

Senior Matt Tucker



Junior Nick Santos



# 2007 DBU PATRIOTS

## year in review

The DBU Patriot Baseball team finished the 2007 season with a 30-26 overall record, (18-2 record at home, 8-19 on the road, and 6-5 at neutral sites).

The Patriots played one of their toughest schedules since becoming an NCAA Division I school. DBU took on several top 25 teams, including Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas A&M, Southern Miss, TCU, and Rice. The Patriots notched victories against teams such as Mississippi State, University of Houston, Missouri State, Fresno State, and St. John's.

The baseball team's high-powered offense continued to score runs and excel during the 2007 season. The Patriots finished in the top 30 nationally in several offensive categories, including 9th in homeruns (70), 13th in runs scored per game (7.6), 16th in runs scored (425), 24th in slugging percentage (.479), 27th in triples (20), and 23rd in doubles (122).

DBU had several players receive individual awards this year for their effort on the field, including eight players named to the NCAA Division I All-Independent Team, three players selected in the MLB draft, one NCAA All-American, and several NCAA Division I Independent and NCCAA Players of the Week.

Senior Garrett Baker, Sophomores Evan Bigley and Jordan Meaker, and Freshman Victor Black were named NCAA Division I Independent Players of the Week. Baker, Bigley, Meaker, and Black also were named NCCAA Student-Athletes of the Week. Junior Austin Krum, who hit for the cycle, including

hitting .500, with three RBI, six runs scored, one home run, and two stolen bases, and Bigley were named College Baseball Foundation Honor Roll players of the week during the 2007 season. Meaker and Krum were also named to the All-Tournament team for their play during the 2007 Southwest Diamond Classic, while Krum was named to the first ever regular-season All-Going Yard Team for his game against Central Arkansas when he went three for four, with three RBI, and a run scored.

Baker and Krum were named All-Independent First Team. Baker, who was named to the team as a designated hitter, finished off the season, with a team high 16 home runs, 69 RBI, and 20 stolen bases, while he hit .293. Krum, named to the team because of his play in centerfield, led the Patriots in hits (82), doubles (17), triples (8), total bases (142), and slugging percentage (.594), while he compiled the second highest batting average on the team (.343).

Senior Matt Tucker, Bigley, and Freshman Austin Knight were named All-Independent Second Team. Tucker, who was named for his play at third base, finished the season with a .350 average, nine home runs, and 47 RBI, while Bigley hit .329, with 10 home runs, and 61 RBI to earn a spot as an outfielder. Knight, who is a true freshman and started every game at shortstop, led the team in walks (51) and on base percentage (.480) and was third on the team in average (.338). Sophomores Trevor Head, JT Bloodworth, and Meaker were named All-Independent Honorable Mention.

Freshman Victor Black was invited to the 2007 USA Baseball National Team

36-man Pre-Tour Training Camp. Black traveled to the Pre-Tour Training Camp and competed against several other invitees at the USA Baseball Trials.

Knight was named to the Freshman Louisville Slugger All-American Team by Collegiate Baseball for his stellar play at shortstop throughout the 2007 season. He started every game at shortstop for the team during the season and hit lead off or second for the Patriots the entire season. Knight worked his way into the leader of the infield and proved to all his teammates that he is going to lead them for the next three years.

The Dallas Baptist University Baseball Team had three players drafted in the 2007 Major League Baseball Draft, and one player signed a professional contract before the draft. Krum, Taylor, and Tucker were all taken by separate teams on the second day of the first-year player draft, while Baker signed a professional contract.

Krum, who was the starting centerfielder for the Patriots, was drafted by the New York Yankees in the ninth round. Taylor was the second Patriot taken in the draft when the Colorado Rockies drafted him in the 23rd round. Taylor was the ace of the Patriots pitching staff and compiled a strong 2007 season. Taylor finished the year 7-4, with a 3.12 ERA, and 97 strikeouts in 92 innings of work. Tucker was the final Patriot drafted when the Baltimore Orioles took him in the 31st round as a second baseman. Baker was eligible to sign his professional contract with the San Francisco Giants a couple of weeks before the draft because of his status as a fifth-year senior.



Junior Brett Lester