

## Authentic Athlete Assessment Sheet

**Player Age:** 14

**Level of Play:** 14U

**Position:** SS/CF/P

Tate's evaluation considers both how he performs compared to peers his age and how his skills align with high school varsity standards. Since he's currently playing high school baseball and aiming to make a varsity roster next year, that context is important. While comparisons to older, more experienced players help provide perspective, it's worth remembering that Tate is still an 8th grader with significant room to grow. The numerical grades included reflect how his current skills align with varsity-level expectations.

### Eye Test:

1      2      3      4      5

### Notes:

A little lean for his age but athletic. Should fill out as time goes on. Pending how elite he wants to be, he would really benefit from 15 - 20+ lbs by high school tryouts next year. Most college players that are relative to his size 5'10" - 6'1" aim to be around 200 lbs give or take. He obviously has 4+ years to get to that weight but would make sense for him to chunk this out over time. Some of which he will naturally gain as he grows and matures.

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### Preparation / Readiness:

1      2      3      4      5

### Notes:

Had all his gear, uniforms, etc... (We will pretend we didn't hear the grip tape comment)  
Approached his warm-ups like a high school varsity player. In a tough environment at the JV level where many kids are not as serious about baseball, I was impressed that he stuck to what seemed to be a routine. His one area for improvement in this might be around his band work but will not know for sure, until speaking with him.

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### Warm-Ups / Catch Play

1      2      3      4      5

#### Notes:

Similar to his dynamic warm-up, he played catch with intent. Looked like a high school varsity player. Threw every ball with purpose. Love how he extended it and played long toss. May have extended a little too far, as the mechanics started to really break down when he was two hopping balls to his throwing partner. Given the lack of infield/outfield routine, might make sense for him to simulate some footwork with throws as he winds down catch play. Decent bounce to his step in infield/outfield. The routine is out of his control. Pending the program, the pace of the I/O could be an adjustment for him.

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#### Hitting:

1      2      3      4      5

#### Notes:

Solid swing with what appears to be a good approach at the plate. Aggressive with strikes early in the count.. Great piece of hitting, driving the ball to right center in 1st AB of NEB game. Was a little out front but kept the hands back and got the job done. Slightly advanced hitter for 14U baseball. Ball comes off the bat pretty hard, relative to age group.

Strength will be a factor at the varsity level. In order to contribute and be successful on a solid varsity team next year, strength would have to improve. Generally the mechanics would play but probably would be overmatched by varsity level pitching. He will likely continue to have success at age appropriate baseball. With that said he will be going from 14U - 18U baseball next year in high school. That's a big jump. Good mechanics can only get you so far with that much of an age gap between players.

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#### Fielding:

1      2      3      4      5

#### Notes:

Solid fielder for 14U. Glovework was pretty good. Has a good sense of what the footwork should look like. Relative to his age he is above average. In relation to a varsity player, he could benefit

from moving quicker both laterally and vertically. A little robotic with the transition to throwing when fielding a ground ball. The steps are a little big. On the slow roller when playing third, that play should probably be made on the run to give himself a chance. Not a set your feet and throw play. Pending the coaching he has received, it may have been ingrained in his head that he has to set his feet on every throw. Ultimately, improving his agility and keeping his feet low to the ground will help. Again, for his age he's above average. For a high level varsity player he lacks polish. Assuming a steady trajectory and not a completely concentrated effort he will develop this over the next couple of years. If he wants it to happen sooner, increase the # of reps he takes. Beyond the look, most important is that he makes the routine play, which he has done the games I have been at.

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### **Throwing:**

1      2      3      4      5

### **Notes:**

Arm action is a little long and unorthodox for an infielder. Would imagine some of this is related to lack of strength. Looks like he is putting everything he's got into getting it there. Throws are accurate though which is most important. Arm strength relative to most 14U players is above average. Relative to varsity players it would be around average. Probably would not play SS on a competitive varsity team next year with that arm.

For 14U his pitching is above average. Throws a fair amount of strikes and challenges hitters. Again, throwing action is a little unorthodox and over the top. That kind of release will probably lead to a flatter ball and could result in him getting hit around with more advanced hitters. At this stage it's difficult to say whether or not he projects as a pitcher. Based upon my conversations with Ned about Tate's likes, I'd say he pitches because he's a competitive athlete. I don't know that I would spend too much of my development time on it at this stage.

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**Baserunning:**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Average to slightly above average speed for a 14U player. Needs to have more awareness of where the ball is. Hit a ground ball in the jv game that got through the infield and he didn't appear to know until he hit 1st. Didn't have an aggressive turn in the NEB game as well. Did a crossover step with his lead from first and stopped early in the NEB game. Would avoid that moving forward. Overall an average baserunner right now. With better anticipation and awareness on the base paths he could have a greater impact on a game and manufacture runs for his team. Given his build, would imagine he will be fast down the road.

