

PATRIOT BASEBALL

TEAM NABS NCCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 2ND STRAIGHT YEAR



Perfect Game Secures Victory in Dramatic Style

The DBU Patriot Baseball Team ended their winning season in dramatic style by claiming their second straight National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national title during the NCCAA World Series held in Celina, Ohio.

Facing the Palm Beach Atlantic University Sailfish, the Patriots sent sophomore pitcher Stuart Sutherland to the mound for his first start of the year. For six innings, it was a pitcher's duel, as the score remained knotted at zero. While the Patriots managed to secure a handful of hits, the Sailfish had no such luck, as Sutherland continued to send their batters down in order, not allowing a single runner to advance to first base.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Patriots struck. Leading off the inning, senior Drew Noss singled, and sophomore Cody Montgomery followed with a single of his own. Then senior Ben Zobrist laid down a sacrifice bunt, advancing Noss and Montgomery to third and second. With runners in scoring position and first base open, the Sailfish elected to intentionally walk sophomore Drew Holder in order to load the bases and hoping to force the next batter, junior Ryan Olivo, into a double play. However, Olivo came through in the clutch and hit a fly ball that allowed Noss to tag from third base and score. Because of a throwing error by the Sailfish, Montgomery was also able to make it home, giving the Patriots two runs.

Two runs was all that Sutherland would need. In the top of the seventh, he faced three batters, and three batters went down, securing the Patriots' second straight NCCAA national title and also completing a perfect game, allowing no runner to get a hit, a walk, or even reach a base.

For his perfect performance in the championship game, Stuart Sutherland left the tournament with Most Valuable Player honors. Head coach Mike Bard was named the NCCAA Coach of the Year for the second year in a row, and Jeff Gilmore was named the NCCAA Pitcher of the Year. Three Patriots were named to the NCCAA All-Tournament team: sophomore Cody Montgomery



Pictured above: The 2004 NCCAA National Champions DBU Patriots. Pictured right: Pitcher Stuart Sutherland (right) along with the catcher of his perfect game, Ned Yost.

(third base), junior Jeff Gilmore (pitcher), and sophomore Lance Broadway (pitcher).

The NCCAA tournament victory marked the conclusion to another winning season of Patriot Baseball, DBU's first season as a Division I member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). With a record of 44-16, the Patriots secured wins over such opponents as University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Christian University, Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, and Baylor University. In addition, the Patriots posted both an 11-game winning streak and a 12-game winning streak during the 2004 season.

DBU is looking forward to another great year of baseball for the 2005 season under the leadership of new head coach Eric Newman. For more information on how to become involved with the Patriot Baseball Program as it begins its second year in NCAA Division I, contact Matt Murrah, director of athletics, at 214.333.5324. For information on all of DBU's exciting athletics, please visit the DBU athletics website at www.dbu.edu/athletics.

