



Central's Reed Bruce. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]



Deshler's Dylan Olive.

TIMES DAILY 2026 LARGE SCHOOL ALL-AREA BASEBALL

ALL-AREA TEAM

P: Casen Springer, Loretto, Sr.

Allowed one earned run with a 69-to-9 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 35 2/3 innings. Finished 6-0 with an 0.20 ERA and 12 hits allowed. Threw a five-inning no-hitter with 10 strikeouts against Community on April 6. With a bat, posted .495 on-base and .704 slugging percentages in 24 games. Had 20 RBIs and scored 14 runs.

P: Dylan Olive, Deshler, Jr.

Rode a late-season surge to finish 8-4 with a 2.90 ERA, including three shutouts in 12 starts. Won seven straight starts March 23-April 30 with a 1.56 ERA, including a five-inning one-walk no-hitter against Central on April 3. Two-time All-Area.

P: Coston Mahan, Florence, Fr.

Posted a 2.15 ERA in 11 appearances, going 6-2 with two saves and 60 strikeouts in 52 innings. Tossed a two-hit shutout with 15 strikeouts against Muscle Shoals on March 12.

C: Mason Gandy, Brooks, Jr.

Recorded a .510 on-base percentage and slugged .437 in 30 games.

IF: Camden Fuller, Deshler, Sr.

Second-team Class 4A All-State. Scored 42 times in 43 games and had 36 RBIs. With 39 walks, recorded a .544 on-base percentage. Slugged .575. Two-time All-Area.

IF: Reed Bruce, Central, Sr.

First-team Class 4A All-State. Finished with 45 RBIs and scored 36 runs in 39 games. Had a .559 on-base percentage. With 26 extra-base hits, including nine home runs, slugged .874. Was 18-of-19 on steals. As a pitcher, was 7-4 with a 2.88 ERA in 75 1/3 innings with two shutouts. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

IF: Bryson Pickens, Wilson, Sr.

Class 4A All-State honorable mention. Slugged .702 with 30 RBIs and 30 runs scored in 32 games. Had a .533 on-base percentage.

IF: Houston Tibbs, Hamilton, Jr.

Recorded .529 on-base and .578 slugging percentages, scoring 32 times and driving in 28 runs in 31 games.

OF: Brayden Entrekin, Russellville, So.

First-team Class 5A All-State, the 32nd in school history, including 29 in the last 11 All-State seasons. Knocked in 31 runs and scored 18 times in 25 games. Slugged .767. Boosted by 18 walks, had a .536 on-base percentage. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

OF: Malaki Groce, Russellville, Sr.

Was on base at a .496 clip, scoring 28 times in 37 games. Slugged .484. Helped the Golden Tigers record a 14th straight winning season.

OF: Mason Holloway, Hamilton, Jr.

First-team Class 4A All-State. Crossed the plate 47 times and had 29 RBIs in 32 games. Recorded .566 on-base and .761 slugging percentages. Hit .495. Three-time All-Area. Three-time All-State.

UTL: Garrett Reid, Deshler, Sr.

First-team Class 4A All-State and Class 4A player of the year. Named one of the top 10 players in the state, regardless of classification, by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. With 20 of his 50 hits going for extra bases, including five home runs, slugged .648. Had a .430 on-base percentage. On the mound, was 8-1 with six saves and a 1.17 ERA. Over 65 2/3 innings, allowed 46 hits and struck out 76. Samford baseball signee. Three-time All-Area. Three-time All-State. Two-time Class 4A player of the year.

UTL: Mason Tidwell, Loretto, Sr.

Slugged .823 in 24 games with 30 RBIs and 20 runs scored. Had a .454 on-base percentage. As a pitcher, struck out 41 over 24 2/3 innings in six starts.

DH: Neel Patel, Florence, Sr.

Second-team Class 7A All-State. Finished with .479 on-base and .687 slugging percentages. Of his 43 hits, 23 were for extra bases, including five home runs.



Russellville's Brayden Entrekin.



Florence's Coston Mahan.

HONORABLE MENTION

- Brooks:** Charlie Buttram, Gunner Johnson.
- Central:** Brock Price, Elijah Lambert.
- Deshler:** Austin Hubbard.
- Florence:** Hudson Jolly.
- Haleyville:** Gavin Brown.
- Hamilton:** Jackson Chandler.
- Hatton:** Bryson Jeffreys.

- Loretto:** Brayden Bennett.
- Muscle Shoals:** Hudson James.
- Russellville:** Tripp Cleveland.
- Wilson:** Cayden McCormack.

FINAL RECORDS

Brooks (23-10), Central (28-14), Deshler (36-8), Florence (23-14), Haleyville (8-18), Hamilton (20-12), Hatton (13-17), Lawrence Co. (Tenn.) (29-10), Loretto (16-11), Muscle Shoals (7-20), Russellville (21-17), Wilson (16-18).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Josh Fowler, Central

Led the Wildcats on a 15-game winning streak that ended in the Class 4A semifinals, their longest playoff run since 2009. Is 122-78 in six years at Central. Has 11 seasons as a head coach.