New artists score with familiar sound

The Starting Line boasts style, not innovation

Ryan French

for the Index

Every song band heads at making a big and becoming rock stars. Very few get the chance to realize that dream, however. The Starting Line is a young pop-punk quartet from Pennsylvania, ready to break the exception to the rule with resale-friendly sound mixing with lyrics that explore the dynamics of adolescent relationships.

The musical formula has proved to be very successful over the past couple of years. Bands such as A New Found Glory and Good Charlotte have been known for the genre, not exceptional. The Starting Line released its self-titled, five-song EP last year.

One could even go so far as to say that the band may be indistinguishable from A New Found Glory. The Starting Line lead singer Kenny Carrello’s vocals were replaced by those of A New Found Glory’s Jordan Pundik. Despite the band’s packaged sound, The Starting Line’s songwriting and music are top-notch for fans of the genre. As the band gets older and gains more experience, it really should develop some great music with a signature of its own.

The Starting Line boasts style, not innovation in true-to-form fashion.

The band essentially has developed a sound very similar to its predecessors. As the band gets more professional feel, the music hold up?

When the band hit the studio to record its full-length debut “Say It Like You Mean It,” after generating quite a buzz on a six-week stint on “The Warped Tour this summer, the band was looking for daring or innovative creativity.

The Starting Line is a great pop-punk band in many ways, but this album may disappoint listeners looking for daring or innovative creativity.

The band essentially has developed a sound very similar to its predecessors. This comes as no surprise to those who saw the band on the Warped Tour or even to those who pose at the list of bands. The Starting Line’s trademark style of mixing clean-sounding instruments with stereo separation and layered vocals provides a deep, rich feel to this young band’s music and gives “Say It Like You Mean It” a very professional feel.

The Starting Line has become the kind of band that it has always been looking for: mature, and the music on this album that creates many of the styles of music does give up on its true-to-form fashion.

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These boys already have the talent; it’s just a matter of them finding their own identity in the pop-punk world.

CONCERT CALENDAR

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Kansas City

Missouri

• Our Lady Peace, today, Emerson Club

• Jerry Seinfeld, Saturday, Midland Theatre

Kirkville

• Jimmy Eat World, Friday, Pershing Arena

St. Louis

• B.B. King Blues Festival, Friday, Savvis Center

Illinois

• Bone Thugs ‘N Harmony, Lady Gaga, Saturday, House of Blues

Chicago

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