



The winners with their prize cheque.

Battling with beats, rhythms

The "Battle of Bands" at Bangalore Central gave the city yet another way of beating the heat this summer. With head-banging bands, and a noisy crowd, the battle was indeed a 'bloody' one.

Six finalists

The six finalists, selected after a series of auditions, fought their way through the guitar-strumming, drum beating sessions to woo the judges. Amidst regular rock numbers, were a few surprises in store for the crowd. With the ever popular remix of the hindi number 'Khaike paan banaras walla' as their sound check, and a black kurta-clad vocalist, 'Chicados' made quite a few fans in the crowd.

The crowd's unanimous favourite was 'Black Earth', which gave the crowd enough reason to head-bang. 'Wax', winners of the Campus Rock Idol competition, were also a favourite among the masses.

A tough race at hand, judges Kiran Shridar, Radio City RJ and Jason Alexander from the denim store Levi's, disclose what they judged the upcoming bands on.

"When i judged the competition today, I looked at three aspects - the way the song is performed, the body language on stage and the crowd's reaction. The most important thing is the reaction of the crowd.

For, the connection between the people on-stage and off-stage is what spells stage presence", says Kiran

Sridar a pannelist.

While Jason obligingly gives the future rock and pop starts a word of advice and says, "The best way for an upcoming band to make a mark is for them to find their own style, and bring it out as best as they can".

With the famous jazz musician, Gerard Machado completing the trio of judges for the event, the much awaited results were announced to the tense backstage, and an equally anxious crowd. A surprise for the crowd was the fact that their favourites, 'Black Earth' lost out on first place and secured the runners-up by a margin of less than five points.

Future plans

On winning the coveted title of the 'best band' and a cash prize of , the exhilarated vocalist of the band 'Wax', Unni, reveals the future plans for the band and the importance of participating in such competitions. "We will be using the prize money as funds for an album that we plan to come out with in July or August. Competitions like these are really important as these are the only places where anybody can come and listen to rock music.

Otherwise, most people are not really into rock. So this is a great platform for us". Although the crowd was surprised by the results, the "Battle of bands" was a great way for people to chill out.