

# *make the* PATRIOTS TOURNAMENT

**W**ith bated breath and nervous anticipation, members of the DBU family gathered together to watch the NCAA Division I Baseball Tournament Announcement Show. The Patriots had just completed their toughest season ever as an NCAA Division I member, and now they waited to see if their hard work would be rewarded.


As names from schools across the country were announced, the Patriots began to fear that this might not be the year. After all, it had been 16 years since an independent team, other than Miami, was selected to the tournament. As the final bracket was named, the room erupted in celebration. The Patriots had been named as a #2 seed in the NCAA College Station Regional.

Finishing the 2008 season with a 37-19 overall record, and a 16-3 record at home, DBU notched wins during the season over Rice (twice), Oral Roberts (twice), and Texas A&M, all top 25 ranked teams. The Patriots' high-powered offense ranked in the top 50 nationally in several categories, including 24th in batting average (.323), 37th in slugging percentage (.492), 43rd in doubles per game (2.23), 46th in hits (655), and 41st in runs scored per game (7.7). The Patriots' pitching staff also became one of the top in the country, posting a 4.55 ERA, 54th in the country.

DBU had several players receive individual awards this year, including seven players named to the NCAA Division I All-Independent Team, three players selected in the MLB draft, one NCAA All-American, and three players named to the Academic All-Independent Team. In addition, first-year Head Coach Dan Heefner was named NCAA Division I All-Independent Coach of the Year and the American Baseball Coaches Association Midwest Coach of the Year.

Accomplishments like these caught the eye of the NCAA Tournament selection committee, and the Patriots had their first chance to go to the tournament. Unfortunately, the ride ended early with two losses in the Regional Tournament, but the disappointment in College Station could not dampen the excitement of a great season and a bright future.

According to Coach Heefner, "God blessed us time and time again throughout this season, and it was very impressive to see how our players bonded together and played with confidence and courage, beating some of the best teams in the country on a consistent basis. Our success goes beyond the current players; this breakthrough season was built on all the tradition of DBU Patriot Baseball. It is such an honor to be a part of the first DBU team to play in an NCAA Regional, and for that we give God all the credit and the glory!"



**DBU Patriot Baseball players react to the news that they were invited to the NCAA Division I National Tournament.**

*(Photo by G.J. McCarthy, courtesy Dallas Morning News)*





IMAGES FROM THE TOURNAMENT

## 2008 PATRIOT BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS

**Season Record:** 37-19

**Record At Home:** 16-3

**Team Batting Avg:** .323 (24th in nation)

**All-Independent Team Players:** 7

**NCAA All-American:** 1

**Players Drafted to Major Leagues:** 3

*Evan Bigley, Tyson Bagley, Jordan Meaker*

**Wins over Top 25 Ranked Opponents:** 5

*Rice (twice), Oral Roberts (twice), Texas A&M*

**NCAA Div I All-Independent Coach of the Year**

**American Baseball Coaches Association**

**Midwest Coach of the Year**

*In his first year as head coach, Dan Heefner led the Patriots to the school's first NCAA tournament. At the end of the year, he was named NCAA Division I All-Independent Coach of the Year and ABCA Midwest Coach of the Year.*

