

ROKKIN' AT THE PIER WITH

MAGNUM

JULY 22



MAGNUM IN EARLIER DAYS

As usual, there was a good attendance at Wigan Pier, so much so that some people weren't going to get a very good view of the two bands. Bar prices were reasonable for a change eg. lager knocked down from 74p to 60p, but the biggest impression the Pier leaves on you is the amazing light show they've got there. This was in evidence again during the disco as the majority of people had their eyes turned upwards.

Magnum

Kingdom Of Madness
Met JETLF 210

But while excess and ostentation are generally the never go above the head, Magnum lose sight of their original objective. For example, although 'The Bringer' is at times frantic and jazzy, there's enough great, dirty guitar licks and deeply memorable riffs to keep the rock afloat.



Supporting were Dark Star, a five-piece also from the Midlands who did an adequate job of warming up the crowd. Particularly good was "Lady Of Mars" which has often appeared in the Heavy Metal charts and on the whole, the group were quite tight and competent. There was much posing from the vocalist which wasn't too good an idea since he had teeth like Joe Jordan. Anyway the guitar-work was quite good and they went down well.

Magnum were EXCELLENT. They had the audience on their side from the beginning. All the classics were there; "Changes", "If I could live forever", "All my life", "Invasion" etc., each being executed perfectly and sounding much better live than recorded in the studio (as shown on "Marauder").

However, unlike fellow Midlanders Black Sabbath and Judas Priest, Magnum do not really attempt to convey their message through the heavy metal medium. No, they have a subtler, more melodic and would you believe pomp-rocking approach. And the end result is an ambitious overblown multi-

New keyboardist, Mark Stanaway (ex Steve Gibbons Band) is even better than his predecessor, Richard Bailey. Good bass and drumming provided a strong foundation for Tony Clarkin and Mark Stanaway to branch out with some excellent solo work.