

2012
2013

SEASON
REVIEW

PATRIOT & LADY PATRIOT GOLF

When the 2012-2013 Dallas Baptist Men's & Women's Golf season came to a close last spring, it capped off one of the most memorable years in program history. With each squad clinching the Heartland Conference Championship and advancing to the NCAA Division II Super Regional, the DBU Golf program etched their name among the elite golf programs in the nation.

On the Women's side, the Lady Patriots' win in early September at the Hawks Creek Classic in Fort Worth was a sign of things to come. DBU went on to capture their second consecutive NCCAA National Championship and completed the fall season ranked No. 13 among all NCAA Division II programs in the Women's Golf Coaches Association poll.

As the Lady Patriots advanced into team competition during the spring, they continued their stretch of impressive play. Leading up to the conference tournament, the Women's Golf Team rattled off five top-five team finishes, including their third victory of the year when they won the Southwest Classic.

The Lady Patriots carried that momentum into the Heartland Conference Tournament. After posting a two-day best of 299, DBU captured

the league title. Junior Mercedes Rios paved the way for the Lady Patriots, firing a three-under par 69 en route to a two-round total of 143 and the individual crown. Sophomore Erin Barrington also played a key role, finishing in third place, while freshman Sydney Williams followed closely behind in fourth. Following the tournament, the trio of Rios, Barrington, and Williams were named to the Heartland Conference All-Tournament Team.

The team's victory at the conference tournament propelled them to the NCAA Division II Super Regional in Grand Junction, Colorado. In dramatic fashion, DBU and Tarleton State squared off in a sudden death playoff to determine which team would advance to the NCAA National Tournament. After posting the exact same sudden death playoff scores, the Lady Patriots would eventually lose in a scorecard playoff to conclude their 2012-2013 season.

"It was a tough pill to swallow losing like that, but I can't express how proud I am of the girls for battling like they did. I could not be more proud as a coach than I was of that group of girls and the job they did," stated DBU Head Golf Coach, Kenny Trapp.

While the Lady Patriots' season

came to a halt, Rios advanced individually to the NCAA National Championship for the second consecutive year. In four rounds of action, Rios recorded scores of 76, 74, 78, and 75, for a total of 303, earning her a 14th place finish out of 72 players.

At the conclusion of the 2012-2013 season, the Lady Patriots received a No. 12 national ranking, along with a pair of All-Americans. Freshman Sydney Williams was named a 2nd Team All-American, while Rios was named an All-American Honorable Mention by the Women's Golf Coaches Association, both firsts for the DBU Women's Golf Team. Along with the national notoriety, the Lady Patriots also saw Rios earn First Team All-Heartland Conference honors, while Williams took home Second Team honors in the league and was named the Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year.

On the Men's side, the Patriots fall season was highlighted by two top-five finishes, including a 5th place showing at the NCCAA National Championship in Panama City Beach, Florida. As the month of March rolled around, DBU began to put the pieces in place for a post-season run. After a third place finish at the Notre Dame de Namur University Invitational and back-to-back 2nd place

finishes at Texas A&M University-Commerce and the DBU Classic, the Patriots entered the Heartland Conference Tournament on a mission.

Playing at the Golf Club of Dallas, juniors Johnny Antle and Jeffrey Juillerat led the Patriots' charge to a conference title. In spite of the cold and windy conditions, Antle managed to put together a solid five-over par, 75 in the final round to finish in 2nd place, while Juillerat carded a 74 on the final day to earn 3rd place. Their efforts lifted DBU to a three-round total of 297 and handed the Patriots the Heartland Conference title. Both Antle and Juillerat also earned Heartland Conference All-Tournament Team honors with their top-five finishes. "I am definitely proud of the guys as they have reached every goal they set at the beginning of the year, yet saved the best for last. I can't say enough about how hard they have worked," Trapp stated.

With the Heartland Conference Championship in hand, the Patriots punched their ticket to the NCAA Division II Super Regional in Dupont, Washington. Facing a field of 20 teams that ranked among the nation's elite, DBU finished the three-



round tournament in 9th place. Once again, leading the way for the Patriots was Antle. On the final day, Antle would record one eagle and five birdies, en route to an even par 72. For the tournament, Antle shot a three-under par 213 to finish tied for 9th and earned his fifth top 10 finish of the 2012-2013 golf season.

"I'm very proud of the way Johnny performed this spring," Trapp remarked. "All of the hard work that he put into this season truly paid off for him in the end."

At the conclusion of the Men's Golf season, both Juillerat and senior Austin Struble earned All-Heartland Conference Second Team honors. In addition to their accolades on the course, the Men's Golf Team also shone in the classroom, recording the top team GPA in the Heartland Conference at 3.43. The squad also received the NCCAA Scholar Team Award for their academic accomplishments.

Both the Men's & Women's Golf Teams enter the 2013-2014 season with great expectations. The Lady Patriots return senior Mercedes Rios, who enters this year as the winningest active golfer among all divisions in the NCAA. Along with Rios, the Women's Team also returns all five members from last year's Heartland Conference Championship, while adding a strong recruiting class. The Men's Team also returns the nucleus of last year's squad, losing only Struble to graduation from last year's championship squad.

Prior to the 2013 fall season, the Lady Patriots earned national recognition when they received a pre-season No. 9 ranking by the *Golf World* and the Women's Golf Coaches Association. It marks the highest pre-season ranking in the program's history. "With the players we have returning along with the freshman coming in, we should have a chance to win every tournament we tee it up in, and that's exciting for the program," Trapp said.

season highlights



As Mercedes Rios completed her third year on the Lady Patriots Golf Team, she now stands alone as the winningest active golfer among all divisions of the NCAA. With her win to open the 2013 fall season at the Southern Arkansas Invitational, Rios recorded the ninth victory of her collegiate career.

During the 2011-2012 season, Rios, originally from Colleyville, Texas, and her teammates clinched the Heartland Conference Tournament Championship. In the process of winning the team title, Rios also laid claim to the conference's individual crown, shooting one under par and recording seven birdies. Following DBU's trip to the NCAA Super Regional in Grand Junction, Colorado, her record-breaking season continued with her second career trip to the NCAA Division II National Championship. During the 2012 season, she became the first golfer in DBU program history to reach the NCAA National Championship.

In her three prior seasons with the Lady Patriots Golf Team, Rios has collected a myriad of accolades including: WGCA Division II Honorable Mention All-American, First Team All-Heartland Conference honors all three seasons, Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year in 2011, is a five-time Heartland Conference Player of the Week, and was also featured on WFAA Channel 8, DFW's ABC affiliate.

