

CROSS COUNTRY// TRACK SEASON IN REVIEW

The Dallas Baptist Men's & Women's Cross Country Teams capped off another memorable season in 2013 with a Heartland Conference title and a trip to the NCAA Regional Championships. Among the many highlights in the 2013 season, perhaps none were greater than DBU junior Kelsey Bruce winning the NCCAA National Championship while also qualifying for the NCAA National Championship in Spokane, Washington.

On the Women's side, the Lady Patriots clinched their seventh consecutive league title when they won the Heartland Conference Championship in Mansfield, Texas. "Winning seven in a row is pretty special," DBU Head Cross Country Coach Jacob Phillips said.

Bruce's time of 20:39.8 was tops among the field of 54 runners in the 6k event. For her efforts, Bruce was named the Heartland Conference Runner of the Year. With the win, Bruce has now won the conference title all three years of her collegiate career. "She set the tone early at the Heartland Conference meet and simply took care of business," Phillips remarked.

Finishing in 2nd place for the Lady Patriots was senior Julie Durrwachter who covered the course in 21:22.6. "Julie is our only senior and has never lost a team conference championship, so it was very special to see her go out on top again," Phillips said.

The Lady Patriots placed six members on the All-Heartland Conference Team including: Bruce, Durrwachter, Salazar, Rayas, Meade, and Rice. Sarah Rayas earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors.

At the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Championships, the Lady Patriots posted a 9th place team finish. "We ran the race we wanted to run, but we just faced some teams that put together a great day," Phillips said following the race. Individually, Bruce's time of 21:52 earned her a 12th place finish and qualified her as the lone member of the squad to advance to the NCAA Championship.

Following the Regional Championship, the Lady Patriots wrapped up the season at the NCCAA National Championship in Cedarville, Ohio. DBU would put together a 3rd place overall finish in the field of 31 teams, earning them recognition as an NCCAA All-American team. Once again, Bruce provided the heroics, capturing the program's first ever NCCAA title with a time of 17:58.94 in the 5,000 meter event.

While the NCCAA Championships brought the Lady Patriots' season to a close, Bruce completed her year at the NCAA National Championship in Spokane, Washington, the following week. Bruce crossed the finish line with a time of 21:49.38 in the 6k event to earn a 41st place finish, just one place shy of earning All-American honors. "She was in the race from the beginning and did all she could. It was the fastest 6k time of her career and was the closest we've ever been to having someone named an All-American," DBU Head Cross Country Coach Jake Phillips said.

On the Men's side, DBU tied with Oklahoma Christian for the league title, making it the second consecutive season that the Men's Team shared the Heartland Conference title. Patriots' sophomore Chris Springer earned Heartland Conference Men's Runner of the Year honors after recording a time of 25:34.7 in the Men's 8k and a 3rd place finish.

Also finishing in the top 10 for the Patriots were Joshua Pauley and Jacob Phillips, who as the senior duo, came in 8th and 10th place respectively. Pauley recorded a time of 25:57.2 in his final Heartland Conference race, while Phillips finished a clip behind Pauley at 26:03.3.

Following the conference championship meet, the DBU trio of Springer, Pauley, and Phillips were all named to the Men's All-Heartland Conference Team, while McSpadden earned Honorable Mention honors.

The Men's first place finish at the Heartland Conference Championships capped off a regular season that saw the team post four top three finishes, including two victories, a second place finish, and a third place showing.

At the NCAA Regional Championship in Canyon, Texas, the Patriots battled their way to a 14th place team finish. Once again, Springer paced the way for DBU with a time of 32:04 in the 10k race, placing him 38th out of the field of 146 runners.

In the final event of the season, the Men's Team earned a 5th place finish out of the field of 33 teams at the NCCAA National Championships. Springer led the Patriots with a time of 26:05.97 in the 8,000 meter race. His top five finish earned him NCCAA All-American honors.

TRACK RECAP

The 2014 season was historic for the Dallas Baptist Track & Field Team, as Kelsey Bruce became the program's first ever NCAA Division II All-American. The junior from Bracketville, Texas, earned a trip to the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Allendale, Michigan, where she would compete against the nation's elite in the 3000 Meter Steeplechase.

Kelsey Bruce's time of 10:35.97 clinched a seventh place finish and ranked as the third fastest time for her and the history of the DBU Track & Field program. "We are so proud of Kelsey and her efforts this year," DBU Track & Field Head Coach Jacob Phillips said following the race. "She set a goal, put in the work required to reach that goal, and then took care of business on race day. We are very proud of her and excited for her next few seasons and opportunities."

Along with Bruce's accomplishments at the national level, several other Patriots achieved notable accolades in 2014. Four members of the DBU Track & Field Team earned National Christian College Athletic Association All-American honors at the NCCAA Outdoor National Championships in Rhome, Georgia, including: Bruce, Julie Durrwachter, Jake Geoo, and Glynnis Meade.

Bruce claimed two championships at the NCCAA Track & Field Championships. Her time of 10:34.94 clinched a first place finish in the 3,000 Meter Steeplechase, while a time of 17:47.11 in the 5,000 Meter Run also brought home first place honors for Bruce.

Senior, Julie Durrwachter, capped off a tremendous four-year career

with a time of 18:21.52 in the 5,000 Meter Run. Durrwachter's time earned her a third place medal.

In the 10,000 Meter Run, junior Glynnis Meade held off the competition with a first place finish and a time of 38:29.84.

The lone member on the Men's side to earn All-American honors was freshman Jake Geoo who brought home second place honors in the Men's Shot Put with a throw of 14.29 meters.

During the Indoor portion of the Track & Field season, six members of the Lady Patriots earned NCCAA All-American honors at the Indoor National Championships in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Kelsey Bruce highlighted the action, as the junior from DBU broke two national records in the 3,000 and 5,000 Meter Runs. Bruce ran the 3,000 Meter in 9:59.80, shattering the previous record time of 10:10.10. The following day, Bruce ran the 5,000 Meter in 17:17.98, breaking the previous record time of 17:30.06. For her efforts, Bruce was named the Running Athlete of the Meet and also earned All-American honors for the third consecutive year.

In the 5,000 Meter Run, Julie Durrwachter's time of 18:18.16 earned her a third place finish and All-American recognition.

In the 4x800 Meter Relay, the team of Angelique Dupiton, Cashlee Rayas, Katie Mark, Anna Salazar, finished third with a time of 9:36.30.

At the conclusion of the 2014 Track & Field season, Dallas Baptist graduates six seniors including: Julie Durrwachter, Alex Gonzales, Joshua Pauley, Jacob Phillips, Andrew Price, and Jason Warrington.



CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



TRACK TEAM