

February Blues Bash

Four of the region's top acts delivered stellar performances on the 19th, at the BBA's February Blues Bash. *Riverside Blues Band* kicked off the event with a rousing set that brought dancers to the floor. This band delivers what was described by Smokin' Joe Miklos as "what it would sound like if the Velvet Underground played Blues." Well put! Despite the band's raucous edge, the blues element rings through loud and clear. They were followed by the totally renovated *Krypton City Blues Revue*. "Big Mitch" Ivanoff and company were in great form, delivering a great mix of roadhouse blues that kept things active on the dance floor. New and improved might not be the greatest way to describe the unit. As there was nothing amiss with the old line-up, but the new rendition of the band was nothing short of fantastic. Next up on the line-up, fresh from their trip to Memphis, *The Blind Chitlin Kahunas* delivered a set that showed why they won last year's auditions. This three-piece unit is tight and right on the money. Filling a room with sound is not a difficult task, but making it sound this good is another story. Needless to say, the dance floor stayed active. Closing out the show, *BC and the Blues Crew* left no question as to why they had won our audition competition in 1998 and advanced to the finals in the IBC, in Memphis. Beverly Conklin is a dynamic performer, with an incredible stage presence. Back that with a well-seasoned band, and you've got a winning combination.

This was one of the finest showcases of regional talent to date, drawing one of the largest crowds on record.

- Bill Wilson

Nate Myers and the Aces



Nate has been a part of the Billtown blues scene and an avid supporter of the Billtown Blues Association for ages. He has been a fan of early Chicago blues, with an emphasis on the

harmonica players, as indicated by the band's name. The original Aces, led by brothers Louis and Dave Myers, earned their greatest success in support of Little Walter and Junior Wells.

While not strictly a Chicago blues player, Nate has studied the work of his predecessors in depth and has learned his lessons well. A dynamic performer with a captivating stage presence, Nate delivers a set that is hot and contemporary while holding true to classic blues styles...in short, giving listeners the best of both worlds. Add bassist Pete Netznik, drummer Mike Noll, guitarist Dave Groninger and pianist deluxe Trent Peechatka and this band delivers a set that is tight, upbeat and fun to listen to. Their performance at the Bullfrog Brewery on February 19, after the Blues Bash was the icing on an already sweet cake.

- Bill Wilson

