# BRADY FRONABARGER TO CONTINUE BASEBALL CAREER AT TENNESEE TECH




**Above:** Brady Fronabarger's immediate family (from left): Landry, Sandy, Brady, and Brent. (Photo by Ron Barry)

You hear coaches say it all the time: "There is no 'I' in T-E-A-M!"
Monday afternoon, it was well-established – despite the abundance of letters in his name – there is no 'I' in B-R-A-D-Y-F-R-O-N-A-B-A-R-G-E-R.

Crockett County's senior pitcher and first baseman made his college selection official at a signing ceremony in the school's Little Theater, announcing he would be continuing his baseball career – and, just as importantly if not more so, his education – at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

The affable Fronabarger signed his papers after gratefully listening to a few of his current and former coaches – including his father Brent – congratulate him on his athletic success while unquestionably distinguishing himself just as significantly off the field in his other exploits.

A large crowd of family, teammates, friends, teachers, and coaches heard a consistent theme from Monday's speakers: Brady Fronabarger isn't just a great baseball player – he's a selfless, team-first individual who demonstrates daily that he views others more importantly than he views himself.

Current Cavalier assistant coach Jacob Clark kicked off the accolades with a few stories of Fronabarger as a very young boy, hanging around the field as father Brent carried out his coaching duties.

"Then, seemingly all of a sudden, I see this strong, athletic-looking kid at practice the first day, and I'm wondering, 'Who is this?'," Clark said. "Then I realize it's Brady, ready for his freshman year." Clark went on to provide a few of Fronabarger's notable statistics, including six home runs as a junior despite the fact that some teams won't even throw him a strike anymore. A .578 on-base percentage generally draws the same reaction Clark had: "That's just insane!"

Next up was Brady's summer ball coach, the venerable Jeff Wright, who led Fronabarger and Cavalier teammate Carter Winders to a 16U national championship after the duo's sophomore season. Wright is the coach of the Easley Baseball Club out of the Southaven, Mississippi area, and it would probably be reasonable to say that he has forgotten more about baseball than most coaches have ever learned – except that it's just as clear he hasn't forgotten any of it.

Wright praised Fronabarger's skill as a teammate even above his own playing exploits, which Wright also lauded as commendable.

"Brady has the ideal temperament for a baseball team," Wright said. "He never gets too high, never gets too low. He knows baseball is largely a game of failures. Yet I've never seen him throw a bat or a helmet, or anything like that. He's not perfect – nobody is – but he sure works at trying to be that way."

Wright compared Fronabarger's demeanor to another former player of his, Atlanta Brave all-star third baseman Austin Riley.
"I'm not saying you're Austin Riley," Wright laughed, "but if you keep doing the things you've done to get where you are now, maybe we'll be making a closer comparison in the future."

As Brady's summer coach, Wright said, "All I've ever heard from Brady is 'Yes, sir' or 'No, sir' when I ask him something. He's extremely coachable, and he's done everything we've ever asked of him. But my best compliment is this one: I listen to him when he has something to say. He's a huge reason we won that national championship."

The final speaker was – appropriately – Brady's father Brent, who concentrated more on the gratitude that he and his wife Sandy have for Brady as a son rather than a ballplayer.

"Sandy and I are much more proud of him for being the young man he's become than we are of him as a baseball player," Brent said. "And that's the best compliment I can give him. I've watched him be so excited for his teammates when they succeed, and when his summer ball teammates sign with a college. There's never any jealousy – he's just so happy when the people around him succeed at what they're doing."

The Fronabargers said they never pressured Brady to select a particular college. They trusted he would make the right decision when the time came. Interestingly, when Brady chose Tennessee Tech, it matched the destination his parents had hoped he'd select – and all three said it was for the same reason.

