



PHOTOS BY TASOS KATOPODIS / THE TIMES

Ryan DeYoung, right, sings lead vocals as Ben Mollin, left, plays bass guitar at Calumet City's Olde Homestead on Saturday. The local band Wolcott played at 21 taverns in 10 hours, hoping to set a Guinness record.

LOCAL ROCK BAND SETS WORLD RECORD

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Times Staff Writer

After playing 21 clubs in Calumet City in 10 hours Saturday, locally based rock band Wolcott is awaiting confirmation from Guinness Book of Records that the feat is, in fact, a Guinness record.

"Everything went good," lead vocalist and guitarist Ryan DeYoung said Monday. "There were no problems, not at all. Every half-hour we were on time."

Some 40 fans followed the group via bus from club to club, beginning with the Olde Homestead, 11 155th St., and closing the marathon at The Hideaway, 159th Street and Burnham Avenue, DeYoung said.

Wolcott played 21-minute sets at each club, and about 300 fans greeted the band for the finale at The Hideaway, he said.

"People were waiting for us," DeYoung said. "We could have probably played



Fans gathered at the Olde Homestead to cheer Wolcott on and then followed the band by bus from show to show. By the end of the tour, 300 people were at The Hideaway to take part in the finale.

10 more shows. We should have been tired, but we were so pumped with adrenaline. We thought we would be a lot more tired than we were."

On Sunday, the band sent Guinness videotape of the daylong event, copies of contracts with all 21 clubs and tickets sold. "They'll send us certificates and

stuff," DeYoung said. "We're just waiting for them to get back to us. We followed every rule that they told us to."

Wolcott, which formed in October 1999, got the idea to break the record in September at the suggestion of Nick Kutzko, manager of Music Lab in Lansing and a

friend of the band.

"It was his idea, but he didn't think we were going to do it," DeYoung said.

Other members of Wolcott are bassist and lead vocalist Ben Mollin, 27, Calumet City; keyboardist Keith Forsythe, 25, Lansing; lead guitarist Danny Giorgi, 32, Hobart; and drummer Tom Miller, 22, Chicago.

While the band waits for a response from Guinness, it will begin recording its second full-length album on Wednesday and plans to tour Midwestern colleges after Christmas, DeYoung said.

Universal, EMI and Elektra records are each discussing signing Wolcott to a recording contract, he said. The band will "shop" songs from the upcoming album to each record label, DeYoung said.

"We'll see what happens with the best deal," he said. "We'll have some songs on our Web site (www.mywolcott.com) as soon as they're done."