

The Signal

Original source: http://www.the-signal.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=49527&format=html

Claim to Fame

By Reina V. Slutske
Signal Staff Writer

It may have seemed like a long shot at the time.

But when members of a local band entered a competition to play at the Vans Warped Tour, their dream was realized.

"We pretty much freaked out," Green said, adding that the June 30 show in Ventura was possibly the best performance they ever had together.

The Saugus High graduates and Fentruck bandmates encouraged their friends and families to vote and ended up as the No. 1 choice out of 68 bands.

"We weren't just attending," band member Nick Palomino said, "we were (a part of) the Warped Tour."

The top 20 were then judged by music engineers and representatives of both Ernie Ball and the Warped Tour.

Eventually, it was narrowed down to four, followed by Fentruck's acceptance.

And the rest is history.

Fentruck - a name inspired by a character on the Nickelodeon show "Doug" - is made up of all 2006 Saugus High graduates - Elijah Kellogg, David Green, Palomino and Geoff Trautman.

"(The name) reminds people of their childhood," Trautman said.

They all graduated last year, but their story started well before graduation day.

Green and Trautman were in a band together in high school, but decided to start another one. At one point, Green met Kellogg at a game, and they decided to play together.

Palomino later joined the band, and together they developed a pop punk sound that everybody seemed to agree on, despite their different influences, such rock stalwarts NOFX, Alkaline Trio and Van Halen.

But these band members aren't letting their success get to their heads; higher education is still important to them.

Green has been accepted to the Musician's Institute in Hollywood, while Palomino goes to California State University, Northridge. Kellogg attends both College of the Canyons and Eternity Bible College in Simi Valley.

Trautman is attending the University of California, Santa Cruz.

But they don't let the distance keep them from playing in shows. Either Trautman will drive to Southern California, or sometimes the others will come up to Northern California.

"Commuting is a huge part of our band," Kellogg said.

And they are only expanding their horizons. They will be playing shows in San Francisco and Arizona, and

have distributed demos to record companies.

Meanwhile, they recorded a full-length album, "Pencils Down!", in Canyon Country, and it is available at World Music in Newhall. Some of their other songs include "Cuba Deserves an Oscar for this One" and "The Mauve Storm."

Fentruck is determined to make it in this industry and The Warp Tour was just the beginning.

"We want to be the ones ... to make it," Green said.

For more information on the band Fentruck visit www.myspace.com/fentruck.

Copyright: The Signal