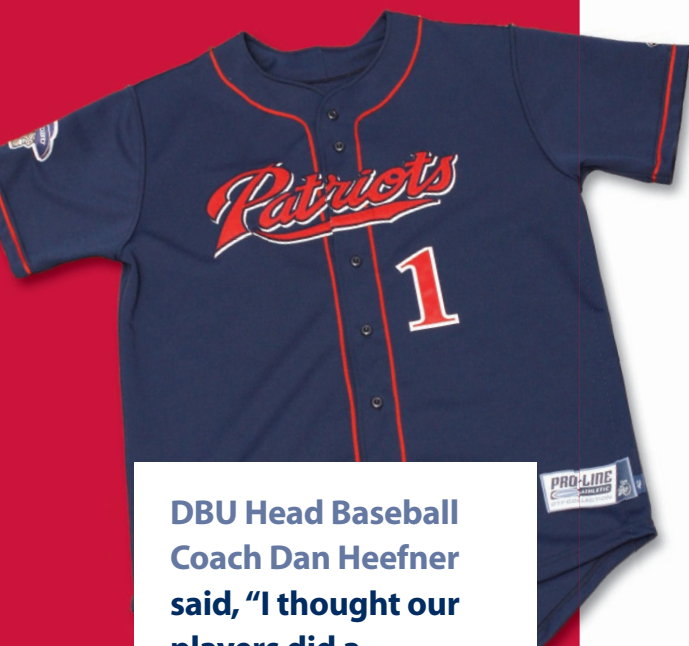


# DBU PATRIOT BASEBALL TEAM SERVES IN GUATEMALA



Director of Athletics Ryan Erwin, during a baseball camp in Guatemala City



**DBU Head Baseball Coach Dan Heefner said, "I thought our players did a tremendous job, and we all learned that it is far more fulfilling to serve others and to give than it is to be served and to receive."**

The DBU Patriot Baseball Team took a special trip to Guatemala, September 28–October 2, 2007, to minister to local children and take on the Guatemalan National Team in the first-ever President's Orphan Cup Series. The DBU Cheerleading Team, DBU Diamond Belles, and other DBU students and sponsors also went on this trip, totaling 58 from DBU.

The trip, in partnership with Buckner International, allowed students to continue the DBU ministry in Guatemala to orphanages and also provided an added opportunity to hold special baseball clinics with orphans and other Guatemalan children.

This DBU group embarked on various mission opportunities around Guatemala City, which included visiting several orphanages, conducting baseball clinics for Guatemala's little league teams, and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Guatemala. The Patriot Baseball Team wrapped up each day with a game against the Guatemalan National Team.

Head Coach Dan Heefner stated, "The trip to Guatemala was an incredible experience for our team in many ways. To be able to play three games against the Guatemalan National Team in that atmosphere was a great learning experience for our team."

The Patriot Baseball Team, DBU Cheerleaders, and Diamond Belles traveled to San Gabriel's Boys' Orphanage on the first day of the trip. The boys in the orphanage, who ranged in ages from 10–18, lived in poor conditions, sleeping on concrete beds, sharing community bathrooms, and wearing the same clothes day after day. However, the boys did not let the poor conditions take away from their positive spin on life and soaked up every moment the team, DBU Patriot Cheerleaders, and Diamond Belles spent with them.

The orphanage was a life-changing experience for the DBU student-athletes and the children who live there. Each player, cheerleader, and Belle took a personal initiative to interact with every child, which is something the orphanage boys will never forget. The Patriot Baseball Team helped run different activities for the boys, including recreation, wiffle ball, and Bible study, while the DBU Cheerleaders and Belles took care of the crafts, where the children seemed to like the Piñatas the most.

Heefner continued, "I think every player would agree that the highlight of our trip was not the three games we played, but the time we spent with the boys of the San Gabriel Orphanage and the baseball clinics we were able



DBU Baseball player Drew Pirtle teaching a young boy how to throw during a baseball camp



to host each afternoon. I thought our players did a tremendous job, and we all learned that it is far more fulfilling to serve others and to give than it is to be served and to receive."

The DBU Patriot Baseball Team worked with up to 60 children at each of three afternoon baseball clinics for the little league baseball teams of Guatemala. The team took full advantage of the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ and baseball. One clinic was concluded with a short testimony by DBU Baseball player Brett Lester.

Lester said, "I could not have asked for a better way to start off my senior year than teaching children my love for baseball and how much God loves them. It was a huge blessing to be able to share a little of my testimony with the children, and I am thankful the Lord allowed us to be able to take part in such a special event."

This special group of men and women from DBU used their fall break to travel to Guatemala and serve the Lord. Jay Harley—DBU Dean of Students and Spiritual Life—said, "Each person did an outstanding job ministering to the people of Guatemala and the children of the orphanages. DBU is proud of everyone who went on the trip and is thankful for the support they received that helped make the trip possible."

The Patriots won the first two games of the three-game series. However, Guatemala held the Patriots to two runs on five hits and won the final game of the President's Orphan Cup Series, 4-2. With the victory, they kept the Patriots from sweeping the three-game series. The Patriots won the President's Orphan Cup, although the team recognized the true trophy was the treasured memories of sharing Christ's love with the lovely people of Guatemala.

"The greatest thing about the whole trip was that our players were able to share the difference that Christ has made in their lives with the boys from San Gabriel, the Guatemalan National Team, and every player that came to the clinics. We will continue to pray that the seeds that



DBU Cheerleaders rooting for the Patriots during a game against the Guatemala National Team

were planted will make an eternal impact on the Guatemalan people," Heefner said.

"The trip was an experience our team will remember for a lifetime. We are extremely grateful to all the people that made a trip of this magnitude happen, including Dr. Cook, Dr. Blackburn, Ryan Erwin, Jay Harley and his staff, as well as the people at Buckner, and all of those who supported our coaches and players," Heefner concluded.

At the conclusion of the trip, DBU came home with the President Orphan's Cup and a renewed sense of commitment to service, both at home and around the world.



*Written by Ryan Erwin*



DBU Baseball players Chris McMullen, Jeremy Parrish, Victor Black, and Brice Wells with some of the young players in the camp after a Bible lesson