

To whom it may concern:

I'm honored to be writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Jace Smith. I have had the privilege of working with Jace for the past 3 years as his pitching coach with SW Sticks Baseball here in Arizona. After pitching 15 years professionally at the Major League Level it has been a pleasure to pass on a few nuggets I've learned throughout my career to young players like Jace.

I would term Jace as a late bloomer. He's truly had to compete and earn everything he's achieved. Though Jace was not our best pitcher at the time, he was a quick learner and extremely eager to develop as a pitcher. Originally Jace played 3rd and 1st base for our team while developing as a pitcher. As I watched him mature physically, increasing arm strength, his pitch-ability, and growing to over 6-1, it became clear to me that Jace's talents in baseball would be best used on the mound where his arm and competitive mindset could flourish.

Though Jace played several positions for our team, his effort, determination, and leadership on the mound has been invaluable to our success. He's applied himself in the weight room and practice, going from a mechanically challenged young pitcher with average velocity to an absolute bulldog with a nasty breaking ball a great feel for pitching and knows how to handle himself on the mound. He's now one of our top starters sitting in the mid to upper 80's, overpowering hitters and never backs down in any situation. Jace always wants the ball in the biggest game and always eager to compete against the best talent across the country. He's come a long way from the quiet unassuming kid I first met to now. And without a doubt, one of the most coachable and hard working players that I've had the opportunity to work with. When other players took days off, no matter how far the drive, or time of day, Jace is always ready to practice and get better.

A few traits that I've personally seen displayed on and off the baseball field by Jace Smith:

- work ethic
- humble
- self motivated
- focused
- coachable
- dedicated
- very competitive
- self confident
- unfettered
- close to his family
- loyal and credible
- a great teammate
- loves the game

Jace shows great aptitude for pitch development and instruction when making mechanical adjustments. Just a few qualities that will only enhance as he continues to mature into the exceptional young man he is.

Please accept this letter of recommendation as my personal views of Jace Smith as a player and as a person, his commitment to his family, team, and his friends. It has been an honor to be part of Jace's baseball journey and I cannot wait to see what he accomplishes in the future.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmidt

SW Sticks Pitching Coach

15 Year MLB Veteran (SP)

Braves, Pirates, Giants, Dodgers