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Beaumont-native Clay Walker

By RACHEL LANDRY The Battalion

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Country music lovers from around Texas dusted off their boots and put on their Wranglers Friday night for the Clay Walker concert in Reed Arena.

Walker's opening acts were Chad Brock, singer of "Ordinary and Chely Wright of "Single White Female" fame.

Wright, who told the audience she had dreamed of singing in front of crowds since she was a 3-year-old in Kansas, thanked the crowd for making her dream come true.

During her performance, a male high school student handed Wright a piece of paper. Wright read it aloud, telling the audience that the teen-ager, Kevin Segers, had given her his phone number. Unfortunately for Segers, a sophomore at A&M Consolidated High School,

his friend wrote down the wrong number.

"She's hot," Segers said. "I gave it to her so she'd call me. I like to live on the wild side. You only live once, so I figured, why not?"

Luckily for Segers, the night was not lost. Wright called him to the stage and kissed his cheek

Meanwhile, two college freshmen, who had traveled from Victoria, were trying to get backstage and get a signature. It worked. The two guys ran

backstage with their passes in hand, anxious to meet Walker After much anticipation, Walker finally took the stage. He opened with the song "What's It To You," and paper snow fell to the ground as swarms of women crowded around the stage.

Walker wore a partially unbuttoned checkered shirt, a large gold belt buckle with SCI 200 Market was a support of the stage.

buckle with "Clay Walker" written on it in diamonds and his signature black cowboy hat he entertained the crowd with 19 songs including "You're Beginning to Get to Me," "Watch This," "Cold Hearted" and "Who Needs You Baby.

Walker, with a seven-member band, played a mix of songs from his

Between songs, Walker asked the crowd who would be ready for the big game on Saturday

entertains country fans at Reed Arena

"I'll be in Abilene," Walker said, "but you know where my heart is." Walker, who is from Beaumont, Texas, mentioned several times that it was good to

Nome. Several girls yelled, "We love you Clay!" and Walker smiled and replied, "It's nice

The concert was not sold out and had a very intimate atmosphere, especially for the female fans who rushed to the stage,

walker's performance that had couples two-stepping in the aisles.

The backdrops spun with orange, pink and blue swirls. Various props, such as snow a company of Love 2 and big plants. falling during "Chain of Love," and big plastic palm trees on stage and beach balls bouncing through the crowd during "Then What," enhanced the show. Walker threw guitar picks into the crowd every few minutes to give audience members

Security started controlling the crowd and made the fans return to their seats. However, they did not stop the excited women, who moved to the side aisles and continued screaming for Walker.

Walker's dancing during his new song, "Cold Hearted," made the crowd go wild. He wiped his face with a towel, swung it around and swiveled his hips and swiveled his hips.

Walker ended the concert with "If I Could Make a Living." After he left, the crowd began to scream for an encore He played three more songs, including "Smooth" by Rob Thomas and Carlos Santana and "Rumor Has It." During the encore, women again ran to the stage, where mothers lifted their young daughters to get a handshake and girls hand-

At the end of his encore, he made eye contact with individuals and mouthed "I



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