceling the remaining concert dates on its 15-date, 11-city summer tour.

"The cancellation was brought on by the business problems and controversies surrounding the band's attempt to schedule an alternative tour," according to a statement released by the band's Seattle publicist, Nicole Vandenberg of Pyramid Communications.

"The Seattle-based band has wanted to focus on its music, but instead it has been faced with continued controversies associated with attempting to schedule and perform at alternative venues."

Vandenberg did not return a telephone call for elaboration.

The statement said all tickets for the remaining shows will be refunded. The cancellations include: Salt Lake City; San Diego; Phoenix; Las Cruces, N.M.; Austin, Texas; New Orleans; Milwaukee; and Chicago.

Pearl Jam had planned the

summer tour around sites that didn't use Ticketmaster, which the band has accused of price gouging and monopoly.

Instead, it relied on ETM, a new Philadelphia-based ticket agency whose service charge was less than \$3 per \$20 ticket compared with up to \$6 for Ticketmaster.

Many shows sold out. But the band was effectively locked out of most large-scale venues because many sites over 5,000 seats rely exclusively on Ticketmaster.

The band had trouble with the sites it did book.

Pearl Jam canceled its tour-opening June 16 show in Idaho after a dispute. Earlier this month, the band canceled its June 26-27 San Diego concerts at Del Mar Fair and rescheduled them for the San Diego Sports Arena after the San Diego County sheriff's department raised concerns about security. Now, the rescheduled concerts are canceled, too.

Sunday's announcement came a day after the band played for 50,000 people at the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Many were disappointed be-

cause vocalist Eddie Vedder took ill and left the stage in mid-concert, leaving guest Neil Young to fill in. Vedder called it quits six songs into the concert, saying he had stomach flu.

About the half the crowd left after Vedder's departure.

Bass player Jeff Ament was booed at the end of the two-hour set when he tried to apologize.

"I'm sorry Eddie got sick and couldn't make it to this amazing day," Ament said. "If we can make it back at the end of the tour, we will."