



2008 PATRIOT TENNIS TEAM
Front row (l-r): Megan Billings, Natalie Holmes, Traci Quan, Lisa Olian, Jeanelle Stines, Laura Atkins, Christine Wehrli, Andrea Knight, Beth Slone. Second Row (l-r): Jennifer Helm (head coach), Brett Sticker, Clint Baird, Josh King, Richard Abel, Bronson Vaughan, Richard Vo, Orry Skelton, Nick French, Justin Hanna, Andrew Pretty (assistant coach).

Tennis and Golf Teams Swing Into Action

The Patriot men's and women's golf and tennis teams are poised to build upon the momentum which saw them finish their 2007-08 campaigns strong as they tallied notable individual and team accomplishments.

The Patriot tennis teams wrapped up a memorable 2008 season with each team making a trip to the National Christian College Athletic Association National Tournament (NCCAA). The men, who finished their season with a 13-16 mark, had their best finish ever at the NCCAA National Championship as the national runner-up. The women posted their fourth straight winning season with an 18-11 mark and a third place finish at the NCCAA National Tournament, receiving national recognition after being ranked eleventh in the NCAA Central Region for the first time in school history.

The men were led by junior Richard Vo (NCCAA Scholar-Athlete) and junior Brett Sticker, with each player being named NCCAA All-American and First Team All-Conference. In addition, competing well for the men were junior Matthew Nations (NCCAA Scholar-Athlete), sophomores Josh King, Luke Pasley, and Bronson Vaughan (Second Team NCCAA All-American), and freshmen Clint Baird, Chad Dozier, Justin Hanna, and Steven Tabrizi.

"The men's team came a long way with strong showings against a lot of tough teams," head coach Jennifer Helm reflected. "They really grew as a team and peaked at the NCCAA National Tournament. The guys stayed focused and played every match with no fear, finishing the tournament in second place. I believe that this year both teams really learned how to play as an act of worship to God, with their work ethic and attitude. I am very proud of everything they accomplished."

Sophomore transfer Jeanelle Stines led the way for the Lady Patriots during the 2007-08 season. Stines' magnificent play was awarded by her being named NCCAA All-American, Conference Player of the Year, and First Team All-Conference. Freshman Lisa Olian also played a key role, being named NCCAA All-American and First Team All-Conference. Also having a strong year were seniors Brittany McCleary (Second Team NCCAA All-American), Lacy Eggleston (NCCAA Scholar-Athlete and NCCAA Ministry-Athlete), Sharia Gomez (NCCAA Scholar-Athlete), and Brittney Banks (NCCAA Ministry-Athlete), and juniors Candis Minor (Second Team NCCAA All-American, NCCAA Scholar-Athlete, NCCAA Ministry-Athlete), and Christine Wehrli (NCCAA Ministry-Athlete).

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"I am proud of them because they faced many obstacles with injuries and illness but came together to have a successful season." Head coach Jennifer Helm continued, "I couldn't have asked for a better group of young ladies."

The Patriots look to build off last year's success, seeking their first Heartland Conference Championship and another run at the NCCAA National Championship.

"The men's and women's tennis teams look very strong this year," explained Coach Helm. "All of our men are returning who earned a second place finish at the NCCAA Nationals last year. The women's team has many new young talented faces who should make a big impact on the program early in their careers. I am very excited about where our program has come from and how bright the future looks."

The Patriot golf teams met great success during the 2007-08 season. The Lady Patriots, in their third year of existence, became a legitimate contender. They competed in several tournaments and finished in the top 10 regularly and placing second at the Heartland Conference Championships and third at the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison Invitational.

The ladies were led by sophomore standout Heather Wilbur, who steadily improved throughout the season and tied for second at the Heartland Conference Tournament. Senior Jamie Shirley was also a force, consistently competing with Wilbur and finishing second at the Heartland Conference Tournament as well. Both ladies were honored for their play by being named First Team All-Conference.

"Our women had a great spring and have done everything I have asked of them," said head coach Kenny Trapp. "If everyone can improve a few strokes, we can

compete for a regional berth this season."

The Patriot men's team took serious strides forward, wrapping up the season with a third place finish at the Heartland Conference Tournament.

They were led by a different player each week, highlighted by junior Connor Smith's fourth place finish at the Heartland Conference Tournament. Junior Brad Howard also played a significant role, earning selection to the Second Team All-Conference.

"The guys finished the year off at Conference playing more like themselves," observed Trapp. "We could not be consistent enough throughout the spring to receive a regional berth, but we have the men prepared to really compete this season."

The Patriot golf teams look to build off a successful 2007-08 season by relying upon a host of returning players, bringing back every player from a team that placed third at the Heartland Conference Tournament last year. Likewise, the women are this year returning every player except one from their Heartland Conference Tournament second place team.

"I am looking for great things from the men this year," stated head coach Kenny Trapp. "We have five guys returning, led by senior Connor Smith and junior Brad Howard, and four newcomers, led by freshman Seth Stuart and transfer Nic Tacher. This is the most talent the team has ever had."

"Our women's team should continue to consistently improve. We have great leaders in junior Heather Wilbur and sophomore Kristen Tucker. Incoming freshman Christa Williams will step right in and be a great player. She is a very good athlete, and I look for great things from her in the next four years," Trapp continued.

2008 PATRIOT GOLF TEAM

Front Row (l-r): Christa Williams, Audra Van Winkle, Jessica Lamb, Heather Wilbur, Krystle Chick, Kristen Tucker. Second Row (l-r): Kenny Trapp (head coach), Brandon Johnson, Nic Tacher, Connor Smith, Seth Stuart, Cameron Nofi. Third Row (l-r): Justin Upton, Michael Smith, Brad Howard, John Olin.

