

Hard work pays off for One Bad Son

BY CAM FULLER, POSTMEDIA NEWS APRIL 20, 2013

A small fish in a big show or a big fish in a small show? It's all part of the strange game of rock 'n' roll.

"It was definitely the biggest tour of our career," One Bad Son drummer Kurt Dahl said of travelling across the country this winter with Buckcherry.

"It was pretty amazing. A lot of the venues were 1,000-seaters."

It was nice not having the pressure of filling those places.

That was Buckcherry's job. But the former Saskatoon band of Dahl, Shane Volk (vocals), Adam Hicks (guitar) and Adam Grant (bass) weren't lost in the scenery.

Thanks to the pleasantly surprising success of the single Scarecrows, which rose to No. 5 on the rock charts, more and more people knew who they were as the tour went on.

"You could kind of see the progression," said Dahl.

Western Canadian fans, supportive as usual, were singing along with Scarecrows. But the real change was the response down east.

"We used to go to Ontario and we couldn't get arrested. By the end, they were singing along to half of our set," Dahl said. "It's a short set, mind you."

The band's self-title album on Vancouver's 604 Records now has a followup single in It Ain't Right to sustain the momentum.

But in the downtime after the Buckcherry tour, Dahl was back in the office in Vancouver at his job as an entertainment lawyer.

"I really have no idea who I am beneath it all," he laughed.

And now it's time for another identity switch as the band heads out on its own tour for a half-dozen shows over two weeks, including a hometown stop and a JunoFest gig in Regina on Saturday.

Dahl says he often gets asked by younger bands what it takes to make it. He's not a believer in overnight success, suggesting five years of hard work before expecting to see a return.

"You've got to get out there and tour and work the connections and you might get your shot," he tells them.

"It's all about making a real connection and putting out a killer live show."

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