

ENTERTAINMENT

Expendables prepare for heat at Warped Tour

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By DENNY DYROFF, Staff Writer

There are a lot of big touring rock shows but the biggest unquestionably is the annual Van's Warped Tour that is visiting the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden today. From the time the opening acts begin their sets at 11 a.m. until the time the final note hits the air, 67 bands will have performed at the multi-stage touring festival.

There are also a lot of hot shows visiting the area this summer but there won't be any that are hotter than the Warped Tour - in every sense of the word. Weather forecasters are calling for 96 degree weather that, with the heat index, will actually feel like 106 degrees.

"Tell all the kids that are coming Thursday to stay hydrated," said Adam Patterson, during a phone interview Tuesday afternoon. "It's really important to drink a lot of water. Ever since the tour started, I've been drinking twice as much water as usual."

Patterson is drummer and vocalist for the band the Expendables. He is joined by Geoff Weers (guitar, vocals), Raul Bianchi (guitar) and Ryan DeMars (bass). The group is one of the acts headlining on the Tilly's/AP Stage, one of the tour's eight stages.

"Playing the Warped Tour is definitely a weird and a fun experience," said Patterson. "You party and hang out with bands that you never usually would -- bands that are really out of your genre. The Warped Tour really has a unique blend of bands."

The Expendables were formed 12 years ago when the band's members were still in high school in Santa Cruz, California. Their music includes elements of punk, reggae, dueling lead guitars, surf rock, ska and straight-ahead rock.

"Santa Clara had a big punk, ska and reggae scene," said Patterson. "It was just all around us. We've been around for awhile and have released five albums so far. The last one was a year ago in May and we're still touring off that one."

"We usually make a new album every couple years. We've been on the road non-stop since the last one came out. We have one more tour after this - the Last Call and Liability Tour - and then we'll be off for a couple months."

"We'll probably start working on a new album then. We already have one new song that we play in our shows called 'Zombies in America.' It's a bit different for us with a lot of electronics. We have a few other songs done but not polished."

The Warped Tour will get underway at 11 a.m. today (July 21) at the Susquehanna Bank Center, 1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, NJ, 856-365-1300, www.livenation.com. Tickets are \$31.50.