

EAGLES SOUND STRONG IN CENTER FIELD GLENN FREY PLAYS TO
HOME

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07524596 EAGLES SOUND STRONG IN CENTER FIELD GLENN FREY PLAYS TO
HOMETOWN CROWD Detroit Free Press (FP) - THURSDAY July 14, 1994 By:
GARY GRAFF Free Press Staff Writer Edition: METRO FINAL Section: FTR
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TEXT: You could get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks. But you
couldn't hear the crack of a bat.

For only the second time in its history, Tiger Stadium turned
itself over to rock 'n' roll Wednesday night, as 36,500 fans
listened to the airy harmonies and patented California rock of the
reunited Eagles.

And, no question, it was an event. As the Eagles played the
chiming guitar introduction to their signature hit "Hotel
California," the crowd erupted in a roar of shared memories -- even
from those who were too young to have enjoyed the group's '70s
heyday.

"The Eagles, Styx, Foghat, Kiss . . . the '70s, it's all classic
stuff that never dies," said Willie Singleton, 27, who sat in
Tiger Stadium's upper deck wearing a Kiss T-shirt. Singleton and his
wife, Lynn, drove 160 miles northeast from Burr Oak, Mich.

Lisa Zeiger, 24, of Royal Oak, said her parents talked her into
going. "They said it's a once in a lifetime shot," Zeiger said.
Added her friend, Mike Porreca, 28, of Trenton, "I've been waiting
for this concert since I could drive. Eagles rhymes with Beatles; you
can't miss there."

Wednesday's show was a homecoming for Eagle Glenn Frey, who was
born in Detroit and raised in Royal Oak.

"I always wanted to play center field at Tiger Stadium," Frey
told the crowd. "I just thought I'd have a glove instead of a
guitar."

Last week, Frey said he and Eagles' co-manager Irving Azoff
"went back and forth about different venues for Detroit.
Ultimately we decided on Tiger Stadium because it's such a historic
place and it's not going to be there forever."

In fact, the Tiger Stadium fan club tried hard to get Frey
and his songwriting partner Don Henley to join its preservation
movement, dropping off material at the Eagles' hotel and asking them
to speak on their behalf during the concert.

"The fact that the Eagles chose Tiger Stadium reflects not only
Glenn Frey's affection but also that it continues to be a very
viable facility," said fan club board member Bill Dow.

Frey's presence certainly wasn't lost on the home crowd,
either. "My brother went to Dondero High and played hockey in our

back yard with Glenn Frey, so it's a nostalgic thing," remembered Dan Murphy, 40, of Royal Oak.

Greg Suitchan, 37, said he'd "walk on hot coals to see Glenn Frey back in Detroit."

Bob Seger -- who tapped Frey to sing backup on his hit "Ramblin' Gamblin' Man" and cowrote the Eagles hit "Heartache Tonight" -- didn't have to step on coals, but he did have to pass through a gauntlet of fans who mobbed him as he tried to get to his \$100 seat on the field. He wound up retreating to a more secured area.

Singer Michael Bolton and members of Pink Floyd, who were in town for concerts this week at Pine Knob and the Pontiac Silverdome, respectively, watched from private suites.

All enjoyed the Eagles show, a three-hour trip through the band's hit-laden repertoire and the members' solo favorites. Despite a chilly breeze, the evening proved far more comfortable than the cold and rain at Rod Stewart's show last September.

The only glitch: With a 9:50 p.m. starting time, the concert ran far later than it should have. The Eagles should have done without opener Melissa Etheridge's set -- which was exceptional in its own right -- and commanded the evening themselves.

But that didn't seem to matter much to their fans. Neither did clogged concourses nor the steep ticket prices that scaled to \$65 in the upper decks.

Michelle Banonis, 18, who drove five hours from Wolverine, Mich., didn't even mind that the view of the stage from her \$65 seat was blocked by a steel girder.

"I love the Eagles," she said. "They're my favorite group."

And though his \$65 upper deckers were at a severe side-stage angle, Tom Antal, 24, of Detroit, voiced a positive spin. "Five years from now, I'll be able to say I saw the Eagles," he said. "And as memory may serve me then, I'll think I was front stage, center."

CAPTION: PHOTO

Photo GEORGE WALDMAN

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