

Meet the Beatles, almost

Liverpool Legends recreate 1965 concert in New York

By Dawn Feddersen

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Exactly 40 years ago to the day, and right down to the same costumes and set list, the Beatles' historic performance at Shea Stadium in New York lived on. Sort of.

Saturday night at John O'Donnell Stadium in Davenport, the Liverpool Legends kicked off a show in true Beatles style with "Twist and Shout" and completed the original set list, featuring favorites like "Ticket to Ride," "Hard Days Night," and "Help."

Liverpool Legends is a world-renowned Beatles tribute band, which replicated that famous Shea concert with Saturday night's show. The band is touring the country with the anniversary show.

The Ultimate Tribute Concert was brought to the Quad-Cities by Scott Community College Foundation in conjunction with Louise Harrison Entertainment, Ltd., and Seventh Inning Stretch and was designed to raise funds for scholarships for the college.

Louise Harrison, sister of George Harrison and manager of the Liverpool Legends, said she believes that John O'Donnell Stadium was very appropriate for the anniversary show.

"At that time, they were the very first band in history to play in a stadium," she said. "Fifty-five thousand people saw them there and that was unheard of. So I'm glad that we're doing this in a stadium. It helps recapture the feel of the original show."

Davey Justice, who plays Paul McCartney in the Legends, said that much of their audience never had the opportunity to see the original show. "A lot of people didn't get to experience the Beatles. So we want those people to be able to see a group as close to the Beatles in every detail as they can."

The era of the original show also appeals to Mike Ohms, who attended Saturday's concert. A fan and collector of Beatles memorabilia, he prefers their earlier hits.

"I grew up in that era. When I first heard their music, I'd never heard anything like it before. There's nothing that can compare," he said.

But when the Liverpool Legends were done with the Shea Stadium set list, the show didn't end there. They continued on playing favorites from later Beatles albums, "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "Abbey Road."

"Back then, they couldn't tour with an orchestra, so they never got to play any of their later stuff live. So we try to give them a taste of what that would've been like," said Marty Scott, who plays George Harrison.

And the night benefited students in a more important fashion. Twenty-five Scott Community College students each were awarded a \$300 scholarship based on funds raised through the event.