



February 20, 2009

Review: Disturbed pounds crowd

Germain Arena fills with 5,000 disturbed fans

By *DAVID DORSEY*
ddorsey@news-press.com

Wheeled onstage in a straightjacket with a mask covering his face like Hannibal Lecter, Disturbed frontman David Draiman immediately went to work, tearing himself out of the jacket and throwing the mask offstage.

The band then opened with the thunderous "Perfect Insanity."

The bald-headed Draiman performed like a cross between rapper Eminem and Metallica singer James Hetfield, injecting fury and a melodic growl into his singing but also a pounding rhythm.

The show belonged to Draiman. If the man wanted to see "Ten Thousand Fists" in the air, like the title track from one of their CDs, he probably succeeded.

"Let me see your fists in the air!" Draiman shouted before the band launched into the song.

A crowd of about 5,000 fans complied with the request at Germain Arena in Estero on Monday night.

Many on the arena floor also complied with another command from Draiman.

"Gather all of your anger, all of your hatred, all of your fury - and unleash it!" Draiman shouted, as Disturbed played "Prayer."

"Bring to life everything that you fear, live in the dark, and the world is threatening," Draiman sang before the crowd shouted the chorus: "Let me enlighten you. This is the way I pray!"

No, there were no power ballads played by this band.

The song prompted a mosh pit to form on the arena floor, where bare-chested young men pounded one another. The scene looked violent. It looked, well, disturbing.

But the fans were performing their own show, pretending to hurt - and be hurt - by one another. They were mostly harmless. Just like Draiman.

Disturbed, from Chicago, has released three CDs since 2002 that have achieved No. 1 status. The most recent, "Indestructible," dominated portions of the show, with a massive reproduction of the compelling cover art displayed behind the stage.

Disturbed also played several tracks from "Ten Thousand Fists," including the cover of the Genesis song, "Land of Confusion," a fitting song considering Draiman's resemblance both in stature and in baldness to that band's frontman, Phil Collins.

And of course, tucked in the middle of the show, Disturbed performed its breakout hit, "Down With the Sickness."

That allowed Draiman to unleash his signature sound. He screamed, "Uh-Wah-Ah-Ah-Ah."
