

17U WWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -- TOP PITCHING PROSPECTS

With 110 teams in the event, there was no shortage at all of premium prospects on display in Marietta through the week. Today we'll take a look at the top 50 2007 pitching prospects. Next up will be the top 50 2007 position prospects, followed by the top 40 underclassmen.

There were a number of position players who would potentially make the top 50 pitcher list if they were primary pitchers. Among those were SS Brooks Pinckard (TASBA), OF Junior Gray (Xtra Innings), OF Jeremy Kerley (TASBA), SS J.C. Menna (NJ Twins) and IF Jordan Lucas (EC Braves).

1. LHP Josh Smoker (EC Braves): Now throwing consistently in the low 90's with the same type of polish he showed as an 86-88 pitcher.
2. RHP Brandon Hamilton (Knoxville Yard): Pro body with present pro stuff. Threw 90-93 with a true mid-80's slider with good tilt.
3. RHP Jarrod Parker (Summit City Sluggers): The hardest thrower at the 17U championship, Parker touched 95 mph and doesn't use much effort to do it.
4. RHP Evan Danieli (NJ Twins): Threw 88-92 but more impressively, can spin the ball and repeat his delivery at 6-8.
5. RHP Kyle Blair (Nor Cal): Combines both polish with plus stuff; his curveball was especially impressive at times.
6. RHP Eric Goeddel (Nor Cal): As good as his teammate Blair's curveball was, Goeddel's slider was better.
7. LHP Forrest Moore (ABD Bulldogs): Assumes Josh Smoker's former title as "Best Sub-90's" pitcher in the class. Completely dominant in 2 outings.
8. RHP Austin Bailey (EC Braves): Was on the fence as a 2 way prospect (third base); pitched like a big-time primary pitcher; FB up to 93 mph.
9. LHP Matt Evers (Houston Kyle Chapman): One of the harder throwing southpaws in the 2007 class, threw 91 mph and there's more in his 6-2, 180 lb frame.
10. LHP Craig Gullickson (Hammertime): Bill Gullickson's son was named Most Valuable Pitcher; very polished southpaw with three quality pitches for strikes.

11. RHP Sean Koecheler (All American Prospects): Only threw a couple innings as the All American Prospects closer but threw 91-93 mph easily; pro profile body and projection.
12. RHP Kyle Greenwalt (South Charlotte Panthers): Tossed a no-hitter against 2004 17U champion Houston Kyle Chapman; quality curveball to go with a heavy 89-92 FB.
13. RHP Robbie Broach (Midwest Blazers): 6-0 right hander but has one of the best power breaking balls around; pitches in the 89-91 mph range.
14. LHP Jack McGeary (EC Braves): McGeary is a big, physical left hander with a high energy delivery that produces a 88-91 mph fastball. He looks very uncomfortable to hit against
15. RHP Anthony Ranaudo (NJ Super 17): Super sized right hander (6-7, 235) but maintains 88-91 mph velocity and shows the makings of a good breaking ball.
16. RHP Taylor Martin (Louisiana Elite): Lean and athletic, Martin throws easily and has a sharp breaking ball.
17. LHP John Gast (Orlando Scorpions): Gast didn't get to pitch much at the event but was very impressive. He throws in the low 90's
18. LHP Sean Tierney (Cal Bulldogs): Big, tall southpaw throws in the upper 80's, T90, from a tall, effortless delivery with great downhill plane.
19. RHP Seth Blair (Cangelosi Orioles): Excellent movement with solid big league average velocity (89-91 mph) from low ¾'s arm slot.
20. RHP Justin Poovey (Dirtbags): Needs work on his off speed stuff but throws 91-93 mph with little effort.
21. RHP Travis Lawler (Houston Kyle Chapman): Very projectable right hander with smooth, polished pitching mechanics. Touches 90 mph.
22. RHP Connor Hoehn (All Star Baseball): Has a deliberate, focused pitching style and a low 90's fastball. Good command.
23. RHP Trent Rothlin (Dirtbags): Tall and projectable, Rothlin maintained 88-91 velocity late into games and showed very good command.
24. RHP Brennen Dobbins (Orlando Scorpions): Same HS team (Lake Brantley) as LHP John Gast; his stuff is just as good from the right side.
25. RHP Brock Huntzinger (Indiana Bulls White): Threw one of the best games of the tournament, was 88-90 in the 7th inning with a dominating curveball.

