

High School Preview: Preseason All-America First Team

by [Clint Longenecker](#) (*Baseball America*)

This year's high school class is a solid-average crop and a significant upgrade from last year's class, which was one of the most fallow in recent memory. Velocity is this class' defining characteristic, especially compared to last year, which lacked power arms. No hurler has more velocity than Shepherd (Texas) High righthander Tyler Kolek, the only player from high school or college to be voted a unanimous first team All-American. Ballots were sent to all 30 major league scouting directors. Shortstop Jacob Gatewood of Clovis (Calif.) High and first baseman Braxton Davidson (Roberson High, Asheville, N.C.) finished one vote shy of being unanimous selections. There was a fairly strong consensus on the first-team position players, with third base receiving the greatest division of votes. Although four third basemen received first-team votes, Michael Chavis (Sprayberry High, Marietta, Ga.) received roughly two-thirds. The depth of high school position players exceeds the depth of college position players.

C Alex Jackson Rancho Bernardo HS, Escondido, Calif.

Jackson has hit well against older competition on the circuit for years and is arguably the top pure hitter in the class, offering plus bat speed, plus power potential and feel for the barrel. The strongly built member of San Diego Show has a plus arm and is a good athlete with positional versatility.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .343 108 50 37 8 0 14 33 8



1B Braxton Davidson Roberson HS, Asheville, N.C.

With plus power potential from the left side, the powerfully built Davidson is one of the top power bats in the class and has shown feel to hit in games. Davidson, who plays travel ball for the Dirtbags, is young for the class and won't turn 18 until after the draft.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .403 77 36 31 7 1 8 30 6



MIF Jacob Gatewood Clovis (Calif.) HS

Another member of San Diego Show, Gatewood has arguably the most raw power in the class and won two home run derbies in big league stadiums this summer. A plus athlete with soft hands, Gatewood's above-average arm and at least average speed should make him a solid defender.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .320 103 31 33 5 1 4 20 3



MIF Nick GordonOlympia HS, Orlando, Fla

.Gordon has the potential to be at least an average defender at shortstop, has the best infield arm in the class and has posted above-average 60-yard dash times. Gordon, who plays travel ball for FTB Chandler, has shown the ability to hit for average, and is the son of former big leaguer Tom Gordon

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .505 99 23 50 15 6 2 30 12



3B Michael ChavisSprayberry HS, Marietta, Ga.

Chavis is an intense competitor with a well-rounded skillset. The strong infielder has plus bat speed, has hit well in games and won the Perfect Game All-American Classic Home Run Derby. An East Cobb Brave, Chavis has an above-average arm, average speed and good body control on defense.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .435 69 30 30 10 1 12 34 11



OF Michael GettysGainesville (Ga.)

HSA premium power/speed athlete, Gettys has arguably the loudest tool package of any hitter in the class, with four tools that could be at least plus. Scouting directors voted him as having the best speed and arm in the class. Gettys could develop plus power and defense, and plays for Team Elite.


Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
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Sr. .406 106 43 43 5 5 4 21 38



OF Monte HarrisonLee's Summit (Mo.)

West HSA three-sport star who has committed to play football and baseball at Nebraska, Harrison is a plus athlete. He has one of the best arms in the country and above-average straight line speed. Harrison's bat improved over the summer and he has a chance to hit for average and power.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
Sr.	.464	89	33	39	11	3	6	34	20	


OF Derek HillElk Grove (Calif.)

HShill is arguably the top defensive outfielder in the class, with plus-plus speed, range and instincts to go with an arm that is close to average. He has a short, quick line-drive-oriented stroke and puts together quality at-bats. Hill plays travel ball for NorCal Baseball.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
Sr.	.417	84	27	35	6	4	1	27	9	

LHP Brady AikenCathedral Catholic HS, San Diego

Aiken tossed a gem in the gold medal game of the World Junior Championship for Team USA. He has a projectable frame and touches 93 with the best command in the class. His curveball and changeup flash plus, and the San Diego Show member is one of the youngest players in the class.

Yr.	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	Commitment
Sr.	5	3	0.92	10	0	53	30	25	80	

RHP Dylan CeaseMilton (Ga.)

HSCease burst onto the national scene last year at the NHSI, showing mid-90s velocity. The athletic Cease has a quick, whip-like arm capable of touching 97 mph. His breaking ball and command were inconsistent last summer as he pitched with Team Elite, but could become average.

Yr.	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	Commitment
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Sr. 10 0 0.81 15 1 69 43 36 100



RHP Tyler KolekShepherd (Texas)

HSKolek is next in the long line of country-strong Texas righthanders with premium velocity. The 6-foot-6, 250-pound Houston Heat member is a specimen capable of touching 99 mph. He sits in the mid-90s with ease and downhill plane. He throws multiple breaking balls that can flash above-average.

Yr.	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	Commitment
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Sr. 2 0 1.56 5 0 18 6 9 42



RHP Sean Reid-Foley Sandalwood HS, Jacksonville

A workhorse righthander who plays for FTB Chandler, Reid-Foley sits in the low 90s and can touch 96 mph with above-average fastball life. He pitches off his live fastball and projects to have at least average control, and his slider shows the makings of an above-average pitch.

Yr.	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	Commitment
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Sr. 7 4 0.86 14 0 81 37 38 137



RHP Touki Toussaint Coral Springs (Fla.) Academy

Toussaint is a premium athlete for a pitcher, showcasing electric arm speed capable of touching 97 mph with plus fastball life. His curveball showed the makings of a plus pitch as an underclassman. Toussaint, who plays for the Atlanta Blue Jays, also has a changeup that shows average potential.

Yr.	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	Commitment
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Sr. 6 2 0.82 12 4 45 17 33 86



LHP Alex Verdugo Sahuaro HS, Tucson, Ariz

.The top two-way player in the class, Verdugo has a fastball that has touched 94 mph and above-average breaking ball. As an outfielder, Verdugo has advanced feel to hit and power.

Yr.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Commitment
Sr.	.484	93	41	45	9	7	7	40	24	