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**Baseball IQ:**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Generally speaking has a strong understanding of the game. Above average for his age. Noticed he was helping his second baseman between innings with some glovework/footwork pointers. With regards to the game itself, I think he will eventually have a very high baseball IQ but he is still very early in his career. Small nuances will come, as he is taught them. Things like covering bags pitch to pitch, shifting on hitters, taking control of pitcher looks, pick-offs, etc...

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**Emotional Control / Attitude**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Very positive demeanor. Doesn't seem to let adversity get the best of him. Quiet confidence and great emotional control. This is not very common in middle school and high school players. Seems to have a good understanding, that failure is part of the game. Not always talked about but this will have a significant impact on performance as he climbs the ranks.

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**Teammate:**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Picks up his teammates and seems to be well liked. Has great leadership potential. Despite only being an 8th grader, his teammates seem to have identified him as their leader and he carries himself as such. You could tell this from the jump in dynamic warm-ups.

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**Coachability:**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Not really a lot for me to go off here. Don't think there was much coaching done at the JV level and Reynolds is a pretty quiet guy himself. Given his emotional control and how teammates respect him, I would be surprised if he wasn't coachable.

**Athleticism:**

1      2      3      4      5

**Notes:**

Pretty athletic and just lacks strength and power. Good news is, he has plenty of time! His awkwardness is a matter of growing into his body and reps. Generally speaking, he appears to know how to move and what it should relatively look like. Compared to 14U players he's above average. Relative to varsity players average.

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## Competitiveness:

1      2      3      4      5

## Notes:

You can tell he likes to compete and he likes to win. Seems like the kind of kid that wants the ball or the bat in his hand with the game on the line. Not a rah rah guy but doesn't have to be. You can tell by the way he carries himself, he's going to give you everything he's got and doesn't shy away from anything. Despite that the curve ball was not really on in the JV game, I like that he had the confidence to keep trying. Closer score maybe he wouldn't have? But I give him credit for going at guys.

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## Summary

Tate is a developing athlete with a lean frame and with clear signs of upside on the diamond if he stays the course. As he continues to grow, adding 15 - 20 lbs over the next year would help prepare him for the demands of varsity-level baseball. His current build is typical for his age, but a steady increase in strength will be essential as he transitions from 14U to competing against 19U athletes in high school.

He carries himself with the presence and professionalism of an older player. His preparation and warm-up routines reflect intent and discipline. I especially admired his level of commitment to his routine in the JV environment where many players aren't as focused or driven. His throwing work—particularly his long toss—was done with purpose, though there was some mechanical breakdowns at max distance.

Defensively, Tate displays above-average tools for his age. His glovework is solid, and he demonstrates an understanding of proper footwork. Some movements, like his transitions from fielding to throwing and lateral quickness, could be more fluid, and there's room to improve his agility and shorten his throwing motion. His arm strength is above average for his age group, though below average compared to varsity shortstops. As he gets stronger, many of these mechanical quirks should clean up naturally.

At the plate, Tate is a slightly advanced hitter for his age. He shows a good approach, is aggressive in the zone early, and can drive the ball to all fields with some authority. He showed the ability to keep his hand back and drive the ball to opposite field on a pitch he got fooled on, which is a sign of a mature hitter, and the ball jumps off his bat relative to peers. He'll need to

continue building strength to handle varsity-level velocity, but his foundation is solid and repeatable.

As a pitcher, he competes well and throws strikes. His arm action is over-the-top and produces a flatter trajectory on the ball that may not translate well against more advanced hitters. It's a little too early to determine if pitching should be a long-term focus, especially since his competitiveness seems to drive that role more than specialized development.

On the bases, Tate is currently average in terms of speed and instincts. There were moments where better awareness could have helped him take extra bases or read balls in play more effectively. He possesses the ability to manufacture runs on the bases long term, he just needs some coaching on what that looks like.

Perhaps most impressively, Tate possesses intangibles that are rare for a player his age. He shows leadership by example, maintains a calm and confident demeanor, and doesn't let adversity affect his effort or body language. His teammates clearly respect him, and he carries himself like someone who genuinely wants to compete and win. While he's not overly vocal, his presence and commitment are evident in everything he does.

Overall, Tate is an above-average 14U player with a varsity-ready mindset and leadership qualities that set him apart. With continued reps, physical development, and a focus on refining his movements, he projects as a future impact player at the high school level and beyond.