

IRON MAIDEN

Battle of San Bernardino



San Manual became the Mecca for all Southern CA metal heads, even if it was for one day only. The Battle of San Bernardino featured thrash metal veterans who tore up the stage from noon to midnight. Testament, Megadeth, Anthrax and Overkill, as well as Sabaton and Warbringer caused 30,000 metal heads to "gather in their masses" and pay homage to the reigning kings who call themselves Iron Maiden. This was Iron Maiden's second headlining stop in Southern California on their Maiden England world tour. If it was a true battle, Iron Maiden would have taken no prisoners.

After a long day of record breaking heat, tens of thousands of metal heads waited as patiently as they could for Iron Maiden to perform, recreating the original Seventh Son of a Seventh Son stage setup. On stage you can see the visual of the ice caps beginning to melt away, a sign that we were closely approaching the witching hour. Roars of cheers and yells screaming "Maiden, Maiden" were echoed from near and far. Yells of "Up the Iron's" and fist pumping with just as many devil signs could be seen from every angle. If you never been to an Iron Maiden show you would have thought the second coming was happening, but this is protocol. *Just another over the top, in your face, louder than hell Maiden show!*

Iron Maiden hit the stage with the powerful opener, "Moonchild," that got the crowd fired up. Bruce Dickinson ignited the stage with his unmatched stage presence. It's incredible how Bruce's voice has not lost its range. He

was like a fire cracker bouncing from platform to platform. They played for close to two hours and none of the sextet lost their energy or smile on their face. Steve Harris's galloping bass drove the band as it has for over 3 decades, with guitarists Adrian Smith, Dave Murray, and Janick Gers lighting up the fret board and creating those trademark harmonies. Seated atop his throne, drummer Nicko McBrain kept the brigade in order with his powerful beat as the band's thundering atomic clock.

Not to be overlooked was Maiden's 7th member, Eddie, whose presence is always known. The famed mascot went through several costume changes, and even came to life, chasing Janick Gers in a soldier uniform.

Their set featured an impressive string of classics, including "The Trooper," "The Number of the Beast," "Phantom of the Opera," "Run to the Hills," "Wasted Years," and "Seventh Son of a Seventh Son." These guys are showmen. They have fun, and love their fans. It's no wonder they still sell out stadiums worldwide. In the Battle of San Bernardino, Maiden triumphantly raised the flag in victory!
Raquel Figlo

