

10,000 Maniacs To Perform In Bemus Point

THU JUL 3 2003

By MICHAEL ZABRODSKY

BEMUS POINT — "We always love playing up in that ballroom," said Steve Gustafson, referring to The Village Casino.

Gustafson, 10,000 Maniacs' bassist, said the band will be playing tonight there with special guests Big Leg Emma.

"We're going to play all our hits," Gustafson said. "Anything that was a video or released as single."

Gustafson is joined by Dennis Drew, keyboardist, and drummer Jerome Augustyniak, Oskar Saville, vocalist, and Jeff Ericson on guitar. The band has gone through lineup changes as singer Natalie Merchant left in 1993.

Guitarist John Lombardo quit the band in the mid-1980s and rejoined in the early 1990s, along with Mary Ramsey on vocals. In December 2000, guitarist Rob Buck died of liver failure. Ms. Ramsey and Lombardo left in 2002.

Ms. Saville recently joined the band, but has been a fan for years. Ericson, who has known the members for about 15 years, used to study guitar with Buck.

Gustafson said since the band began to tour again, they



10,000 MANIACS

have been getting a warm reception. The band has not been trying to reinvent themselves, but his concern is he wants the band to perform well and people enjoy themselves and like what they hear.

He said the band has shows scheduled in California, Texas and Illinois this summer.

Big Leg Emma will be performing songs from its current release, *Gramma Don't Like That!* The CD was performed and recorded live at the Forward Hall in Erie.

The group started when

Steve Johnson, guitars and vocals, and Charity Nuse, mandolin and vocals, met Amanda Barton. Ms. Barton, who also plays mandolin, fiddle and sings, jams and shared ideas with Ms. Nuse and Johnson several times.

Their styles meshed and from there, the trio recruited drummer John McGuire and bassist Dan Warmbrodt. Original guitarist Jake Johnson left the band and was replaced by Kevin Rowe.

The all-ages show begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

Send comments to mzabrodsky@post-journal.com.