BASEBALL FINALISTS



Weston Bizzle

CBHS junior

The only non-senior among the final five, Bizzle was also the only Shelby County player to win a TBCA Mr. Baseball award as the took top honors in Division 2-AA. He went 8-1 with an 1.44 ERA and 92 strikeouts while batting .340 with 26 RBI. In the state tournament opener, he pitched a complete-game one-hitter with 11 strikeouts.



J.L. Bland

CBHS senior

Bland delivered seemingly every big hit down the stretch as the Brothers won their 13th state title and second in a row in 2016. The team's leading hitter had a .384 batting average with 40 runs, 58 hits, 16 doubles and 30 RBI while also turning in some terrific fielding at third base.



Jake Criswell

Harding senior

Criswell will head to SEMO after a record-setting career at Harding that saw him graduate as the school's all-time leader in wins (26), innings (254) and strikeouts (314). He went 8-3 with a 1.44 ERA and also batted .432 with five homers and school records of 54 hits and 55 RBI as Harding finished as state runner-up in D2-A.



Hayden Edwards

Arlington senior

The senior came through in a big way as Arlington reached the AAA state tournament for the first time since 2012, losing in the final to Murfreesboro Siegel. Edwards baffled hitters all year long and finished the year with a remarkable 12-1 record, pitching 12 complete games, while compiling an 0.87 ERA.



Jack Kenley

Houston senior

Kenley, who will play at the University of Arkansas, closed out his standout high school career by leading Houston to district and region championships before losing to Arlington in a AAA sectional game. In 37 games, he batted .356 with 14 doubles, one homer and 31 RBI while scoring 35 runs.

All-Metro Teams

DIVISION 1

Kevin Akins, Overton, senior; Justin Ammons, Bartlett, senior; Phillip Bay, Bartlett, senior; Ian Biblioni, Arlington, senior; Nic Blankenship, Houston, senior; Jared Bratton, Lewisburg, senior; Bryce Brock, Lewisburg, sophomore; Cooper Bullough, Houston, senior; Matt Bumpous, Lake Cormorant, senior; Landon Caldwell, Bartlett, senior; Myles Christian, Olive Branch, junior; Baron Davies, Southaven, senior; Jim Doster, White Station, senior; Larkey Dotson, Bolton, senior; C.J. Dunn, Center Hill, junior; Hayden Edwards, Arlington, senior; Justin Fowlkes, Collierville, senior; Joe Fulcher, Munford, senior; Josiah Gates, Cordova, senior; Tyler Gentry, Arlington, junior; Zac Gilder, Center Hill, senior; Hunter Goodman, Arlington, sophomore; Beryl Grant, White Station, senior; Brayden Green, Collierville, junior; Reid Harding, DeSoto Central, senior; Jared Harwell, Lake Cormorant, senior; Frankie Hefflinger, Center Hill, junior; Markell Henderson, Whitehaven, junior; Keegan Hood, Southaven, junior; Roosevelt Jackson, Central, junior; Jared Jordan, Ridgeway, senior; Steven Kendrick, Munford, sophomore; Jack Kenley, Houston, senior; Tate Kolwyck, Arlington, sophomore; Turner Lane, Covington, sophomore; Reese Lara, Hernando, senior; Markarius Lee, DeSoto Central, junior; Matt Loeffler, Collierville, senior; Ryan Mabry, Middle College, junior; Marshall Massie, Craigmont, senior; Myles Montgomery, Germantown, senior; Quentin Odie, Central, senior; Cullen Ray, Houston, senior; Dalton Rushing, Brighton, freshman; Adam Sanderlin, Collierville, senior; Jacob Sawyers, Munford, senior; Ayrton Schafer, Houston, senior; Josh Smith, Bartlett, senior; Jake Tyrone, Lewisburg, junior; Curtis Webb, Covington, senior; Ladarius Williams, Brighton, senior.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Weston Bizzle, CBHS, junior; J.L. Bland, CBHS, senior; John Bolton, MUS, sophomore; Will Buser, MUS, senior; Daniel Casto, Northpoint, sophomore; Jake Criswell, Harding, senior; Stephen East, St. George's, senior; Michael Feather, CBHS, senior; Hugh Fisher, Briarcrest, junior; Maurice Hampton, MUS, freshman; Casey Harford, Harding, junior; Trey Harrington, Briarcrest, junior; Larry Hubbard, St. George's, junior; Will Huber, St. Benedict, sophomore; Parker Jordan, Briarcrest, senior; Landon Kelly, CBHS, senior; Alex Langford, TRA, sophomore; Hayden Leatherwood, CBHS, junior; Nathan McMeans, ECS, junior; Corey Mitson, TRA, sophomore; Kyle Moore, Northpoint, senior; Max Murray, MUS, senior; Chase Phillips, St. Benedict, sophomore; Nathan Ruble, Harding, junior; Connor Shamblin, Briarcrest, sophomore; Noah Sharp, Harding, junior; Jared Shemper, CBHS, junior; Graham Sisson, St. George's, sophomore; Jake Sutton, Harding, senior; Riley Watkins, ECS, junior; Keegan Westbrook, ECS, junior; Blake Wimberley, FACS, senior.

Coach of the Year, Buster Kelso, CBHS

The Brothers have had a lot of great seasons under Kelso but this may have been his best coaching job ever. CBHS was 4-7 at one point in the year but won 31 of its last 34 to capture the Division 2-AA championship for the second year in a row. Along the way, Kelso also won his 1,000th career game.

