

DBU BASEBALL



The Dallas Baptist Baseball Team capped off a remarkable 2014 season with their third trip in the last four years to the NCAA Regional Tournament. In their first season in the Missouri Valley Conference, the Patriots finished the regular season tied for second place and captured the MVC Tournament title in Terre Haute, Indiana. Overall, the Patriots finished 40-21, winning 40 games for the fourth time since DBU joined the NCAA Division I ranks in 2004.

The Patriots' sweep of Mississippi Valley State on Opening Weekend was a sign of things to come for the Patriots in 2014. Freshman Camden Duzenack was named Collegiate Baseball's National Player of the Week after hitting .786 with 13 RBI and seven doubles.



Camden Duzenack

Duzenack's national recognition marked the first time in program history in which a member of the DBU Baseball Team was named the National Player of the Week.

The Patriots would jump out of the gates to their best start since 2001 with a 15-4 record. Led by a pitching staff that posted the program's top earned run average in ten years and a club that had the knack for late-inning heroics, DBU won 14 one-run affairs in 2014, a win total that ranked second in the nation.

As league play began in the MVC, the Patriots continued their winning ways, storming out to a 5-0 start with a three-game sweep at Bradley and a road series win at Illinois State. DBU would follow their hot start in the conference by taking two out of three in a home-and-home series versus Baylor. Dallas Baptist wrapped up the regular season by winning their last five regular season games, making a push to return to the NCAA Regional Tournament.

On May 15, DBU Head Baseball Coach Dan Heefner won his 250th career game. Heefner, who entered the year as the 34th winningest active NCAA Division I coach in the nation, won his 250th game on the same day of his 400th career game as the head coach at DBU.

After winning their opening round game versus Missouri State on a Drew Turbin walk-off homerun, the Patriots defeated Bradley 6-5. DBU would drop their next game to Missouri State, before knocking off the Tigers 9-4 in the following game to reach the championship.

Facing Illinois State with the MVC Tournament title on the line, the Patriots received a tremendous outing on the hill from sophomore Joseph Shaw who worked six-plus innings and allowed just one run. In the seventh, Austin Listi tied the game on his team-leading tenth homerun of the season. Tied at one apiece in the eighth, Turbin delivered a bases loaded triple to put DBU on top 4-1. In the ninth, Paul Voelker closed the door on the Redbirds by

inducing a fly out with the bases loaded, handing the Patriots the tournament title.

DBU's Camden Duzenack was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player and was recognized as Collegiate Baseball's National Player of the Week for the second time in 2014, after hitting .500 in the Patriots' five games. Joining Duzenack on the MVC All-Tournament Team was senior Mike Wesolowski and juniors Cy Sneed and Drew Turbin.

Following their magical ride to the MVC Tournament Championship, Dallas Baptist earned a trip to the Fort Worth Regional. In the team's two games in Fort Worth, the Patriots dropped back-to-back heartbreaking one-run losses. In the first game, DBU fell 2-1 to Sam Houston State, followed by a 9-8 loss in 10 innings to Siena in an elimination game.

At the conclusion of the 2014 season, Camden Duzenack and David Martinelli were each named Freshman All-Americans by Collegiate Baseball. Eight Patriots were also recognized as members of the All-Missouri Valley Conference Team. Brandon Koch, Austin Listi, and Paul Voelker were each named to the First Team, while Mike Wesolowski earned Second Team honors. David Martinelli, Cy Sneed, and Drew Turbin were each tabbed as Honorable Mention selections, while Nash Knight was honored as the Third Baseman on the All-Defensive Team.

The Patriots graduate five seniors from the 2014 team including: KJ Alexander, Cody Beam, RJ Talamantes, Josh Urban, and Mike Wesolowski. DBU also saw three players selected in the 2014 First Year Player Major League Draft. Cy Sneed was chosen by the Milwaukee Brewers in the third round, followed by Paul Voelker going in the tenth round to the Detroit Tigers, and Daniel Salters selected in the 22nd round by the Washington Nationals. Since 2008, 25 players from Dallas Baptist have been taken in the Major League Draft.