

Six North Carolina Players Named All-America

Written by Mike Kelly

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The state of North Carolina had six players named to the Louisville Slugger High School All-America Team.

Leading the way are a pair of pitchers from Catawba County, Jeremy Null of Bunker Hill and Travis Poole of Hickory. Null, who was taken by the Seattle Mariners in the 37th round of the Major League Baseball Draft, was a first-team selection. Poole, who went in the 38th round to the Boston Red Sox, was named Honorable Mention.

Null, who stands 6-foot-7, was 8-1 a 1.27 ERA with 98 strikeouts last season for the Bears. He set a school record for single-season hits (52), he batted .619 with 32 runs-batted-in as Bunker Hill (26-2) defended his Catawba Valley Athletic Conference title. Null has signed with Western Carolina, a Division I school in the Southern Conference.

Outfielder Israel Morrow was the last Bunker Hill player to receive All-America honors. He was an honorable mention selection on the Louisville Slugger team in 1998.

Poole, who has signed with Coastal Carolina, a Division I school in the Big South, was 7-3 for the Red Tornadoes with 96 strikeouts. He finished his career with 239 strikeouts as Hickory went 17-11 and reached the Western Semifinals in the Class 3A state playoffs before the Red Tornadoes were eliminated by eventual state champion, South Point.

Providence catcher Brett Austin, shortstop Logan Rutledge of Ardrey Kell, shortstop Corey Seager of Northwest Cabarrus, and Dillon Maples, a pitcher-third baseman from Pinecrest were the other North Carolina players receiving first-team All-America honors.