

Perfect season for Brent's Computers



BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
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Little did Jerren Harris know when he picked up the ball Friday night, he'd be going home with it too.

Harris pitched a gem for Brent's Computers in the tournament finals of the boys 9-11 league, leading his team to a 7-4 victory over Moose Lodge.

The star hurler struck out 11 over six innings of work, including striking out the side twice.

Brent's Computers, which finished a perfect 12-0, got rolling in the third inning. Conner Williams came through with a two-run triple, while Trace Taylor and Sam Rivers each had RBI doubles to push their team ahead 7-0 after three.

It was more than enough for their ace.

Harris set the tone in the first, striking out the first batter before a walk and stolen bases had Jacob Holt on third with one out. Harris calmly pounded the zone, getting one swinging and the next looking to retire the side.

It was just the beginning of a long night at the plate for Moose Lodge.

Harris carried a no-hitter into the fourth inning before Aiden Miller broke it up with an RBI single, which scored Garryn Duggin to make it 7-1.

Korbyn Harris and Wesley Clendenon each walked and ultimately scored on passed balls, one of the few times Jerren faltered on the mound. Protecting a 7-3 advantage with a runner on third and Miller, the league's leading home-run hitter, in the on-deck circle, Harris recovered to force a pop out to the infield to get out of the inning.

Miller singled and scored in the sixth, but Harris shut the door the same way he started the game. The hard-throwing righty went top shelf with a fastball, one Moose Lodge's batter couldn't catch up with to end the game.

Conner Williams hustles down the line after laying down a bunt in Friday's championship game. After finishing the season 10-0, Brent's Computers also claimed the tournament title, beating Moose Lodge 7-4.

Jeffery Simmons photo

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Helton makes college choice

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
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Brooks Helton won't have to sweat through his senior season waiting on college offers. The baseball standout for the Pioneers has already made his pledge.

Helton announced on his Twitter page Tuesday his plans to play for the Faulkner University Eagles in Montgomery, Ala.

"Extremely excited and blessed to announce I will be furthering my education as well as my baseball career at Faulkner University," Helton wrote on Twitter. "I would like to thank my parents, Josh Renick, Jason Sharber and the rest of my Blueprint family for all the help along the way. Go Eagles!"

Along with being a star for the Pioneers, garnering All-District 6-AAA honors on the 19-win team, Helton also plays a vital role on the Blueprint baseball program led by Renick, who was inducted to the MTSU Hall of Fame after a two-year stint with the Blue Raiders where he was named the Conference USA player of the year and third-team All-American in 2001.

Renick sees all the little things in Helton which will help him succeed at the next level.

"He's a very, very smart player.

He works his tail off," said Renick, whose roster also includes Pioneers Jack Keele, Ethan Smith and Will Cantrell along with 14 players from the Murfreesboro area. "He is a very good leader. He brings the level of other kids up. He does all the things coaches want to see."

Helton was recruited primarily as a pitcher. He's currently 4-0 with a 1.75 ERA with Blueprint Baseball this summer after finishing 3-2 with a 0.78 ERA with the Pioneers as a junior.

Faulkner University pitching coach Albert Gurtz extended the scholarship offer after growing increasingly comfortable with the thought of Helton joining his pitching staff.

The commitment was a long time coming for Helton, who began playing baseball at age 5. He began diligently working on his craft when entering middle-school age with an eye on the future.

"I think all of us growing up dream of playing in the big leagues. But at some point I realized I was only going to be 5-foot-10 and wasn't going to throw 95 mph," said Helton. "When I was in eighth grade, my work ethic picked up and it's took off from there.

"I knew I wanted to extend my career as long as I could."

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Jeffery Simmons photo

Brooks Helton will go into his senior season next spring knowing his career has at least five more years to go. The Pioneer standout committed to Faulkner University last week.





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