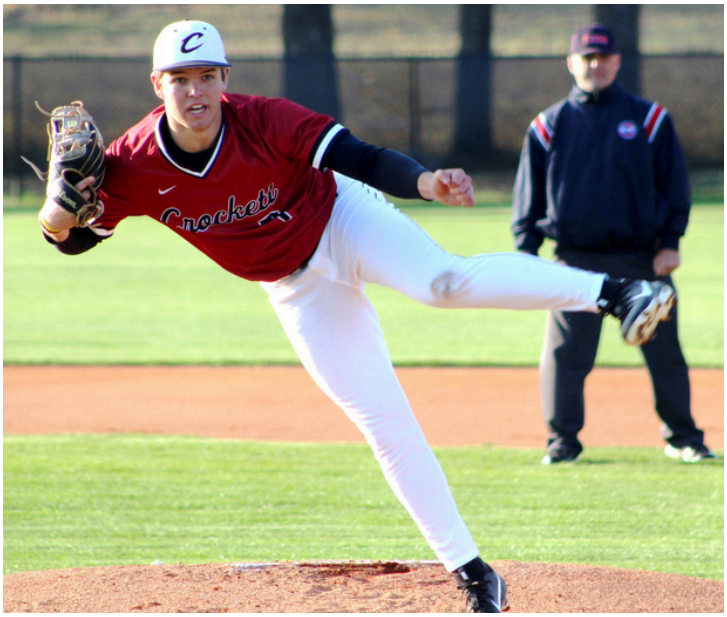
"When we met with coaches (Ben) Brooks and (Matt) Bragga," Sandy said, "they said, 'We need to tell you right up front: If Brady comes here, he's going to hear about Jesus.' That meant so much to us as parents, and the fact that Brady thinks it's so important too gave us a real peace about this whole thing."

"That was a very important part of this decision," Brady said. "They have a great team bond, and the fact that I'll be given a chance to play early on – if I earn it – made Tennessee Tech the right choice. It's a good program (37-20 in the most recent season), and it's on the rise. And it's a good academic school too."

Fronabarger said he's been told he'll have a chance to both pitch and play first base for the Golden Eagles, who led the Ohio Valley Conference in team victories in the 2025 season.

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL:** Crockett County opens the 2025-26 basketball season Tuesday night with a home doubleheader against Henry County, with the girls' contest getting underway at 6:00.

Coach Kayla Irvin leads the Lady Cavaliers into the new year having to replace the bulk of the team's offense, which came largely from departed players. In the nightcap, Coach Spencer Bursey begins his first full season as the new head coach of the Cavaliers, who also will be seeing several new faces involved in the action.



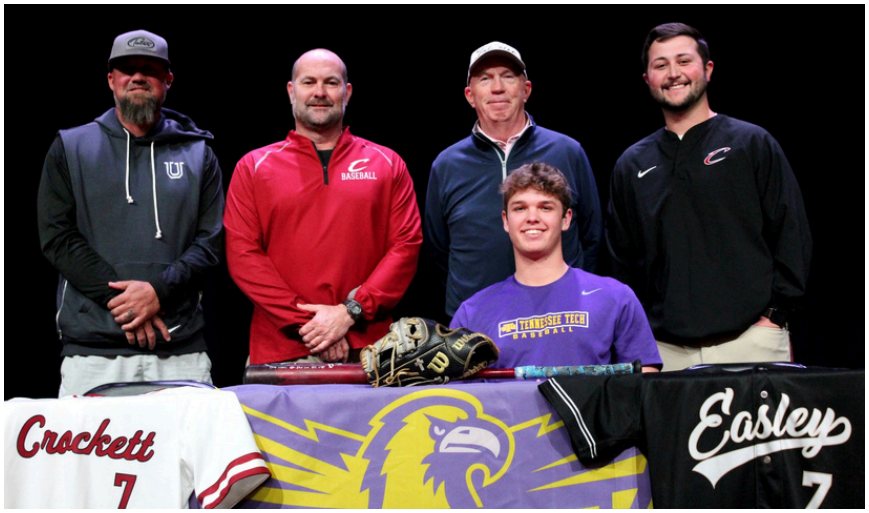
**Above:** Brady Fronabarger has been an effective Cavalier pitcher since setting foot on campus as a freshman. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Slamming a home run against Dyersburg last season, one of six he hit in 2025. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Left:** The official artwork from the Golden Eagles. (Graphic by Tennessee Tech University)




**Left:** Coaches that have worked with Brady Fronabarger; (from left) former MLB player Casey McGehee, now head coach at Union University; Coach Brad Smith of Crockett County; Coach Jeff Wright of the Easley Baseball Club; and Jacob Clark, current CCHS assistant coach. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below**: Brady Fronabarger on the field. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Brady Fronabarger with his closest relatives. (Photo by Ron Barry)







**Above:** Brady Fronabarger is surrounded by Crockett County's current baseball team. (Photo by Ron Barry)




**Left:** Brady and his brother Landry with their girlfriends, former CCHS softball standout Sadie Hoover (left) and current CCHS cheerleader Makayla Murphy. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right:** National championship coach Jeff Wright -- Brady's summer ball mentor -- speaks at Monday's signing ceremony. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Above:** Another swing -- another mash. (Photo by Ron Barry)