

GOLDEN
SPIKES
BASEBALL

March 19, 2024

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation for Declan Gonge. Over the past three years I have had the pleasure of coaching/watching Declan at Golden Spikes Baseball. During this time I have had many chances to spend time with him and see him interact in many different settings and situations. As a result of this interaction with Declan, I have gained the utmost respect for him, not only as an athlete, but as a responsible teenager working hard to make the best version of himself.

As a player in our program, I have had the opportunity to watch Declan put his work ethic into action. He doesn't stop until he is satisfied with his performance. He is a self-motivated individual who doesn't need a coach to tell him what he needs to do. He also is a very knowledgeable person. He seeks out answers to questions that he has, and is always wanting to learn more.

One of the things I've enjoyed the most about watching Declan, is his ability to be a leader. He possesses a trait that is tough to find in young people and that is the ability to be vocal. His enthusiasm not only during game settings, but just anywhere is infectious.

On the field Declan is an outstanding player. He possesses many strengths that scouts are looking for. He hits for power and makes solid barrel contact with high amount of consistency. Behind the plate as a catcher, he has a plus arm and has tons of range for blocking. His receiving skills are top notch as well with his smooth hands. For a catcher, he runs pretty fast.

I think very highly of Declan. I think he is an outstanding student, athlete, and person. As a former professional baseball player who made it to the Major Leagues, I cannot recommend Declan enough to any university that is interested in him. He will definitely help whatever school is lucky enough to get him.

Sincerely,

Bret Hemphill
Owner, Golden Spikes Baseball