

TENNIS

Women's 2010-11 NCCAA National Champions & Heartland Conference Champions

The DBU Patriot Women's and Men's Tennis Teams finished the 2010-2011 season with records of 22-7 and 3-18, respectively. The Lady Patriots concluded their season by bringing home two titles.

The Lady Patriots made a historical march through the 2011 season, finishing it off as the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Champions.

This capped off the Lady Patriots' most successful season in DBU Tennis history with their third consecutive NCCAA National Championship. The team was able to build on their recent success during their 2009 and 2010 campaigns as they also claimed their first ever Heartland Conference Title when they defeated St. Edwards University, 5-4.

The team rolled through the season defeating numerous regionally ranked schools in their climb to the top of the NCCAA. The 32nd ranked Lady Patriots defeated Palm Beach Atlantic to claim the NCCAA National Title in Mobile, Alabama.

Head Coach Jennifer Curran was named the NCCAA Coach of the Year

for the third consecutive year while five of her players were selected as NCCAA All-Americans.

Team honors included **senior Lisa Olian** and **freshman Natalie Gennissen** both being named to the NCCAA All-American First Team, while **freshman Leah Rutt** was named to the Second Team. The pair of **junior Hannah Innes** and **Gennissen** were named to the NCCAA All-American First Team for Doubles, with **Rutt** and **junior Laura Atkins** named to the All-American Second Team for Doubles.

For solid play during the season **Lisa Olian** was voted Heartland Conference Senior of the Year, while newcomer **Natalie Gennissen** was selected as the Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, after the Lady Patriots claimed the Heartland Conference Title.

Head Coach Jennifer Curran, currently in her sixth year at the helm, was also voted as the Heartland Conference Coach of the Year.

"I was very happy with how our season turned out," **Coach Curran** said about the successful season. "One of our main goals as a program was to win the Heartland Conference Tourna-

ment, and the girls worked so hard to accomplish it."

The Men's Team faced a tough schedule throughout the entire year but were still able to garner awards for their play during the season.

Sophomore Phillip Allen, junior Richard Abel, and senior Clint Baird were selected to the All-Heartland Conference At-Large Team. Also, Senior **Justin Hanna** was named as an NCCAA Scholar-Athlete.

"The Men's team had a difficult season. Even in the midst of adversity they worked hard and represented DBU well. Their dedication to each other and the Patriot program is admirable and something I am very proud of them for," **Curran** added.





After taking home four Top 10 finishes in the fall semester, the Patriot Men's Golf Team had a consistent spring while placing in the Top 10 in three tournaments.

The Patriot Men's Golf Team, under the leadership of **Head Coach Kenny Trapp**, recorded an eighth place finish at the St. Edward's Invitational at Grey Rock Golf Club in Austin, Texas, on March 7 and 8. The team was led by **senior Nicolas Tacher** and **junior Brandon Johnson**, who both finished tied for 29th place.

Concluding the spring season, the Patriot Men's Golf Team finished fifth place in the Heartland Conference Championship held at Teravista Golf Club in Round Rock, Texas. **Tacher** led the Patriots with rounds of 73, 71, and 73, which was good enough for a third place finish. Other contributors to the Patriot Golf Team were **sophomore Jeffrey Juillerat**, **junior John Olin**, and **freshman Kyle Johnson**. The Patriots wrapped up the 2010-2011 season with a fifth place finish in the Heartland Conference Championship as **Tacher** earned First-Team All-Conference and All-Tournament Team honors for his stellar performance during the conference tournament and throughout the year.

The Lady Patriot Golf Team had a record breaking season with two first place finishes and six Top 10 finishes. The Lady Patriots recorded their first tournament victory in school history at the Colorado Christian Fall Classic in Littleton, Colorado. **Freshman Mercedes Rios** picked up her second consecutive individual title, shooting a five-over par total of 149. **Rios** became one of the few players in the country who has won their first two collegiate tournaments. Close behind was **freshman Courtney Radford** earning third-place honors, **sophomore Whitney Novak** in fifth place, **senior Kristen Tucker** finished in sixth place, and **sophomore Taylor Griffin** finished 10th place overall.

"We have been working for this for five years, and to be able to finally get our first victory is just awesome," commented **Trapp**. "I really feel like it is a

victory for everyone who has played here the last five years, and who worked so hard to put this program where we are today."

To open the 2011 spring season, the Lady Patriots were ranked 24th nationally in the NCGA Coach's Poll. The team started the season off strong by capturing a third-place finish in the St. Mary's Classic in San Antonio, Texas. **Freshman Courtney Radford** led the way for the Lady Patriots as she recorded rounds of 74 and 78, receiving third place individually. **Tucker** turned in rounds of 78 and 79, finishing in seventh place overall. **Rios** and **freshman Chelsey Sills** rounded out the scoring for the Lady Patriots as they each finished tied for 16th place.

The Lady Patriots exhibited extreme mental toughness as they recorded yet another first-place finish at the Dominican Invitational, in San Rafael, California in inclement weather conditions. **Rios** captured first-place medalist honors, firing two rounds of 72, for a two-day total of 144. **Rios** finished eight strokes ahead of the next closest competitor.

At the Heartland Conference Championship, the Lady Patriots secured a second-place finish at Teravista Golf Club in Round Rock, Texas. **Rios** and **Radford** led the Lady Patriots with a two-day team total of 623, only 11 strokes away from a Heartland Conference Championship victory. All five of the Lady Patriots finished in the Top 20 for the Heartland Conference Tournament.

Rios became the second Lady Patriot golfer in school history to individually qualify for post-season play. After firing rounds of 78, 83, and 79, **Rios** finished in 21st place at the 2011 NCAA Super-Regionals which was held at Tascosa Country Club in Amarillo, Texas. **Rios** fell five strokes short of advancing to the NCAA DII Women's Golf Championship.



GOLF

2010-11 season in review