

**CLASS A STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**May 25-28, 1999**  
**Chattanooga, TN**

**CHATTANOOGA** -- University School of Jackson won its first state championship, holding off Franklin Road Academy 7-6 Thursday in the TSSAA Class A Baseball Tournament.

The Bruins' Drew Lester won his second game of the tournament to improve to 13-1 and earn the most valuable player award. Lester allowed four hits, all in the last inning when the Big Blue scored twice. He struck out two and walked none.

He caught a break as he relieved John Gorman with bases loaded and two outs in the fourth inning. FRA's Eric Brandon, thinking there was four balls on the batter, walked home and was tagged out to end the inning in which the Big Blue had already plated four runs.

USJ had taken a 2-0 lead in the third inning as Franklin Payne doubled home a run and Andrew White plated a run with a sacrifice fly.

FRA answered with four in the bottom of the fourth inning. Whit Dulin had a two-run single to tie the game and Eric Brandon and Chris Jones had RBI-singles to give the Big Blue the lead.

The Bruins cut the lead to 4-3 with a run in the sixth inning on Nash Powell's single to left field.

USJ took the lead by scoring four runs in the top of the seventh inning.

J.R. Dunn drove in the tying run with a single to left. Greg Fay singled home two runs to give the Bruins the lead. Powell had an infield single to end the scoring.

The Big Blue tried to catch up in the bottom of the frame. Josh Brown and Travis Horschel had RBI singles to pull FRA to 7-6.

The game ended as Jason McKee grounded out to Dunn at second base, who threw to Lester, who was covering first and beat McKee to the bag, with runners on first and second.

Brandon, who picked up a victory in the tournament opener, dropped to 12-1 on the season after the loss.

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
University School of Jackson	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	7	12	2
Franklin Road Academy	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	6	9	2

John Gorman, Drew Lester (4) and Roger Cook; Kendall Gregory, Tom Herbert (3), Eric Brandon (6) and Josh Brown. WP -- Lester, 13-1. LP -- Brandon, 12-1. Records: University School of Jackson 36-4; Franklin Road Academy 32-2.