

= Damageplan =

Damageplan was an American heavy metal band from Dallas , Texas , formed in 2003 . Following the demise of their previous group Pantera , brothers Dimebag Darrell and Vinnie Paul Abbott wanted to start a new band . The pair recruited former Diesel Machine and Halford guitarist Pat Lachman on vocals , and later Bob Zilla on bass . Damageplan released their only studio album New Found Power in the United States on February 10 , 2004 , which debuted at number 38 on the Billboard 200 , selling 44 @, @ 676 copies in its first week .

While Damageplan was promoting the album at a concert on December 8 , 2004 , at the Alrosa Villa in Columbus , Ohio , a man named Nathan Gale climbed on stage and killed lead guitarist Darrell and three others , and wounding another seven , before being shot dead by police officer James Niggemeyer . Although no motive was found , some witnesses claimed Gale blamed the brothers for Pantera 's breakup and believed that they had stolen his lyrics . The band 's manager confirmed there are unreleased Damageplan recordings , although they have not surfaced , and the band has not performed since the incident . Abbott and Zilla have joined the band Hellyeah , and Lachman joined The Mercy Clinic .

= = History = =

= = = Formation = = =

By 2003 , guitarist Dimebag Darrell and drummer Vinnie Paul Abbott were not pleased with the difficulties heavy metal band Pantera was experiencing . Abbott described the performance level of Pantera 's vocalist , Phil Anselmo , as " hit and miss , depending on what type of chemicals he was on . " Following the release of Pantera 's 2000 album Reinventing the Steel , Anselmo and bassist Rex Brown started to focus on their side projects and did not discuss or record any further Pantera material , while Darrell and Vinnie wanted to continue to write and play music . They thought it was time to move on and , upon disbanding Pantera , began writing new material .

A demo of the song " Crawl " was sent to former Halford guitarist Pat Lachman who auditioned as vocalist . Lachman was hired , and New Found Power was formed in early 2003 with former Jerry Cantrell guitarist Shawn Matthews on bass initially , who was replaced after the album recording with the brothers ' tattoo artist , Bob Zilla . When writing music , Vinnie claimed ; " we put no boundaries on it ... we wanted it to be very diverse " , and Darrell said " We wanted to stretch out and expand our capabilities to their fullest . " The band changed its name to Damageplan and decided to name the first album New Found Power .

= = = New Found Power = = =

The single " Save Me " debuted on American radio on January 26 , 2004 and the band 's debut album , New Found Power , was released in the United States on February 10 , 2004 . The album was recorded at the brothers ' backyard studio , Chasin ' Jason in Arlington , Texas , where previous Pantera albums were recorded . Abbott found that during recording everyone was willing to contribute and " put 100 % effort into it " , while with Pantera he found it difficult to get Anselmo in the recording studio . Corey Taylor of Slipknot , Zakk Wylde of Black Label Society and Jerry Cantrell of Alice in Chains made guest appearances on the tracks " Fuck You " , " Soul Bleed " , and the bonus track " Ashes To Ashes " respectively , and Sterling Winfield handled co @-@ production duties .

New Found Power sold 44 @, @ 676 copies in its first week to debut at number 38 on the Billboard 200 . The album received mixed reviews from music critics ; Christine Klunk of PopMatters commented " I 'm not in the least bit interested in where this band goes or what new and exciting ways they 'll think of to abuse the listeners , " while Johnny Loftus of AllMusic felt it was a " blazing new beginning " .

Alice in Chains ' vocalist / guitarist Jerry Cantrell attended a Thanksgiving party hosted by the brothers . Darrell and Vinnie had a demo of the first song they wrote titled " Ashes to Ashes " . Lachman insisted it was on the " backburner " until Cantrell showed interest . The band entered the brothers ' backyard studio with Cantrell to record " Ashes to Ashes " . Although the song was not completed in time to be featured on New Found Power , it was included on the Japanese version and the soundtrack The Punisher : The Album . To promote New Found Power , the band toured with Hatebreed , Drowning Pool , and Unearth on the second installment of the Headbangers Ball .

= = = Murder of Dimebag Darrell = = =

On December 8 , 2004 , the band was on a tour at Alrosa Villa , a Columbus , Ohio nightclub . Moments into the concert , Nathan Gale , a former U.S. marine , climbed onto the stage and shot Dimebag Darrell in the head multiple times . Head of Security for the band Jeffery " Mayhem " Thompson engaged in a hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat with Nathan Gale , which allowed Vinnie Abbott and other members to escape ; Thompson was also killed . A fan named Nathan Bray attempted to give CPR to Jeffrey Thompson and Dimebag Darrell ; he was killed by the shooter too . Erin Halk , a roadie , also a former U.S. marine , was killed when he charged at Nathan Gale while he was reloading . Once the police arrived , an officer named James Niggemeyer approached the stage from the side and saw Nathan Gale holding a gun to a hostage . James Niggemeyer killed him with a single shotgun blast to the head . 15 shots were fired by the shooter , and an additional 36 rounds were found on him .