26. RHP Brian Dupra (East Coast Grays)
27. RHP Jake Cowan (EC Braves)
28. RHP Nathan Striz (South Florida Bandits)
29. RHP Cody Springer (Houston Kyle Chapman)
30. RHP Gary Bullman (All Star Baseball)
31. RHP Cody Allen (Orlando Scorpions)
32. RHP Patrick Johnson (Dirtbags):
33. RHP Drew Storen (Indiana Bulls Black)
34. RHP Ben Gatlin (East Alabama Wildcats)
35. RHP Tim Jones (OTC Bearcats)
36. RHP Rico Reid (Atlanta Blue Jays)
37. RHP Gary Gilheaney (EC Braves)
38. RHP Chase Dempsey (SE Texas Sun Devils)
39. RHP Robert Morey (Richmond Braves)
40. RHP Greg Holt (Dirtbags):
41. RHP Aaron Redman (TASBA Grays)
42. LHP David Small (Nor Cal):
43. RHP Taylor Reeves (All Star Baseball)
44. LHP Hector Veras (All American Prospects)
45. RHP Vance Williams (Dirtbags 17U)
46. LHP Chad Bell (Knoxville Yard)
47. RHP Chris Anagnostou (Houston Kyle Chapman):
48. RHP Hunter McGilvary (5 Tool National Red)
49. RHP Taylor Reid (Nor Cal)
50. RHP Chris Luck (Midland Braves)

ALSO

LHP Jon Clarence	Indiana Bulls
RHP Gabe Feldman	All Star Baseball
LHP Isaiah Fronenberger	OTC Bearcats
LHP Chris Hernandez	All American Prospects
RHP/1B Paul Hoilman	Knoxville Yard
RHP Kevin Jacobs	Maryland Mavericks
RHP Andrew Jones	Striker Baseball
LHP Michael Kazmarek	Cangelosi Orioles
RHP Liaza Keegan	Dirtbags 17U
LHP Nathan Kilcrease	East Alabama
RHP Tyler Leach	Dirtbags
RHP Casey Lucchesse	Kentucky Legends
RHP Anthony Markham	Diamond Devils
RHP Ryan McCafferty	West Coast MVP
RHP Deck McGuire	All Star Baseball
RHP Chris Newell	East Cobb Cubs
RHP Tim Norton	NJ Twins

RHP Alex Pracher	Tri-State
RHP Kevin Quackenbush	All American Prospects
RHP Jon Ringenberg	Indiana Bulls Black
RHP Derek Sejnoha	All American Prospects
RHP Kyle Slate	Baseball U.
LHP Will Smith	EC Astros
LHP Trevor Stuckey	Houston Kyle Chapman
RHP Tyler Thornberg	Competitive Edge
LHP Matt Tomshaw	World Yacht Clippers

17U WWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -- TOP PLAYER PROSPECTS

Pitching prospects generally had the upper hand over position prospects at the 17U National Championship. That is true of quantity; it probably isn't as true with quality, however.

That's because East Cobb Astros OF-1B Jason Heyward put on a show the last few days of the championship and solidified his status as one of the premium talents in the 2007 class. Heyward had some back soreness early in the week which limited him a bit but quickly recovered. He hit a number of doubles and triples that showcased his surprising speed at 6-5, 225 lbs and made a diving catch and throw during extra innings in the Astros epic loss to the Nor Cal in the playoffs which displayed his athleticism and defensive ability. Not that there are many questions about his bat, but his liner off the right centerfield wall off a Kyle Blair 91 mph fastball was pretty impressive as well.

The prospect shortstop duo of John Tolisano and Nick Noonan played well in very positive ways. Tolisano, one of the top bats in the 2007 class, played very solidly on defense. Noonan, a slick fielding defender, showed off his growing bat speed and power potential.

The player who took the most out of the 17U championships, though, might have been OF Chris Epps. The left handed hitting Epps dominated top level pitching, including a home run off a 91 mph Brian Dupra fastball. He has one of the top throwing arms in the class and is an excellent defensive right fielder.

1. OF Jason Heyward (EC Astros): Showed he was a 5-tool talent and really elevated his game against better teams and better pitchers. No question about his being the top prospect at the event.
2. SS John Tolisano (All American Prospects): Didn't have a top event at the plate but showed very good consistency in the field, a closely watched part of his overall package.

