

PATRIOT TENNIS

Season in Review



The Dallas Baptist Tennis program began the 2012-2013 season under the direction of first year Head Coach Sarah Gray, who took over for Jennifer Curran. As a former standout at the University of Kentucky, where she was the Freshman of the Year in the Southeastern Conference and helped the Wildcats win their first ever SEC title in 2005, Gray went on to Texas A&M to complete her playing career. While at A&M, Gray was tabbed the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year and also named to the All-Big 12 Team. Gray spent one season as an assistant coach at Texas Christian University, before arriving at DBU for the 2012 fall season.

"I am both honored and excited to be the Head Tennis Coach at Dallas Baptist," said Gray. "Coach Curran has set a high standard for DBU Tennis. My goal as a coach at DBU is to help every one of the student-athletes reach their full potential on the court, in the classroom, and walk beside them as they grow with the Lord."

Following a fall season of individual action, the DBU Men's & Women's Tennis Teams geared up for team-play in the spring. On the Women's side, the Lady Patriots stormed out of the gates to a perfect 4-0 start, with decisive wins over McMurry University, Hardin-Simmons University, Southeastern Oklahoma State, and UT-Tyler. Following four consecutive losses to even their record at 4-4, the Women's Team got back on

track, rattling off six straight victories, finishing the regular season at 14-7.

In Heartland Conference action, the Lady Patriots posted a 4-2 mark, entering the Heartland Conference Tournament with a first-round match-up versus UT-Permian Basin. After claiming a 5-2 win in the opening round, the Lady Patriots eventually fell in the semi-finals, 5-3 to St. Edward's.

The Women's season concluded at the NCCAA Regional Tournament, as the Lady Patriots posted a win over McMurry University in the opening round, before dropping their final match of the season to Southern Nazarene. At the conclusion of the 2013 spring season, the Women's Team compiled a 16-9 overall record.

The Lady Patriots racked-up several post-season honors, headlined by junior Natalie Gennissen. The junior from Melbourne, Australia, earned First Team All-Heartland Conference honors and was named an NCCA All-American. Gennissen ranked as high as No. 46 in the nation in singles play at one point during the season and also rated as high as No. 6 in doubles, with partner Amanda Richter, and No. 3 in singles in the South Central Region. On the year, Gennissen compiled a 21-4 record in singles matches.

Also receiving post-season accolades was junior Leah Rutt, who was named to the All-Heartland Conference Team for the third consecutive year. Fresh-

man Alexa Mentasana, was recognized as a member of the NCCAA All-Tournament Team.

On the Men's side, a young squad comprised of two seniors and five underclassmen faced a challenging schedule in the spring. After dropping their first four matches, the Patriots rallied to win their next two over East Texas Baptist University and Schreiner University. DBU would also pick up wins over Howard Payne University and Jacksonville College in the regular season finale at home.

In post-season action, the Men's Tennis Team fell in their lone match of the Heartland Conference Tournament against the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Despite the loss, DBU would go on to post a 1-1 mark at the NCCAA Regional Tournament. Their 7-2 win over Central Christian College completed their 2013 spring campaign. Following the tournament, freshman Anthony Burch, was named to the NCCAA All-Tournament Team.

As the 2014 season approaches, DBU returns a wealth of talent on the Women's side. Five players return from last year's squad, combined with an influx of young talent. As for the Men's Team, Burch is the lone returning letterman, surrounded by four newcomers to the program.

