STONES NOTES

BY CHRIS SHULL The Wichita Eagle Mon, Oct. 02, 2006

It wouldn't be a concert -- even a Rolling Stones concert -- without a T-shirt to remember it by.

Folks were jammed in front of a souvenir table under the west stands at Cessna Stadium, waiting 20 minutes or more for a chance to purchase T-shirts, baseball caps and jerseys, most emblazoned with the Stones signature "tongue and lips" design. The basic black concert T-shirt went for \$35. It was an important keepsake for many fans because it listed every stop on the band's current "Bigger Bang Tour" -- including, of course, Wichita.

"I've waited all my life for this, and I can't believe it's in Wichita," said Clem Moreno, 41, of Wichita. Moreno spent \$65 to buy a "hoodie" shirt for his daughter, Briana, 9, who had to stay at home, and a tour T-shirt for himself.

"I knew I was going to get one -- and it had to say 'Wichita,' " Moreno said. "Then all my friends that live out of town will believe me."

Baseball caps were \$35, too.

Starry stands

One of the hottest concert souvenirs was a "lips and tongue" magnet that constantly flashed bright red and blue. They were \$10.

Even guys that looked like the rough-and-tumble type sported them on caps and T-shirts.

When the stadium went dark for the start of the show, magnets twinkled throughout the stands like red and blue stars.

Celebrity sightings

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and her husband attended the concert. Other notables were Wichita City Manager George Kolb and his wife, City Council member Sharon Fearey and John D'Angelo, director of arts and culture for the city.

Floor space

Many concertgoers who purchased floor seats for the Stones concert were met with a shock -- and then a surprise -- when they presented their tickets to an usher before the show.

Four sections on the floor totaling 560 seats were eliminated from the floor plan on Saturday afternoon, so when people holding those seats showed up, they discovered their seats didn't exist.

Those in the missing sections were given tickets for new seats in sections on the floor closer to the stage.

Steve Bowell of Abilene wasn't bothered by the last-minute change. He came to the show with Lisa Gibson from Manhattan.

"She has a little trouble seeing far off, so the closer we get, the better," Bowell said.