

In Tune

The Daily News

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009



NINETAIL, "Half Truths & Hand Grenades" (Level Nine Entertainment)

☆☆☆ — Fans of bands such as Lamb of God, Slipknot and Mushroomhead figure to get a charge out of Pennsylvania-based metal outfit Ninetail, whose sophomore release, the blistering "Half Truths & Hand Grenades," just might make the sextet players on the national scene. With plenty of ear-piercing guitar riffs cour-

tesy of Don Belch and growling, throat-bleeding vocals from frontman J. William Heitmann, Ninetail play with the kind of barely contained fury that metal heads both demand and respect.

The title track is one of the high points, though Heitmann and his pals additionally score with "Seasoned Scheme," "My Belief," "God Willing" (which allows Belch to go crazy with a first-rate solo), "Trials of a Madman" and set closer "So Be It." A couple multimedia tracks round out the package (videos for "Half Truths" and "Madman"), but it's the pulse-pounding metal itself that makes Ninetail a force to be reckoned with.

(JS)