



## Shepherd Signs To Play Baseball At Brewton Parker

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by *Payton Towns III*

Eric Shepherd is the sparkplug for the top of Trinity Christian's offense. Brewton Parker is now hoping he'll be able to spark their offense and use his speed on the bases and in the outfield.

On Tuesday, the Crusader senior signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the Barons next spring.

"This is something I've been waiting on all my life," Shepherd said. "It's one of my dreams. I went down there. I love the coaches and I love the place."

He will not be alone because current teammate and friend J.P. Mitchell will also be with him. Shepherd likes the fact that he isn't too far away from home. "I'll be 45 minutes away," he said. "I'll be able to come home every now and again. J.P. and I will be down there working hard. Maybe we'll have a good season down there."

Trinity Christian head coach Chuck Grooms was pleased that a third player from the program signed.

"It's a great thing for our program," he said. "I think people in the community can see that we have a lot of players here and their work ethic is top notch. It's because of that and their Lord bless talent, they can go and play on the next level. Brewton Parker is a great program and building every year. It's exciting to see him reach that goal. It's a baseball player's dream to reach that next goal."

Grooms believes Shepherd will do well at Brewton Parker.

"He's got a great work ethic," Grooms said. "He's got a great heart and great attitude. He's has something you can't teach and that is his speed. It's something that is real big. Speed is something that is real big. We've tried to develop more and more on his bunting. He's done a great job with that. I think the more he works on that and tries to add to his game, it's only going to help him there at the next level."

Barons assistant head coach Andrew Gernatt said they liked Shepherd's speed. "Yes, speed is always a plus," Gernatt said. "We always like to get guys who can steal bags every once in a while."

They like the way he chased down the fly balls in the outfield. "That comes with the speed," Gernatt said. "We saw that he got good reads on the ball. We really feel like he'll be able to track them down for us."

Shepherd thanked his coaches, mentioning Coach Barry Walker for the role he played. "Coach Barry has been helping me since I was a kid and he started Strike Zone," Shepherd said. "We got into travel baseball and he's been a great impact in my life with all of the help he's given me and the fundamentals to get me where I am at right now."

Shepherd said his father, Robbie, and Andy Burris helped him with the game. He also thanked coach Krista Meadows for her help.

Not long after signing, Shepherd was focused on his next task. "We've got Tiftarea this Friday," he said. "If we can win six more games we'll win that state championship."