



GLOBAL SPORTS MISSION INITIATIVE

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DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

began the Global Sports Mission Initiative (GSMI) in 2007 when the DBU Baseball Team traveled to Guatemala and conducted baseball clinics, gave Christian testimony, and competed against the Guatemalan National Baseball Team. Stemming from DBU's mission to produce servant leaders, "the GSMI was created to allow our student athletes the opportunity to experience other cultures by living and serving as 'Champions for Christ' abroad," DBU Athletic Director Ryan Erwin explains.

The Patriot Basketball Team, along with the DBU Cheerleaders, were the first teams to take the GSMI to a country outside the western hemisphere when they traveled to South Korea in October 2009.

During their week in Seoul, the DBU Patriot Basketball Team played against two local universities, Kyung Hee (the #1-ranked basketball team in Korea) and Nam Seoul. The Patriots also took on the U.S. Air Force Pacific All-Stars, a men's team comprised of military personnel stationed in Korea.

In addition to cheering at these basketball games, the DBU Cheerleaders conducted cheer clinics and English camps, designed to teach Korean students about American culture. Both teams also ministered to church camps and

orphanages and taught the English language at elementary and high schools throughout the Seoul area.

Other GSMI trips have included the Lady Patriot Volleyball and Soccer Teams traveling to Peru (March 2009) and the Men's and Women's Tennis and Golf Teams visiting England (May 2010 and July 2010 respectively). By the end of 2011, all 14 of DBU's varsity athletic teams will have traveled internationally to serve, teach, witness, and compete as a part of DBU's Global Sports Mission Initiative. All trips require each team member to raise his or her own funding for the trip, giving the athletes another dimension of learning and responsibility for short-term missions.

Organizers of the trips are impressed with how these opportunities impact the student athletes involved. Basketball player Braxton Adamson said, "It was truly amazing to be able to teach these young students the fundamentals of basketball while sharing the love of Christ."

Based on the success of the GSMI, the Patriot Athletic Department is already planning additional trips in the coming years, giving new and future DBU student athletes an opportunity to serve God and people around the world in this life-changing way.

