

FALL ATHLETIC SEASON

BY RYAN ERWIN, DBU ATHLETICS DIRECTOR



Back row: (left to right) Assistant Coach Leah Holmblad, Amanda Emmert, Amanda Pogue, Jessica Nix, Stacy Fitzhugh, Brandi Moss, Lauren Ashlock, Lauren Zegarelli, Head Coach Cathy Ray. **Front row:** Tiffany Coffey, Erin Black, Ashlee Hawkins, Vickie Mundell, Elizabeth Stroo, and Jenna Pry.

DBU's Volleyball team had their best season under Head Coach Cathy Ray this fall. The Lady Patriots finished the season with an 18-13 overall record, went 9-2 at home, and 8-2 in the Heartland Conference. The 8-2 finish in conference play gave them sole possession of second place and a bid to the conference tournament. During the season, the Lady Patriots won 13 straight matches, which is a DBU record.

The Lady Patriots' success during the 2006 campaign would not have been possible without the leadership of seniors Lauren Ashlock, Ashlee Hawkins, Brandi Moss, and Jenna Pry. Each senior led the team in at least one statistical category during the year, which played a significant role in the success of the team.

Head Coach Cathy Ray stated, "The impact our seniors had on the team was huge and will be missed tremendously. We were a young team this fall, with four freshmen playing consistently. This fall season set the pace for what we want to accomplish here at DBU, and we will strive to be even more successful next year."

Also emerging during the season were freshman talents Amanda Emmert, Stacy Fitzhugh, and Vickie Mundell. Mundell was named Heartland Conference Setter of the Week for two consecutive weeks. During that time, Mundell compiled 225 assists, which helped lead the Patriots to a 6-0 record during the stretch.

Pry and Moss, who led the team nearly every match in kills, blocks, or digs, were awarded for their strong

play. Pry was named First Team All-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week, and the Sports Imports/AVCA National Player of the Week for her play during the week of October 16-21. During that week, Pry led the Patriots to a 3-0 record with her 80 kills and 61 digs. Moss was named Second Team All-Heartland Conference by averaging 3.47 kills, 1.16 digs, and 1.1 blocks per game.

"This season was the most successful we have had at DBU since becoming an NCAA Division II program. We started with many injuries that put us behind mentally and physically on the court, but with patience, we slowly started to heal and become a team. It was not about who was on the other side of the court, but about playing our best game," Coach Ray explained.

VOLLEYBALL

SOCCER

The Lady Patriots Soccer team finished their season with an 11-12 overall record and a fourth place finish at the NCCAA National Championships. DBU played a tough schedule during the 2006 season but stayed around the .500 mark all year long, including a four-game winning streak during the middle of the season.

The DBU team qualified for the NCCAA National Championships by beating Central Christian College in the NCCAA Central Region Championship by a score of 1-0. The team took the momentum from this game and was able to defeat the number one seeded Trinity International University in the first round of the NCCAA Championships.

Head Coach David Granniss believes that a great defense will win

ball games, and all year the Patriots made it a point to play shutdown defense. For the season, DBU compiled a team record seven shutouts, which was largely because of freshman goalie Emily Evans, who was named First Team All-Region and NCCAA First Team All-American. Evans is the first female team sport athlete at DBU to earn NCCAA First Team All-American honors.

In addition to Evans' strong play, the Patriots were led by senior Angelica Sandoval, who was named NCCAA First Team All-Region, NCCAA Honorable Mention All-American, and Most Valuable Offensive Player at the NCCAA National Tournament; junior Courtney Schneidau, who was named NCCAA Second Team All-Region; junior Mandy Gomez, who was named NCCAA

First Team All-Region, NCCAA Honorable Mention All-American, and Heartland Conference Player of the Week; sophomore Brittni Wallace, who was named NCCAA Second Team All-Region; and freshman Tasha Garr, who was named First Team All-Heartland Conference, NCCAA First Team All-Region, NCCAA First Team All-Tournament, and NCCAA Honorable Mention All-American.

According to tenth-year Head Coach David Granniss, "All in all, 2006 was a great season! We made a lot of strides toward being very competitive in the NCCAA. A few injuries hit us hard in the second half, but we bounced back and finished very strong. The players should be proud of their work ethic, as well as the level of soccer that they are playing right now."



Back row: (left to right) Assistant Coach Chris Palmore, Assistant Coach Brad Jones, Kimberly Wepler, Rachel Spivey, Molly Heintz, Courtney Schneidau, Bethany Davidson, Emily Evans, Angelica Sandoval, Haleigh Nichols, Brittni Wallace, Sarah Meierhofer, Ashley Pfister, Head Coach David Granniss, Assistant Coach Jared Billups. **Front Row:** (left to right) Assistant Coach Jessica Johnson, Amanda Ferguson, Beth Bradtmueller, Chloe Adams, Amy Jenkins, Rebecca Armstrong, Tasha Garr, Mandy Gomez, Kasey Willborn, Khrystal Richmond, and Assistant Coach Michelle Magnotta.