



Fans came from throughout New England to see Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, shown here in a file photo.

## Pearl Jam fans feel lucky to catch concert

Augusta event offered a rare opportunity

By Mike McLaughlin  
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AUGUSTA — To say that Jon Edwards of Augusta is somewhat of a Pearl Jam fan is like saying that the Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman is a tad eccentric.

As Edwards anxiously anticipated live performances of rock smashes such as "Jeremy" and "Daughter," he could hardly believe that Pearl Jam was actu-

**"I figured the closest they might come is Boston."**

— Jon Edwards

ally in his hometown on Thursday night.

"I figured the closest they might come is Boston," the 17-year-old said.

The hottest rock band to emerge in the '90s, however, did include the Augusta Civic Center stop in its 11-city North American tour and tickets were not easy to come by

Tickets to the show sold out in about seven minutes.

Although Edwards has all of Pearl Jam's four albums and 16 bootleg tapes, he initially did not think he was going to be able to get his hands on a ticket. He tried calling a telephone ticket-selling system for more than two hours, but had no luck.

Thanks to the Internet, however, he made it to the concert.

Edwards met a member of Pearl Jam's fan club across the Internet and the New Hampshire woman had an extra ticket to the Augusta show. In exchange for booking her a hotel room in Augusta, Edwards was able to get the coveted ticket.

"It's going to be an amazing show, a once-in-a-lifetime show," he said soon after charging into the civic center on Thursday.

The excited Pearl Jam enthusiast arrived at the civic center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Thursday for the 8 p.m. show. Doors didn't open until 6:30 p.m. for the general admission concert.

In the hours leading up to the big event, the scene in the parking lot was like that of a huge tailgate party. Fans gathered around vehi-

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# Pearl Jam fans enjoy Augusta date

## *Concert, from C1*

cles and blasted their favorite Pearl Jam tunes from radios. Others bought concert T-shirts and tossed around a football to pass the time.

Patience was indeed a virtue for Edwards. The teen-ager was able to claim a spot right in front of the Augusta stage and he was hard to miss.

Edwards colored his hair purple for the concert and he glued some green glitter to his eyebrows.

"I do something different every week," he said.

In addition to the unusual art-

work on his face, Edwards also brought a drawing to the concert that honored Pearl Jam's lead man. He spent about 45 hours gripping a colored pencil in order to depict singer Eddie Vedder.

Edwards was hoping the drawing would garner him a backstage pass.

"Hey, if you get back there can I come?" shouted Angie Gogliormella, 14, of Wareham, Mass.

Gogliormella also was among the Pearl Jam fans packed near the stage like a bunch of sardines. These ticket-holders began participating in a mosh pit long before Pearl Jam even stepped on stage.

With their bodies pressed together, the youngsters swayed back and forth and occasionally bounced off one another. Some of the concert-goers were even passed along the top of the crowd from hand to hand.

"Watch out — crowd surfer!" Edwards yelled as he tried to avoid a fellow fan's foot that was traveling toward his head.

When the popular five-piece band took the stage, Pearl Jam fever was taken to new heights in the civic center.

Powerful, pounding rock songs such as "Alive" and "Animal"

drove many of the 8,000 concert-goers absolutely wild.

Girls ripped off their shirts, jumped on their boyfriend's shoulders, and moved to the music dressed in only their jeans and bras.

Guys tried to jump on stage and party with the band. Only one, however, was successful.

Sports star Dennis Rodman took the Maine audience by surprise when he stepped on stage Thursday night. The yellow-haired, tattooed athlete gave Vedder a brief piggyback ride around the stage.

Both the basketball player and Pearl Jam scored near-deafening roars of applause from the crowd.

The band played more than 20 of its songs in a more than two-hour set.

"On every one of their albums, there's not a song you don't like," said Jeremi Ramos, 18, of Wareham, Mass.

Compact discs and tapes, however, do not come close to capturing the atmosphere of a live Pearl Jam performance.

"They do whatever they want. They're for the people," said Janine Palingo, 18, of Braintree, Mass.