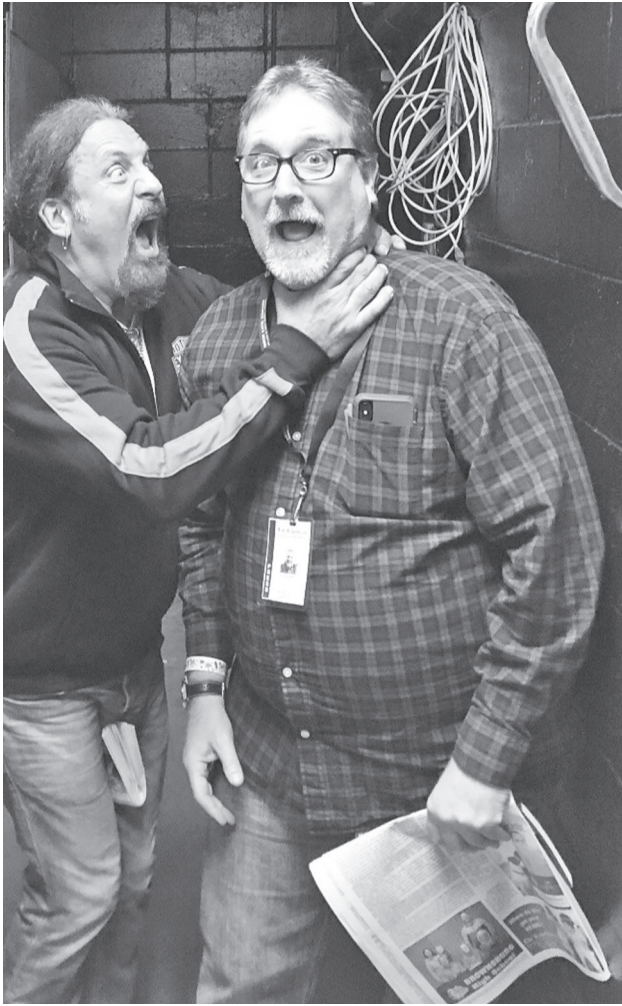


IN THE FAST LANE AND ON STAGE

By Allen Kiger



Jackyl's Jesse James Dupree (left) has some fun with The Republican's Allen Kiger.

Guitars, Drums & A Chainsaw

I headed to 8 Seconds Saloon on November 23rd for the annual Friday evening after Thanksgiving Jackyl concert. I was met there by Bill Stamper, General Manager of 8 Seconds where I was able to get in early and have my choice of seat.

It was only 6:45 and Jackyl didn't come on until much later in the evening. So, I did some people watching and also spent time looking over the giant merchandise table. Jackyl had many styles of T-shirts, hats, jackets, hooded sweatshirts, books, and much more for sale. In the interview of Jesse James Dupree I mentioned he was a businessman and you could tell that all the merchandise was another great way to promote the band. I think the only concert I have ever been to that had more merchandise was KISS.

Keeping the fans entertained before the main event was the band, Spanky's Clubhouse. After the warm up band was finished I was escorted backstage by Gage Worley, the son of the band's drummer, for the meet and greet with frontman Jesse James Dupree. Gage was an extremely nice and polite young man who spoke highly about his experiences of getting to travel with Jackyl. During my meeting with Jesse he seemed like a really cool, friendly



guy. He joked around and thanked me for writing the story on him and the band. While backstage I also bumped into the Danville resident who had helped me get the interview with Jesse. After my great meeting with Jesse, it was time to exit backstage and prepare for the high energy of Jackyl.

The lights went dim and Glen Campbell's popular hit "Rhinstone Cowboy" began playing, the crowd was singing along, and the band took the stage to start the show. Jackyl's opening song was "Blast Off" followed by "Encore" and "Screwdriver."

True to the interview with Jesse, this is not your average show, this is an audience participation show and he definitely had the crowd pumped up. Next on the list of hit songs the band performed were "Down on Me" then "Push Comes To Shove." Jeff Worley on lead guitar and back up vocals has the best facial expressions and loves leaning into the giant speakers getting them rocking back and forth. He knows the crowd loves his crazy ways on stage.



Jesse stopped to thank all the fans for coming and to say he was glad to be at his "family reunion." He remarked he couldn't start the holidays without playing at 8 Seconds on the night after Thanksgiving. I don't know how many years Jackyl has been performing that particular night but this was my 10th year of seeing this show.

Jesse also told a few stories and promote his own brand of whiskey, which was a great lead into the Hank Williams Jr. song "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound" which was followed by a couple of Jackyl's drinking songs "Just because I'm Drunk" and the much slower ballad "Secret of the Bottle." It was then time to sing along with songs from Hee Haw which is always a fun fan participation.



The next songs in the lineup were "When Will it Rain" followed by "Red-neck Punk" this song really showcases the talent one of the hardest working drummers in the business, Chris Worley. He also has the best looking drum set in the

business. They are painted and look like Evel Knievel's bike.

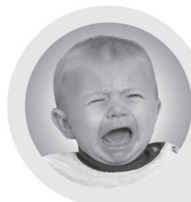
I knew the show was about to be over when the stage hand gave Jesse his chainsaw. Yes, an actual 2-stroke chainsaw with blades as the band played the fan favorite "Lumberjack." Jesse sang in perfect beat with each roar of the chainsaw and Roman Glick on the bass kept perfect time. Jesse stopped to thank the crowd and fired up the chainsaw again as he ended the song by chewing up a bar stool with the saw.



At the end of the show Jesse took his microphone stand, which is also a shotgun. He exclaimed "Whether you like or whether you don't, that's the way we like it." He fired the shotgun blast off into the crowd and out flew a shower of confetti.

When the concert was over my ears were ringing. It's hard to describe Jackyl and their show. It's loud guitars, boom boom on the drums, and a chainsaw. I would best describe the bands music as high energy, high impact, and fan participation is a must. This show is not for everyone but if you want to feel alive, like riding a Harley at 100 mph, then Jackyl is a must-see band!

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