



BLENDER



WHEN TAKING BACK Sunday take the main stage Sunday night, they may as well be Bon Jovi. Backed by a huge marquee and towering light display, Adam Lazzara starts off by shouting, "Hello, New Jersey!" before thrilling the crowd with a swaggering set, including one song he sings hanging upside-down from a 30-foot scaffold.

But Lazzara's antics are still no match for the Riverboat Gamblers, a ferocious foursome from Denton, Texas, who play stage six a few hours earlier. Two songs into their set, singer Mike Wiebe—a long-haired Adrien Brody lookalike with a penchant for diving headfirst into crowds barely big enough to catch him—tumbles off the stage and lands awkwardly on his fingers. "I think I broke one or two of them," he says, wincing, into the mic, but he heads for the 15-foot chain-link fence next to the stage and starts climbing anyway.

"It's OK!" he explains. "We're at Bamboozle! Tonight isn't about how many of your fingers work, or how many gigs your iPod holds, or how much gas costs."

Wiebe takes a breath and gazes out at a few hundred of his newest fans. "Tonight," he says with the wide-eyed sincerity of a true believer "is about the music." [BLENDER]

BLENDER POUNDS THE PAVEMENT AT THE BAMBOOZLE FESTIVAL
IN SEARCH OF THE BLEEDING HEART OF ROCK & ROLL
BY JOSH ELLIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WEISS