A police investigation did not find a motive behind the shooting , although Nathan Gale 's mother said that he suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and that he believed the brothers had stolen his lyrics while trying to steal his identity too . She did not know if her son took the medication he was given for his condition , but was proud of his military service following his discharge , and had given him the Beretta 92F that was used in the attacks . Major Jason Johnston , a marine corps spokesman at The Pentagon , was unable to comment on Nathan Gale 's discharge .

A foundation called The Dimebag Darrell Memorial Fund was created after the incident , which donated its profits to cover medical expenses of drum technician John Brooks and tour manager Chris Paluska , who were injured on December 8 . A public memorial service for Darrell took place on December 14 , 2004 at Arlington Convention Center in Arlington , Texas . Many musicians paid tribute to Darrell on message boards and at live performances .

In May 2005 , Niggemeyer was called before a grand jury , which was convened by the Franklin County prosecutor 's office to examine the actions taken that night , a standard practice when deadly force is used . The jury found there was no wrongdoing on Niggemeyer 's part . Franklin County prosecutor Ron O 'Brien commented , " There was little doubt [the shooting] was lawful , given the 200 eyewitnesses and the circumstances that surrounded the shooting . Nevertheless , we still have an independent body review the facts " . Niggemeyer was nominated for a bravery award on the TV show America 's Most Wanted .

= = = Post @-@ murder events = = =

In a 2005 interview , Damageplan manager Paul Bassman said unreleased recordings before Darrell 's death were near completion . He commented , " Vinnie Paul has said there will be a follow @-@ up album down the road , as Dime would have wanted his music to be heard . " Rumors circulated of another album , although nothing has been released .

Following the events of December 8 , 2004 , Abbott was unsure if he wanted to continue playing music . He was invited to join Hellyeah , which included members of Mudvayne and Nothingface , but declined the offer . However , bassist Jerry Montano repeatedly called Abbott and he accepted to join the project as he thought " Everybody had their head in the right place . " Hellyeah released its debut album on April 10 , 2007 . One week later , Zilla joined the band as its new bassist , after Montano left due to " personal reasons " . The album was recorded at Abbott 's backyard studio , Chasin ' Jason , where New Found Power was recorded .

Vocalist Lachman joined The Mercy Clinic , which aided the grieving process . He commented , " you have to get back on the horse . You could easily let a decade go by and not do anything . I 'm happy to have walked away with my life after the situation I was thrown into . But , I mean , what do you do ? I 'm a musician . I 'm going to make music . What Dime would have told me was , ' You make music , motherfucker . Get back on it . Do what you do . ' So , that 's what I did . " Before the shooting , Phil Anselmo made the statement " Dimebag deserves to be severely beaten " in the December 2004 edition of Metal Hammer . He denied making the comments and apologized , although Abbott requested Metal Hammer to provide the audio tapes to prove the authenticity of what Anselmo said . Abbott found the quote authentic and referred to him as the " master of lies " .

A book titled A Vulgar Display of Power : Courage and Carnage at the Alrosa Villa was penned by author Chris Arnold . For 14 months , Arnold interviewed people and researched the events leading up to December 8 , stating " It 's not a book about rock stars , but heroes , regular guys who made the ultimate sacrifice . " In his research , Arnold found no evidence that the comments Anselmo made before Darrell 's death had influenced Gale 's actions . The book was released in 2007 .

= = Lyrical themes and style = =

Damageplan incorporated elements of heavy metal , post @-@ grunge , metalcore and death metal . Their sound has mainly been described as nu metal .

The lyrical process was a collaborative effort consisting of Vinnie , Darrell , and Lachman . Themes explored on the album included the brothers ' experiences , Darrell commented , " the crumbling of one empire and then starting over ... So there are a lot of lyrics about being reborn in a sense , about it being a new day , moving forward , letting go of the past and becoming something new . " This is exemplified in the songs " Reborn " , " Wake up " , and " Breathing New Life " . " Blunt Force Trauma " is about when someone or something comes up behind you when you least expect it , " it could be a situation in your life , it could be a person you know with a beer bottle " .

When writing music , Abbott and Darrell suggested guitar riffs and " grooves " , while Lachman added his input to modify the song 's structure . The band 's sound has been described by music critics to be similar to Pantera . Christine Klunk of PopMatters disliked the similarities and commented , " aside from a constant , driving rhythm , repetitive riffs , and unintelligible lyrics about (I 'm assuming) kicking ass ? there 's nothing of interest to pay attention to " . The song " Breathing New Life " features 180 beats @-@ per @-@ minute bass drum pedaling , what Vik Bansal of MusicOMH described as " exploding into a blaze of riffage and a cool chorus " . Bansal was impressed with certain elements of the song such as the switch from downbeat singing to " a big chorus lodged in power chord heaven " , and the incorporated groove rhythms . However , he felt Darrell " borrows " Anthrax 's guitar solo from the song " Only " .

= = Band members = =

= = Discography = =

= = = Albums = = =

New Found Power (2004)

= = = Singles = = =

= = = Music videos = = =