

## **Mellencamp makes it Hurt So Good; Tom Cochrane proves he's still White Hot too**

As for opener Tom Cochrane, the veteran Canadian rocker could have easily carried an evening at the Steelback by himself.

The multiple Juno winner - he's nominated again this year for his new album No Stranger - churned out a string of Cochrane classics, even going so far as dusting off the early Red Rider single White Hot.

Juggling acoustic and electric guitars, the still-agile 54-year-old shook a leg to radio hits, such as Lunatic Fringe, Big League, Good Times and No Regrets.

But it was his classic, Life is a Highway, from the smash 1992 album, Mad Mad World, that set the Steelback on fire.

Cochrane first feted Rascal Flatts for later taking the tune to the top of the country charts, but quickly trumpeted, "This is my song." Most impressive was this opening act being called out for an encore, which Cochrane and his Red Rider colleagues did with a roaring rendition of Boy Inside the Man.

Perhaps Cochrane summed up Friday night's electric atmosphere best, telling his faithful, "You guys are crazy."

**Jeffrey Ougler (Sault Star) - Feb 09 2008**