

Lawrence serviceable in family-friendly comedy

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Roy McCormick (Martin Lawrence) is a world-renowned, college basketball coach, having led Ohio Polytechnic to three national championships.

He has also parlayed his success on the court into several very lucrative endorsement deals with the help of his agent, Tim Fink (Breckin Meyer).

So, Roy seems set for life, except for the fact that he has a quick temper which keeps getting him into trouble.

After he gets hit with eight technical fouls in eight games, he finds himself sus-

pended, and on the verge of a lifetime ban, from coaching in the college ranks.

His only option is to accept a demotion and to prove that he's learned to manage his anger while whipping the Mount Vernon Junior High Smelters into shape.

This proves to be no mean feat since the rag-tag team he inherits from home economics teacher, Mr. Newirth (Horatio Sanz), has had a hard time scoring even one basket against an opponent.

This is the set-up of "Rebound," a family comedy which represents a squeaky clean departure for Martin Lawrence from his typically

relatively salty fare.

The movie is mostly a painful exercise in the obvious, a by-the-book, overcoming-the-odds sports flick, like "The Mighty Ducks" and its ilk.

We know from the start that Roy will learn to control his moods and that the motley crew of losers will emerge victorious in the big game against their hated, cross-town rivals.

At least the picture does offer a little romantic relief in Jeanie (Wendy Raquel Robinson), the school's art teacher and mother of Roy's most promising player, Keith (Oren Williams).



Martin Lawrence stars as Roy McCormick, a high-strung college basketball coach who must redeem himself following a public meltdown, by leading a junior high school team.

Her presence sets up the film's only real tension: the question of whether Roy will abandon the kids for a high-profile job after the season ends, or if he'll have the sense to put down roots in town as permanent coach of the Smelters while making Jeanie an honest woman and giving her son the father figure he so desperately needs.

Not exactly "Citizen Kane," but bearable, if you've got young kids in need of 90 minutes of clean entertainment.

Good (2 stars). Rating: PG for mild epithets and mature themes.

BET

(Continued from Page 8) light as Toni Braxton came out of the woodwork to serenade Gladys Knight, the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Faith Evans also joined in on the love fest, performing "Love Overboard." But Gladys Knight proved to be her own best tribute artist, performing her classics. "If I Was Your Woman," "Neither One Of Us" and "Midnight Train to Georgia."

Petey Pablo, who was representing Death Row Records, said that Gladys Knight was "it" for him. "Gladys Knight was the most

avoid movies starting with the letter "W."

Johnson heard a collective "Awww" from the crowd after announcing his retirement as head of BET — but he offered five more years in exchange for Beyonce catering to him like she did Terrence Howard. He thanked the audience and BET viewers for supporting his dream, then introduced new CEO Debra Lee and Humanitarian Award recipients Denzel and Pauletta Washington.

The couple was honored for their charitable work, but Pauletta stood in for her absent husband, who accepted

with drugs, we hope the pun was not intended.

Omarion, winner of the Viewer's Choice Award, went for Usher's jugular by paratrooping from the ceiling to do a dance-heavy performance of "O" and "Touch."

Performer Marques Houston was excited as ever to see his younger brother, Omarion, bloom into such an entertainment force. "Omarion won that big award. It felt great to see him do his thing, by himself. It was his first time. The outcome was really good and I'm proud of him," Houston beamed.

And fan favorite Ciara, despite some sequencing problems in the beginning of her performance, got it together and lit up the stage with Ludacris on her sizzling single, "Oh."

While there was a lot of fun, fashion and performances, Will Smith promised to communicate to the global audience the importance of the images Black artists show to the world. And he did by telling a heartfelt, unscripted story about seeing Tupac's and Biggie's names scrawled on a tin hut during a trip to Mozambique. He told the audience that the kid who wrote it found it "impossible" that African-Americans had achieved so much in so little time. "They think what we do is impossible," Smith said. "Look at us doing the impossible."

Stevie Wonder closed the show with a spirited performance of his new song, "What the Fuss?," even showing off some choreographed footwork. Will and Jada wrapped the night up with some joking banter and sent everyone home to the sounds of Wonder's famous "Happy Birthday" song.



Debra L. Lee (left), president and chief operating officer of BET, smiles while former BET chief executive officer Bob Johnson applauds during Tuesday night's 5th annual BET Awards program at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Calif.

remarkable, incredible, man. I caught the spirit."

Co-hosts Mr. and Mrs. Smith showed who the real Mr. and Mrs. Smith were. The power couple spoofed the movie of the same title by performing a series of funny skits between commercial breaks. They joked about their sex life and their movie choices, including a particularly funny moment when Will suggested that the two

the award via videotape from the set of a Spike Lee film.

The night was punctuated with several tributes to stars that passed, including Ossie Davis, Johnnie Cochran and an emotional send-off for Rick James from Teena Marie. The Wu-Tang Clan paid their respects to recently passed member Ol' Dirty Bastard, whom they described as a "lyrical chemist." Given ODB's struggle


Overall, the 2005 BET Awards were chock full of treats — so many that Steve Harvey was unable to pick just one. "[I loved] Gladys, Toni Braxton, Fantasia...John Legend with Stevie Wonder... I really loved how BET did it this time with the old-school cats with the younger cats," Steve said.

Here are the 2005 BET Awards Winners:
Best Female Rap Artist
Remy Ma


Best Group
Destiny's Child
Best Female R&B Artist
Alicia Keys
Best New Artist
John Legend
Best Actor
Jamie Foxx
Best R&B Male
Usher
Best Male Hip-Hop
Kanye West
Best Actress
Regina King
Male Athlete of the Year

Shaquille O'Neal
Female Athlete of the Year
Serena Williams
Best Gospel Artist
Donnie McClurkin
Viewer's Choice Award
Omarion, "O"
Video of the Year
Kanye West, "Jesus Walks"
Best Collaboration
Ciara and Missy Elliot, "1, 2 Step"
Chuck "Jigsaw"
Creekmur also contributed to this story.

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