

DBU VOLLEYBALL & SOCCER

seasons in review

The Lady Patriot Soccer and Volleyball teams each had successful seasons and ended their year with strong conference play. They also garnered individual accolades and competitive trips to post-season tournaments.

The 2011 *Lady Patriot Volleyball Team* entered their season with high expectations, but they experienced an early setback after junior and 2009 All-Heartland Conference pick Kristin Secord went down with a season ending knee injury. To replace the void left by Secord, seventh-year Head Coach Cathy Ray Kokel was forced to make unexpected changes to her lineup and rely more heavily on upperclassmen such as junior Kaylyn Frink and sophomores Christina Steinkruger and Becky Swann, as well as freshmen newcomers Krystal Wunderlich and Cameron Hartson.

DBU opened the season in non-conference play with three straight wins in the Lady Buffs Classic Tournament in Canyon, Texas, and then faced a tough field at the St. Edward's Hilltopper Classic in Austin and the Washburn Tournament held in Topeka, Kansas. The team also showed the ability to rebound from setbacks. After suffering a tough home loss to Midwestern State early in the season, the Lady Patriots beat the Mustangs two weeks later with a hard-fought 3-1 victory in Wichita Falls.

In Heartland Conference action, the team got off to a strong start with a 5-1 record in the first six games and secured a trip to the Heartland Conference Tournament for the second year in a row. After a 3-2 victory over St. Edward's University, the Lady Patriots fell in the championship game to St. Mary's University.

The Lady Patriots placed two players on the 2010 All-Heartland Conference Volleyball Team: Kaylyn Frink (junior) and Christina Steinkruger (sophomore). Krystal Wunderlich (freshman) was named the Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year for 2010.

Just as she had done in 2009, junior outside hitter Kaylyn Frink led the Lady Patriots offensively, finishing fourth in the Heartland Conference with 331 total kills on the season (2.78 per set). Frink also put up stellar numbers defensively, recording a team high 416 digs, good enough for eighth in the conference standings.

Steinkruger finished out her solid sophomore campaign with 317 kills and .184 attack percentage.

Wunderlich, an outside hitter, had an outstanding first year, finishing with 232 total kills, 2.11 kills per set, and an overall attack percentage of .202. Her best performance of

the season came in DBU's Heartland Conference Tournament win over St. Edward's University when she tallied 19 kills and 10 digs.

For the second year in a row, the *Lady Patriot Soccer Team*, led by third-year Head Coach Michelle Lenard, capped off their stellar season with a trip to the NCCAA National Tournament in Kissimmee, Florida. Their 12-11-1 overall record earned DBU a fourth place finish in the Heartland Conference.

For the second consecutive season, the Lady Patriots' attack was led by sophomore Brittany Layne and senior Ally Bales. The duo finished tied with a team-high 11 goals on the season. Bales held the advantage on assists for a total of 30 points, while Layne finished just behind her with two assists and 24 points.

Sophomore Haley Corbell wrapped up another great season as goalkeeper, allowing 25 goals with an overall save percentage of .834, while notching two shutouts.

Three Lady Patriots were voted to the All-Heartland Conference First Team and four to the Second Team.

Layne and sophomore defenders Andrea Hutchins and Baylie Hill were First Team selections, and Bales, Corbell, and junior midfielders Kourtney Edwards and Stephanie Emmert were selected to the Second Team.

After the conclusion of regular season play, the Lady Patriots earned a trip to the NCCAA Regional Tournament in McPherson, Kansas. Three dominating wins over Southwestern Christian, Central Baptist, and Colorado Christian gave DBU the NCCAA Regional Championship and earned them a trip to the NCCAA National Tournament.

After an opening round loss to number two seed, Trinity Christian, the Lady Patriots concluded the tournament and their season with a pair of victories. A 4-1 win over Roberts Wesleyan and a 3-0 win over King College secured a fifth place finish for DBU.

While participating in the NCCAA National Tournament, DBU received the team award for representing outstanding sportsmanship as voted on by the NISOA referees at the National Championships.

The tournament also tacked on a few more accolades for Layne and Bales. Layne was chosen as an NCCAA Second Team All-American, as well as being selected to the All-Tournament Team. Bales was selected as an NCCAA Honorable Mention All-American after scoring one goal and picking up one assist in each of the final two games of the tournament.

