

Josh Harris was one of four Tigers named to the Texas H.S. Baseball Coaches Association all-state team in 1999 after the 26-6 Tigers finished the year ranked #4 in Texas. He played at Temple College, Texas A&M-Kingsville and Lamar U. and played 3 years in the professional Minor Leagues.

Josh Harris was born on Nov. 23, 1980, in Abilene TX to Billy and Rhonda Harris. He is the oldest of two children (Britt is 5 years younger) and moved to Belton with his family in the 4th grade and attended Central Elementary School, Belton Jr. H.S., and Belton H.S., graduating in 1999. As a youth he played basketball and was a pole vaulter in track but concentrated on football and baseball in high school.

Josh played JV football as a soph and junior and was a 5'11" 175 lb. senior DB on the 1998 Tiger team that was 8-5 on the year after returning to 4A (after two years in 5-A). The Tigers won district and beat Austin Travis and Hays Consolidated in the playoffs before losing to Alice in the state quarterfinals. Josh, a specialist in blocking field goals (he blocked 4 of the team's 8 kicks in 1998), was named honorable mention all-district as a DB. Josh had considerable success in youth baseball before his high school career. His Temple Little League team won the Texas State championship in 1992 when Josh was 12 and his High Junior team, the Belton Braves, won the Texas State Championship in 1996 when he was 15. Also, his Belton Tiger select team finished 4th in the state in 1997 in a tournament in Dallas with Josh as a pitcher/second baseman.

As a soph Josh was a pitcher on the 1997 Tiger JV team. As a junior in 1998 he was a 5'9" 160 lb. pitcher on the Tiger varsity that was 21-12 on the year and won the district and bi-district championships. He had a 7-1 record (with two shut-outs) and a 3.52 ERA and was named 1st team all-district. As a senior in 1999 Josh was the pitching ace of the 26-6 Tigers who won district with an undefeated (15-0) record, drew a bye in bi-district, beat Fredericksburg in the Area, lost to Hays Consolidated in the regional semi-finals and finished the year ranked #4 in Texas. Josh was 10-2 on the year with 80 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.97 and had five shutouts including two 1-hitters on the year. He was one of six Tigers (with Thomas Melvin at 1B; Cody Beck at catcher; Kory Douglas at 2B, Alex Garcia at 3B; and B.J. Soto in OF) to be named 1st team all-district. He and Melvin, Douglas and Soto were named to the Texas H.S. Baseball Coaches Association's all-state team. He was also named all-centex by the Waco and Austin newspapers and was given Belton's "Golden Arm" award as the Tigers' best pitcher.

Josh played two years at Temple College under Coach Craig McMurtry and had a 7-3 record as a freshman and a 7-6 record as a soph. Josh hit a 3-run "walk-off" homer in his only college at bat at Temple. He later played at Texas A&M—Kingsville—where he set a conference record with 19 strikeouts in one game and at Lamar University where he had ERA of 2.75. He was taken by the Cleveland Indians in the 42nd round of the Major League Baseball draft and played for 3 years with the Burlington NC Indians of the Rookie League (where he was 5-0 with 10 saves as a "closer") and the AA Akron Arrows. He later

played in the Independent League with the Kalamazoo Kings before retiring from baseball..

In 2009 Josh Harris, 28, lived in Douglasville GA with his wife, Heather, and two boys, Nolan, 4 & Hayden, 2. Josh received a degree in general studies from Lamar U. and works in sales of aircraft safety equipment. His father, Billy, is the former owner of Belton Glass and now operates B-Town Burgers near Belton H.S.