

July 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure in writing this letter of recommendation for Reuben Mason. I have known and coached Reuben (RJ) for two years at Highland High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in those two years, I have seen him grow not only into a fantastic baseball player, but an even better person, and classroom scholar.

Coming into our program as a freshman in 2020, RJ was already known for his catching skills and passion for the game. He spent the majority of that season as our starting JV catcher where he played exceptionally well and got adjusted to the overall speed of the high school game. He was trusted so much by our players and coaches, that he ended up being added to the varsity roster for our summer league season.

As a sophomore in 2021, RJ made the varsity roster initially as a backup catcher and utility infielder. Determined to get more playing time, RJ continued to work on his catching craft and was a consistent presence in the hitting cage, often staying after practice to get extra reps in. That hard work paid off, as halfway through our season, RJ was inserted into the starting lineup where he flourished as our starting catcher.

A contact hitter, RJ handles the bat well, is patient at the plate, and has a great eye for the strike zone. While he's always been a good fastball hitter, he's learned to make adjustments to off speed pitches and hits the ball to all parts of the field. Defensively, RJ calls an exceptional game and continues to improve as a catcher. RJ has always been a solid backstop, but his arm strength has improved significantly, as has his foot work. As a true all-around player, RJ can play any infield position and play it well. When he isn't catching for us, he plays first base and third base, and recently, has even thrown some innings on the mound. His base running skills often go overlooked, as he is smart on the bases and has above average speed.

While his high baseball IQ allows RJ to be a trusted extension of the coaching staff during games, especially as a catcher, what I'm more appreciative of is his ability to remain coachable and driven. RJ is not a finished product yet and still has areas to his game that need improving, but I love that he welcomes every challenge he is given and has a fantastic work ethic. He is often the first one to the field and the last one to leave, as his desire to get better is obvious to not only myself, but all of our players. A remarkable teammate, I've watched RJ take younger players under his wing and work with them one on one. That type of unselfish behavior isn't happening because a coach told him to work with others, but instead, it showcases who RJ is as a person. He puts the team first, leads by example, and has a great deal of upside that I look forward to watching over his two remaining high school seasons.

As a high-level baseball coach of twenty years, both domestically and internationally, I fully support RJ as a potential recruit to your program and welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Ben Voegele
Highland High School Baseball
Head Coach
(801) 633-9450