



Patriot Baseball Accepted into NCAA Division I

Dallas Baptist University's Patriot Baseball team has been officially accepted as an active member of NCAA Division I, effective September 1, 2005. All other Patriot athletic teams will remain at the NCAA Division II level.

DBU was awarded full membership status after submitting a comprehensive strategic plan that addressed the NCAA's Division I philosophy statement and certification of operating principles, as well as the long-range plans for building Patriot Baseball into a national top-tier baseball program.

DBU has served the past two seasons as a provisional Division I member, ensuring that the institution was able to satisfy the NCAA's Division I membership requirements and legislation, as well as to demonstrate the successful operation of a competitive program at the Division I level. As provisional members, the Patriots played complete Division I schedules in 2004 and 2005.

The Patriots finished the 2004 season with a 44-16 record and in 2005 had an overall record of 32-23 in the second and final year as a provisional member. The NCAA Membership Committee regarded DBU's provisional member game schedule as one of the most challenging Division I schedules for any reclassifying candidate in recent NCAA history.

Overall, the Patriots earned key victories in 2004 and 2005 over historic Division I powerhouses, including Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Fresno State, Baylor, and Oregon State. DBU finished the 2005 season with a 16-2 record at home and an 11-1 record against the Southland Conference.

The DBU Patriots Head Coach Eric Newman, who is entering his second year as Head Coach, remarked, "We all are very excited about the opportunity to be active members in Division I. Next season, we will be playing for a chance to compete in the post-season, which is something the entire team will have their sights set on. We will play another great schedule in 2006, and we look forward to the challenge of exceeding this year's success and playing into June."



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