3. SS Nick Noonan (ABD Bulldogs): Smooth and polished defensively; Noonan's bat has surprising pop and he showed it a number of times.
4. OF Chris Epps (EC Braves): No player jumped his stock as much as Epps; he had good at bats every time up and dominated top level, high velocity pitching.
5. C-1B Danny Rams (All American Prospects): Showed his top level power potential a number of times, although his glove raised some questions
6. CF Roderick Jones (Competitive Edge Dodgers): Big time football running back with big time baseball tools; impact speed and defensive ability and can swing the bat, too.
7. SS D.J. LeMahieu (South Florida Bandits): LeMahieu may tire of being called "tall and rangy", but his developing bat/power may make others forget everything else.
- 8./9. 3B Hunter Morris (EC Braves)/3B Josh Vitters (ABD Bulldogs): Both Morris and Vitters are big, strong power hitting third basemen. Morris hits from the left side, Vitters from the right side.
10. 1B Kevin Patterson (Cahaba Mudcats): His value could go up when he starts catching full-time; he can swing the bat with power.
11. OF Sequoyah Stonecipher (ABD Bulldogs): The power bat has been seen before; Stonecipher really impressed with his defense in centerfield.
12. SS Phil Gosselin (All Star Baseball): The physical tools are solid across the board and Gosselin really knows how to play. A high performance player.
13. SS/RHP Brooks Pinckard (TASBA Grays): Pinckard's tools will keep him as a primary shortstop. But he also threw 90-92 from a sidearm release point with nasty life.
14. OF Joey Manning (Team IBC): Raw skilled but has pro type of tools and a pro body, also throws 90 mph off the mound.
15. C Curtis Casali (South Florida Bandits): Most questions about Casali involve his offense but he had a very strong tournament at the plate.
16. OF Steve Brooks (South Florida Bandits): Same formula as Casali; had a nice tournament with the bat, which is what he needs.
17. SS Glen Johnson (Team IBC): Keeps getting better and better the more we see him; his game speed is much better than his workout speed.

18. IF Andrew Batton (TASBA Grays): A ball player who is a defensive whiz across the infield; can hit a bit, too.
19. 1B Austin Gallagher (All Star Baseball): Big League body with tons of raw power. He will get the scouts' attention when he runs on the field.
20. OF Cody Hawn (Knoxville Yard): Left handed hitter slammed a walk off home run won a playoff game, should hit plenty more long balls before he's done.
21. OF/RHP Jeremy Kerley (TASBA Grays): Outfield prospect with solid all around tools; opened eyes when he threw 92 mph off the mound.
22. OF/LHP Junior Gray (Xtra Innings): Super athlete at 5-8 who is a top CB prospect in football. Impact speed and is also a polished 86-88 mph southpaw.
23. SS/RHP J.C. Menna (NJ Twins): Multi-tooled infielder who also threw 91 mph off the mound.
24. OF Quincy Latimore (Dirtbags): A very good young hitter who projects to keep getting better as he gets stronger.
25. OF Ben Revere (Kentucky Legends): 5-9 centerfielder with plus speed, plus skills. Showed off his bat speed with two home runs.
26. C Edmund Sparks (OTC Bearcats)
27. CF Demetrius Washington (5 Tool Red)
28. OF Jose Rodriguez (Midwest Blazers)
29. 1B Aaron Westlake (Nor Cal)
30. SS Whit Merrifield (South Charlotte Panthers)
31. OF Joey Hage (All American Prospects)
32. SS Drew Cumberland (Dynamic Elite)
33. OF Johnny Dishon (SE Texas Sun Devils)
34. SS/RHP Marc Zecchino (Tri-State)
35. IF/RHP Jordan Lucas (EC Braves)
36. C Daniel Elorriaga-Matra (ABD Bulldogs)
37. C Shawn Zarraga (South Florida Bandits)
38. OF Israel Troupe (5 Tool National Red)
39. OF David Laufer (NJ Twins)
40. OF Yoandy Barosso (All American Prospects)
41. OF/LHP Caleb Grindl (Dynamic Elite)
42. SS Rafael Garcia (Cangelosi Orioles)
43. OF Kelvin Clark (EC Braves)
44. C Wes Caldwell (Kentucky Legends)
45. OF Eric Eiland (Houston Kyle Chapman)
46. 2B Nikko Echevarria (TASBA Grays)
47. SS A.J. Rusbarsky (NJ Super 17)

- 48. SS Derek Boliek (Charlotte Heat)
- 49. C Jeremy Clouse (ABC Blue)
- 50. OF Mark Canha (Nor Cal)

ALSO

OF George Agyapong-Mensah	Ontario Blue Jays
SS Dixon Anderson	EJ Sports
OF Reid Chenworth	Maryland Mavericks
OF Jeff Eubanks	All American Prospects
SS Cortland Herbert	Louisiana Elite
OF J.D. Hulse	East Cobb Rebels
SS Dave Koziricka	Mid Atlantic All Stars
C Bob Kral	Field 1 Blue Sox
SS Jason Langfels	Kentucky Legends
OF Michael LeGrange	Louisiana Elite
OF D.J. Leonard	All American Prospects
1B David Mailman	Dirtbags
1B Relly Mercurio	Bellaire
OF Nicholas Natale	NJ Twins
OF Tony Renteria	So Cal Wave
3B Sam Roberts	Richmond Braves
SS Jordan Root	Kentucky
IF Matt Sorrell	Orlando Baseball Academy
C Ian Tomkins	Cahaba Mudcats

