



STAR PHOTO BY HARALD DREIMANIS

CASSIDY FANS . . . light the stands with flashbulbs during State Fair grandstand show.

Cassidy Makes The Day For Pre-Teen Audience

By LIANE WETTERER
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Neither rain nor cold nor staying up past bedtime could keep the thousands of devoted David Cassidy fans from turning out to see their idol Thursday, the opening night of grandstand entertainment at the 1972 Nebraska State Fair.

Amidst the "high C" shrieks of his young audience, Cassidy glided onto the stage

dressed in white boots, white bell-bottomed slacks, a matching fitted jacket, and a dark brown, V-necked shirt.

In addition to his own band, Cassidy was accompanied by two young singers formerly with the Christie Minstrels singing group. The two helped to mount tension and excitement in the grandstand as the crowd anticipated Cassidy's arrival.

It seemed as though David Cassidy, the small, slender, attractive young star of TV was transformed into David Cassidy the swivel-hipped sex idol.

His fans saw more of his fanny than of his face during the first half of the show.

Once in the spotlight, the 22-year-old star of ABC-TV's "The Partridge Family," strutted, bowed, gyrated and crooned into his microphone, never standing still for more than a moment at a time.

His newest release, "Rock Me, Baby," which has apparently already hit the "number one" slot in some areas of the country, was especially overplayed.

In all fairness, however, Cassidy has plenty of talent if he can sit still or stand still long enough to sing. "Brown Eyes," a tender love ballad, was the first sign he was really playing for his Lin-

coln fans instead of for his back-up band.

Being a singing idol for a pre-teen audience can have its drawbacks. Most of the audience — made up of youngsters averaging between 10 and 14 years of age — seemed disinterested in songs they didn't immediately recognize.

Instead of screaming while their heart-throb vocalized those tunes, they talked.

But once he broke into "Doesn't Somebody Want to be Wanted by Me," or "Cherish"

or "I Woke Up In Love This Morning," the youngsters' hearts were in their vocal chords.

Probably his most moving performance of the evening was a ballad Cassidy wrote and accompanied himself on the piano to — "Two Time Loser."

Finally, no David Cassidy concert could ever be complete without his rendition of "I Think I Love You," a recording that has sold more than five million copies. With that he waved good-bye to his fans and ran off stage into the back seat of a waiting limousine.

At any rate, there are several thousand Lincoln youngsters who went to sleep with "I Love David" pennants or full-color David Cassidy posters on their walls.