



High energy heats up summertime rock

By **BOB ROSS**
St. Petersburg Times Music Critic

TAMPA — Pop-rock punk-poet Patti Smith proclaimed her intentions quickly. Her powerful but ponderous show Friday night in Curtis Hixon Hall had just begun when the lyrical dervish-queen of New York new wave shouted to some 5,500 fans: "Tampa, tonight we're going to settle some scores!"

Miss Smith's fans still shudder at the memory of her last Suncoast concert. On Jan. 23, 1977, opening for Bob Seger in the same hall, Miss Smith tripped on equipment and tumbled seven feet from the stage to the concrete floor. The resulting injuries kept her in a neck brace and off stage for months.

As if an energetic show could erase the memory of a broken neck, Miss Smith led

Tom Petty, who for years led a Gainesville-based band called Mudcrutch, offered a punchy second set.

her four sidemen through a set that made up in intensity what it lacked in prettiness.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS and a hit album later, Miss Smith seems to have more than recovered from the accident. Her high-energy screech-and-yowl vocals, her prizefighter style of dancing, her crudely effective band and her flamboyantly confusing speech have made her the pre-eminent female exponent of street-wise rock poetry. At 31, she rules New York's neo-punk scene.

Highlighted by *Because The Night*, the hit single she co-wrote with Bruce Springsteen, Miss Smith's exuberant set climaxed a well received triple bill. Ticket prices were sliced to \$2.98 advance, \$3.98 at the door — such reasonable fees should be levied more often.

Switching from 60s oldies to her own more complicated works, Miss Smith projects an image that is mannish, manic and sometimes monotonous.

ROSS ON MUSIC

opinion



St. Petersburg Times — DICK BELL

Patti Smith climaxed a powerful bill including Tom Petty and Hoochie.

IN FACT EVEN her best efforts — such as her revival of the Who's *The Kids Are Alright* and the Stones' *Time Is On My Side* — failed to restrain a steady stream of early departures throughout her set.

Apparently, Florida audiences much prefer the more accessible pop orientation of second billed Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

Tom Petty, who spent several years in the early 70s leading a Gainesville-based band called Mudcrutch, generated a nearly hysterical but well earned response, the

type that occurs all too seldom on today's industrialized rock scene. Paced by Petty and his aggressively clean guitarist Mike Campbell, the Heartbreakers earned two encore calls from an overwhelmed audience. As if to prove his roots in 1960s bar bands, Petty responded with two real oldies, *Shout* and *Route 66*.

Show opener Hoochie among St. Petersburg's choicest nightclub-rock bands, convinced the party-minded audience that at least one local band can hold its own on a full concert stage. In fact the managers of the Petty/Smith tour hired Hoochie to open for them in Miami tonight as well.