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Lambert shows why she is a star

By Erin White
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Wolfdance pulled several of Texas' top bands to downtown Fort Worth on Sunday, but it had only one star.

"I started out playing bars with the Eli Young Band and Kevin Fowler, and it's so nice to be sharing a stage with them tonight," Lindale native Miranda Lambert said midway through her set.

Those acts might have played on the same stage, but Lambert burst onto the stage with a fresh energy that lit a fuse under the tired, hot and sweaty crowd.

Perennial local favorites the Eli Young Band, who met in Denton, and Kevin Fowler left fans happy, too, but they didn't turn in fiery performances like Lambert.

The Eli Young Band has a pop-tinged focus and lyrics that have as much in common with popular emo bands as they do with Pat Green, and they always pull in a heavy contingent of college and newly graduated fans. They played a mostly laid-back set.

Fowler, as always, turned in a raunchy, raucous show that left mothers' covering their children's ears and eyes and fans grinning.

But Lambert earned her top billing. She tore through her hits like *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Gunpowder and Lead* and *Getting Ready* with a ferocious attitude.

The singer, who recently won the Academy of Country Music's album of the year award, brought a playfulness and wit lacking from the earlier shows.

One of the crowd's favorites was *Famous in a Small Town*, about how everyone's name pops up in the gossip mill. It's clear: Lambert is famous in the big town, too.