The DBU Patriot Volleyball and Soccer Teams both experienced their strongest season in years during the Fall of 2008, notching victories over top teams and competing well in tournament and conference play. 

The Lady Patriots Volleyball Team, under Head Coach Cathy Ray’s leadership, wrapped up their season finishing as the National Christian College Athletic Association National Runner-Up with a 24-18 overall record and 9-5 record in the Heartland Conference.

The Lady Patriots were led the entire season by senior Lauren Secord and junior Vickie Mundell. Secord was awarded First Team All-Conference, First Team NCCAA All-American, COSIDA Academic All-District, and All-Tournament at the NCCAA National Tournament and at the Missouri Southern Tournament. Secord also earned Heartland Conference Player of the Week during the regular season.

Mundell received honors as Heartland Conference Player of the Week five times throughout the season, Second Team All-Conference, and First Team NCCAA All-American. Mundell led the Lady Patriots in assists helping the team to a top four finish in the Heartland Conference.

Amanda Emmert was solid on the defensive line as she led the Lady Patriots in digs as the team’s libero. Emmert received Player of the Week for the Conference and was a First Team NCCAA All-Region member.

“I am very proud of this team for coming into the season ready to win and staying mentally prepared the entire season,” explained Coach Ray. “This year has set the precedent for future years to come.”

Under the leadership of first-year Head Coach Michelle Lenard, the Lady Patriots Soccer Team finished their 2008 season with a 9-9-1 overall season record and were 6-5-1 in the Heartland Conference.

The Lady Patriots doubled their conference wins from the previous year, finishing in third place in the Heartland Conference and increasing their offensive output from the 2007 season.

The Lady Patriots’ attack was led by junior Ally Bales, as she ended the season with 13 goals, five assists, and scoring 31 points to receive First Team All-Heartland Conference honors. DBU freshman standout Haley Corbell had a strong 2008 season as the Lady Patriot goalie. Corbell’s quickness and steady hands secured five shutouts for the team this year as well as nine wins. She recorded a 78.6 percent save percentage with 77 total saves throughout the season.

In addition to Bales and Corbell, freshman Kourtney Edwards and senior Kim Wepler posted impressive seasons, and in recognition for their hard work, they received Second Team All-Heartland Conference honors.

“I am proud of what this year’s team was able to accomplish. We improved in every category and showed ourselves to be a serious contender for the Heartland Conference title next season,” Lenard said.

2008 Lady Patriots Soccer Team: (from left to right) Front row: Haley Corbell, Emily Evans, Ashley Saunders. Middle: Ashleigh Elkins, Kasey Willborn, Hope Adams, Jordan Vick, Lexie Bales, Tasha Garr, Shelia Heath, Brittany Layne. Back row: Assistant Coach Jon Callahan, Assistant Coach Becca Armstrong, Stephanie Emmert, Brittany Leitch, Kim Weppler, Sarah Meierhofer, Mandy Ferguson, Ally Bales, Amy Jenkins, Head Coach Michelle Lenard, Manager Austin Cooper.