17U WWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -- TOP UNDERCLASS PROSPECTS

** 2008 Prospects unless noted

1. RHP Michael Palazonne (EC Astros): Dominant in his one appearance, with a 91 mph fastball and killer downer curveball. The mechanics that seemed awkward before from straight overhand seem less stressed now.
2. LHP/OF Robbie Ross (Kentucky Legends): Listed as a primary outfielder and very athletic, but his pitching talent should soon surpass that. 88-90 mph with the whole package.
3. RHP/SS Kevin Eichhorn (Nor Cal Blast): A complete baseball player as a pitcher and shortstop. Likely the most polished player in the 2008 class. Son of former ML RHP Mark Eichhorn.

4. RHP/3B Zach Cox (Louisville Lumberjacks): Threw up to 92 mph and did it easily. 3B build and a high level of athleticism as a position prospect.
5. SS Tim Beckham (Atlanta Blue Jays): A well above average athlete who can play the middle infield and could develop into a 5-tool type prospect.
6. LHP Hunter Cervenka (SE Texas Sun Devils): Polished and athletic with a mature approach to pitching; fastball is very steady at 88-89 mph with a very good curveball.
7. OF Matt Marquis (NJ Super 17): One of the top hitters in the 2008 class; shows enormous power potential and makes consistent hard contact.
8. LHP Nick Maronde (Kentucky Legends): Difficult to separate from his teammate Robbie Ross, Maronde's mound talents are at the same level. Dominant raw stuff.
9. OF/LHP Jay Austin (EC Astros, *2009): A true two-way phenom who ranks this high both ways. Plus, plus speed with good hitting ability and touches 90 mph with raw pitching skills.
10. SS Garrison Lassiter (Dirtbags): Excellent athletic build at 6-2, 180 lbs with smooth middle infield actions. Being a left handed hitter is a plus.
11. 1B Chase Davidson (EC Astros): 6-5, 220 with excellent left handed power. Does a very good job of staying inside pitches.
12. 3B/RHP Ethan Martin (EC Astros): Acclaimed QB prospect is also a two-way baseball prospect. Threw 91 mph off the mound but also is an athletic 3B with power potential.
13. RHP/3B Michael Goodnight (Houston Kyle Chapman): Pro profile pitcher's body and a fastball that's already reaching the upper 80's.
14. RHP/3B Chase Daniel (Houston Sox): Same profile about as Goodnight above, but a little more physical and mature. Also hits with power as a third baseman.
15. 2B Tyler Hanover (Dirtbags): What he lacks in size (5-6) he makes up for in skills and determination. On base machine (23 times in 10 games) who is the centerpiece in every game he plays.
16. LHP Brad Dydalewicz (TASBA Grays): Has done a good job calming down his delivery since being the top prospect at the 2005 South Underclass. Upper 80's fastball.
17. RHP Quinton Miller (Tri-State): Polished right hander with an upper 80's fastball and very solid curveball/change up. We've seen him up to 92 in the past.

18. RHP Sean Bouthillette (Kentucky Legends): Tall and very slender and is already in the upper 80's with lots of room to grow and get stronger.
19. IF Rolando Gomez (All American Prospects): Named the Most Valuable Player of the 17U's, can play all 3 infield positions with skill and has a polished bat with surprising power.
20. OF Wes Freeman (Team IBC): Big, physical outfielder who has top of the line tools and improving skills. High ceiling power prospect.
21. SS Raiko Alfonso (PG Southeast)
22. RHP Matt Sisto (ABD Bulldogs '08)
23. LHP Brett DeVall (EC Astros)
24. 3B Abraham Ruiz (Nor Cal Blast)
25. LHP Adam Morgan (EC Astros)
26. LHP Steve Gruver (Midland Braves)
27. OF Joey Belviso (PG Southeast)
28. RHP Carr Churchill (EC Titans)
29. RHP Matt Lackie (DBAT)
30. RHP Alex Sherrod (EC Astros)
31. OF Ethan Cunningham (DBAT)
32. SS Andrew Biancardi (Nor Cal Blast)
33. RHP Greg Larson (Orlando Scorpions)
34. LHP Grayson Garvin (EC Astros)
35. C Taylor Hightower (EC Astros)
36. SS Jason Stoltz (EC Astros)
37. RHP Buck Farmer (Ocee Stars, *2009)
38. 3B Jack Posey (5 Tool National Red, * 2009)
39. IF David Wright (Dallas Panthers)
40. RHP Scott Levine (X-Team)

ALSO

RHP Greg Conver	All American Prospects
OF/RHP Jordan Craft	Striker Baseball
LHP Roman Fondon	All American Prospects
RHP Matt Peterson	East Cobb Titans