The Best of the Preps awards ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, June 10, at The Duncan-Williams Performance Hall at Germantown Performing Arts Center

SOFTBALL FINALISTS

Kelsey Gross

Collierville senior

A finalist for the third straight year, Gross closed out her career in style. During the regular season, she went 26-6 with an 0.80 ERA while striking out an amazing 264 in 149 innings. Gross also batted .590 with five homers and 43 RBI and ended her year with a bang, homering in her last at-bat in a regional loss to Brighton.



Seeley Layne

Brighton senior

Layne had a tremendous senior year for the Cardinals, who advanced to the AAA state tournament and finished the season with a 30-11-1 record. She had a record of 25-8 with a 1.78 ERA while striking out 172 in 189 innings. In addition, Layne batted .425 with a team-high six homers and 39 RBI.



Kendall Lee

Arlington junior

A three-time all-metro selection, Lee re-wrote the Arlington record book while helping the Tigers advance to the AAA state tournament for the second time in school history. During the regular season, she batted .675 with an areabest 10 homers and 56 RBI. Lee also scored 38 runs and had an outstanding 1.313 slugging percentage.



Taylor Manley

Arlington junior

Arlington's ace for the third straight year, Manley compiled a 21-5 record during the regular season with a 1.55 ERA and 180 strikeouts in 144 innings of work. At the plate, the three-time all-metro standout batted .365 with one homer and 27 RBI.



Marisa Moss

Brighton junior

The Cardinals' offensive catalyst, Moss led the team in batting average (a remarkable .566), hits (60) and doubles (13) while connecting on four homers. The shortstop had two or more hits in 18 games and is on the all-metro team for the second year in a row.



All-Metro Teams

DIVISION 1

Teona Bowles, Center Hill, senior; Katie Brownlee, Lewisburg, junior; Makenzie Corder, Bartlett, senior; Shelby Crocker, Collierville, senior; Paige Dill, Lewisburg, senior; Kalin Dunn, Bolton, sophomore; Sydney Eubank, Collierville, senior; MaKayla Faulk, Munford, freshman; Camryn Gladney, Kirby, sophomore; Neeley Glenn, Covington, senior; Kelsey Gross, Collierville, senior; Alencia Hall, Central, freshman; Kailey Hilderbrand, Hernando, junior; Sterling James, DeSoto Central, freshman; Marissa Kelly, Overton, junior; Carlie Klepzig, DeSoto Central, junior; Saige Koczka, Southaven, freshman; Seeley Layne, Brighton, senior; Kendall Lee, Arlington, junior; Briana Lewis, Arlington, junior; Taylor Manley, Arlington, junior; Maria Maxwell, Collierville, sophomore; Kendall McMahon, Southaven, senior; Marisa Moss, Brighton, junior; Kayla Murphy, DeSoto Central, junior; Sophia Murtaugh, White Station, junior; Kayla Parker, Houston, sophomore; Amanda Perry, Brighton, sophomore; Treasuary Poindexter, Covington, senior; MaKayla Pugh, Munford, sophomore; Mayson Ray, Lake Cormorant, senior; Haley Rider, Brighton, junior; Sam Ruff, Lake Cormorant, sophomore; Marquisha Sanders, Millington, junior; Sam Scott, Munford, senior Shannon Sharp, Houston, junior; Harley Smith, Lake Cormorant, senior; Sara Spencer, Center Hill, senior; Rachel Sternisha, Olive Branch, junior; Vivian Stringfellow, Hernando, junior; Jamie Tharpe, Bolton, senior; Alinda Tucker, White Station, junior; Mabry Weston, Marion, senior; Madison White, Arlington, sophomore.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Morgan Baker, Northpoint, sophomore; Taylor Beasley, Tipton-Rosemark Aca., senior; Abby Bishop, Fayette Aca., freshman; Kaitlin Bowers, Fayette Aca., sophomore; Makenzie Bradford, Briarcrest, junior; Kaylie Carter, Fayette Aca., freshman; Shelby Clifton, Tipton-Rosemark Aca., sophomore; Emily Coleman, Harding, sophomore; Sarah Coleman, Harding, sophomore; Shannon Dunn, St. Benedict, senior; Kelly Kuenzinger, ECS, sophomore; Jaislyn Merendino, St. Benedict, freshman; Madelyn Miller, FACS, senior; Rachel Miller, FACS, sophomore; Jewell Robinson, Briarcrest, sophomore; Grace Sweat, St. Benedict, junior; E.C. Tayloe, St. Benedict, freshman; Kayley Underwood, Harding, junior; Rachel Whitley, Tipton-Rosemark Aca., sophomore; Anna Claire Williams, Tipton-Rosemark Aca., junior; Jessica Wynia, Briarcrest, sophomore.

Coach of the Year, Robin Jacobs, Brighton

Despite playing one of the toughest schedules in West Tennessee, Jacobs guided the Cardinals to a 30-11-1 record and an appearance in the AAA state tournament.

Best of the Preps Spring schedule

Today, baseball and softball · Monday, boys soccer · Tuesday, tennis · Wednesday, track & field · Thursday, lacrosse For more information about Best of the Preps, e-mail David Boyd at david.boyd@commercialappeal.com



