

This summer marked the first time I had gone to the Warped Tour. For about four years now I had wanted to go, but at long last I motivated myself enough to go (that is, my friend offered me tickets). We had to leave early at 8:30 am to get from my house in Bethlehem, PA to Asbury Park, NJ in time.

After spending about a half-hour dodging hurled water bottles, books, and the occasional bagel in “line” (which in reality was a mass of humanity trying to funnel into the venue) we finally entered into the lot and tried to plan our schedule around almost 50 bands that were playing that day.

We decided to check out Reel Big Fish first who put on a great show playing old favorites like Sell Out and Beer as well as songs from their new album like Cheer Up and Dateless Loser and even a ska remix of Take On Me. From Reel Big Fish we went to Good Charlotte playing The Motivation Proclamation and Little Things.

From these fairly recognizable bands, we went to the obscure (but still awesome) punk/ska band Five Iron Frenzy who rocked with Blue Comb `78 and The Phantom Mullet. Unfortunately, we had to leave the Five Iron show early to get to our main objective for the day: MxPx. Frankly, the guys from Bremerton, Washington were a bit of a let down. First off, the sound system sucked with the sound going in and out, Mike talked more than he sang, and while I may be getting old or maybe I was just being protective of my camera but the crowd was way to rambunctious for me.

After MxPx ended with the obligatory Punk Rawk Show, we checked out the Canadian punk band Simple Plan before our stomachs lured us over to the food stands to fork out (I’m not exaggerating) \$12 for 2 slices of pizza and 2 bottles of water. Yikes.

By this time we were severely burnt and getting a little agitated by the miscreant teenie-boppers that surrounded us, but we persevered so that we got to kick it old school with the Mighty Mighty Bosstones (you just gotta love the dancing guy), and finally New Found Glory, playing Hit or Miss and their latest hit, My Friends Over You.

While there were some disappointments on the day and we went home burnt and exhausted, it was still an awesome experience.