



14. Ignitor

Year of the Metal Tiger

Now led by shrieking Jason McMaster -- whose resume includes sleaze-rock in Dangerous Toys and prog-thrash in Watchtower -- this Texas power-metal bunch opens with chutzpah and cheese: namely, "Heavy Metal Holocaust," a battle between Ozzy and Satan revolving around references to the former's songs and a wager about whether metal will never die. That bet won, they pummel through twin Maiden leads, Priest lung-busting and the occasional Sabbath-derived groove, speeding up at times and being inadvertently funny other times ("Smoke is rising! It rises to the sky!"), but not grabbing hold much. [C.E.]

<http://www.rhapsody.com/blog/2012/08/top-15-metal-albums-august-2012>