

## 2008 BCA Rookie of the Year



#22 Philip Pfeifer - Fr.

### **Phillip Pfeifer Farragut High School. Farragut, TN**

By David Himmelstein

Sometimes when expectations are low, players can rise above to achieve the potential they know they have. This year Phillip Pfeifer did just that for the Farragut Admirals.

"I'm gonna be a starter!" Phillip is quoted as saying to his father in the beginning of the season.

Everyone but Phillip and Coach Tommy Pharr was surprised when he accomplished that goal. Not only was Pfeifer a starter he dominated. As a freshman 6'0", 175 pound lefty, Pfeifer was 1<sup>st</sup> in Tennessee for wins, 6<sup>th</sup> for strikeouts and 18<sup>th</sup> for ERA.

He had a season record of 13-1, with a 1.14 ERA, 112 strikeouts, only 15 walks; he gave up 38 hits in a total 68 innings. Clearly a force from the hill, his teammates enjoyed playing behind him as much as he enjoyed pitching.

"He had great teammates," quotes Mr. Pfeifer, Phillip's father, "You could just tell they fed on one another. For example one guy would make a difficult play to get the out and then Phillip would strike the next guy out to end the inning. And then in the following inning it would be reversed."

Not only is Phillip a star on the field, he gets it done in the classroom as well. His freshman GPA was a 3.66. He was in honors classes and was selected as a Tennessee State Scholar in 2006 (7<sup>th</sup> grade). He also volunteers his time to help younger students at Farragut Primary and assists with fundraising for Helen Ross McNabb Mental Health Center.

Without a doubt this is a kid you want on your team. Phillip is not a pitcher who gets easily rattled. As his father reports, when other teams tried to shake him up with verbal assaults, the reaction was only to focus more and throw more strikes.

One of Pfeifer's highlights came in the state tournament against Lincoln County. The opposing team was doing their best to distract Phillip while on the bump. As soon as the chanting began Pfeifer struck out the next six. He ended up tying a Tennessee record for strikeouts in a state tournament game with a total of 16.

Phillip received many accolades this year. He was awarded the *Cy Young Award* in Rich Hofman's 2008 Westminster Academy Sunshine Classic. He was named Pitcher & Rookie of the Year for Farragut High School as well as being named to the All-District 4AAA team as Pitcher of the Year which was chosen by district coaches, and then he was selected by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association to the All-Region 2 team. Pfeifer was also selected by both TBCA and Tennessee Sportswriters Association for the All -State team

"He has a crazy work ethic and loves to pitch," comments his father.

This is evident in his performance this year. Watch out for this kid in the future. He is bright star that leaves it on the field. Congratulations Phillip on a fantastic season. Everyone will be keeping an eye out for you. Good luck with all you do!