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Super Sunday!

by Ross Barbour

Oh! You should have been there!

It was Feb 3rd - Super Bowl Day - so some of the fans were almost late for the 7:30 PM Freshmen Show at the Thousand Oaks, CA Civic Arts Center.

The hall should have been bigger. All the 400 seats had been sold for weeks.

Ken Albers was there to applaud Curtis Calderon for the first time, and some of the people had come from Phoenix, San Diego, and the Bay Area. It was grand!

The Freshmen were so great! The only bad thing they did was...stop.

FF VICTORY IN 'DOWN BEAT' ONLY A PARTIAL TRIUMPH

by Mike Collins (TX)

Sure, it was great that the Four Freshmen repeated as the top vocal group in Down Beat Magazine, but a closer look at the ballots displayed a missed opportunity.

Our guys tallied 421 votes as the best vocal group. But for the Hall of Fame, they received 367 votes....34 behind saxophonist Joe Henderson, who was a sentimental favorite since he died on June 30.

Obviously, the FF did not receive all of their 421 votes from FFS members. Yet, I wonder how many neglected to choose the FF for two categories.

And 367 Hall of Fame votes represents less than 15% of our membership. Won't the remaining 85% lend an ear to our campaign for deserved recognition?

There were several multiple award winners in Down Beat in 2001. Tenor saxophonist Joe Levano topped the field on his instrument with 365 votes. He was also selected as the top jazz artist with just 332 votes. And his album, "52nd Street Themes," led all others with 228 votes.

What does this mean?

If FFS members get out of their chairs, the Four Freshmen could sweep four categories, as they will have the long awaited album out in 2002 to qualify for this award. Of course, a three-peat as top vocal group would be nice. How about jazz artist of the year? And finally, the Hall of Fame.

With just 20% of FFS membership support, our guys can dominate.

Artie Shaw was retired for some 45 years before his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1996. Nat "King" Cole was deceased 33 years before his induction in 1997. Frank Sinatra did not make the cut until 1998. There is no reason to make the FF wait any longer. Let's participate!

More Las Vegas Pictures



Dan & Ellen de la Torre and Sonny Ferreira