

David Cassidy Dawn Kim & Dave

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NYC

— The lines started to form hours before the doors were supposed to open. Strangers bearing gifts. The area around the stage entrance had become completely surrounded. It was, in essence, David Cassidy Day in New York!

Madison Square Garden was filled to capacity. The area backstage was swarming with newsmen and television cameras. Everyone waited to see what David Cassidy was all about. And it didn't take long, either. From the moment he was introduced to his screaming audience, Cassidy was in complete control. He knew exactly what to do. He knew how to make them scream, and he knew when to make them scream. He knew what to say, and how to say it. From beginning to end, Cassidy had the audience in the palm of his hand.

Those who dismiss him by saying that he is merely a puppet being manipulated by an organization need only look at Cassidy's remarkable total of record sales and personal appearances. The figures speak for themselves. It's Cassidy who appears live at those performances. It's Cassidy—all the way. And the most interesting aspect of it all is that Cassidy is a natural performer. He hasn't spent months on end rehearsing those fancy dance steps or stage movements. It's all Cassidy—like it or not!

Cassidy ran through no less than a half dozen of his million selling hits (including those which he performed with The Partridge Family), but the

most excitement seemed to be generated during his rendition of "Cherish." There seems to be a need for teen performers, and right now, David Cassidy is the answer.

Tony Orlando's group, Dawn, showed signs of a lack of rehearsal time for their five song set (featuring "Knock Three Times" twice). The band seemed unsure of just what they were supposed to be doing and marred what could have been a very dynamite act musically as well as visually. Tony could easily be a David Cassidy for those in their twenties (looking and moving like he does) and the lovely female vocal pairing provide the males in the audience with something they too can enjoy. The Bell trio can stay on top as long as the material fits their talents.

Opening the show were Kim & Dave (Kim Carnes & Dave Ellingson). They also provided the excellent back-up vocals for David's set. This husband-wife duo is indeed versatile as they can provide a compendium of other people's hits for David's night while on record (Amos), they can do a more personal thing both together and solo. Dave's voice is in the best tradition of male pop/rock frontrunners while Kim's is up there with Rita Collidge and Carole King. Hopefully they will be able to find time to do a club tour of their own very soon to show off their own abilities their own way. Meanwhile, David knows he's got the best there is helping him out.

k.k. & r.a.