

## Under Armour Top 10

*Prospects from the Preseason All-America Tournament*

February 3, 2009

Staff Report

TUCSON—At the spring training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago White Sox, Baseball Factory and Team One Baseball held the 2009 edition of the Under Armour Preseason All-America Tournament. The following reports are of the top 10 prospects for the 2009 draft class that attended the event. The scouting reports are courtesy of Baseball Factory.

**1. Jordan John, LHP. Ht.: 6-3. Wt.: 195, B-T: R-L. Class of: 2009. High School: Calallen High, Corpus Christi, Texas**

John, an Oklahoma signee, is a large-framed lefthander with a repeatable delivery and arm strength. His 85 to 87 mph fastball had excellent arm-side life at times. He also has a 76 mph changeup that he threw with solid arm speed and turned over a little. John threw two different breaking balls, both with tight spin: a downer type curveball with tilt was mostly around 72 mph, and he also showed the makings a quality slider that sat between 78 and 80 mph. He showed no real flaws, aside from a small stab out of the glove. With added size and strength, his stuff stands to make a jump. This combined with his clean delivery, quality secondary stuff and feel for pitching makes him an especially interesting draft prospect.

**2. Sam Selman, LHP. Ht.: 6-3. Wt.: 160. B-T: R-L. Class of: 2009. High School: St. Andrew's Episcopal High, Austin, Texas**

Selman is a lean, long-framed left hander with a live arm. His fastball reached 92 mph, and sat around 88 to 89 with excellent plane over his four innings of work. He can improve the sequence of his delivery, which should help him get his arm in front of him more consistently and help his command. His breaking ball was mostly around 70 mph, and had loopy, downward action with fair spin and depth. Selman signed with Vanderbilt University, and is likely considered a strong follow for most major league organizations leading up the draft in June.

**3. Ronnie Mitchell, OF. Ht.: 6-0. Wt.: 180. B-T: L-L. Class of: 2009. High School: Carroll High, Southlake, Texas**

Mitchell is an athletic young outfielder who can really swing the bat from the left side. He has plus bat speed through the hitting zone that translates into power to all fields. He is confident at the plate and has an advanced feel for hitting. He makes consistent hard contact and uses a slightly uphill plane to get his loft power. In the outfield, Ronnie shows good instincts and a plus throwing arm with on-line carry. A center fielder now, he profiles best as a run-producing right fielder at the next level.

**4. Carlos Leal, C. Ht.: 5-11. Wt.: 190, B-T: B-R. Class of: 2009. High School: San Ignacio de Loyola High, Guayanbo, P.R.**

Leal is a switch-hitting catcher with loads of speed and life in his actions, both defensively and with the bat. Though he is capable from both sides of the plate, his lefthanded plus bat speed and raw power are of particular interest. He has a very aggressive approach and is looking to swing the bat, at times to a fault. Behind the plate, he has soft hands and moves well to block. His arm is near major league average, and he checked in with pop times as low as 1.91 to second base. Leal recently signed with Mississippi State University.



**Jordan John**  
Top Senior Prospect at  
Under Armour Pre-Season  
All-America Tournament

**5. Breck Ashdown, 1B/RHP. Ht.: 6-4. Wt.: 215, B-T:L-R. Class of: 2009. High School: Catalina Foothills High, Tucson, Ariz.**

Ashdown is a legitimate two-way player who is committed to Oregon State next year. He has a lean 6-foot-4 frame that can handle more muscle in the future. He shows a smooth lefthanded stroke with leverage which results in hard contact and pull-side power. As his pitch recognition improves, he will continue to become a more complete hitter. He is a quality athlete at first base and also runs the bases well. On the mound, he flashes a high-80s fastball and a tight slider that he uses as an out pitch. His quick arm and power potential make him an intriguing follow this spring.

**6. Josh Dahl, RHP. Ht.: 6-0. Wt.: 200, B-T: R-R. Class of: 2009. High School: Deer Valley High, Glendale, Ariz.**

Dahl is a thick, strong righthander with a deceptive delivery and plus fastball. Some excess movement in his delivery leads to control issues at times, but his fastball has riding life and sits in the low 90s, touching 93 mph on several occasions. His curveball is more effective the harder he throws it, with some downer action to it. His changeup is still developing pitch and he uses sparingly. He profiles best as a two-pitch reliever on the professional side and has enough athleticism and ability as an outfielder that he may play both ways in college if he honors his commitment to Central Arizona next year.

**7. William Henderson, OF/RHP. Ht.: 5-11. Wt.: 170, B-T: R-R. Class of: 2009. High School: RS Central High, Rutherfordton, N.C.**

Henderson, a UNC Greensboro signee, ran 6.64 in the 60-yard dash and was among the best pure athletes at this event. His build is lean and athletic, and he showed a near major league average arm from the outfield. He flashed plus bat speed at the plate, and showed a level path with good barrel accuracy. He used his lower half well and rotated his hips well through contact, but needs to work to keep the barrel moving through contact a little better. All of the pieces of this young hitter are in place. On the mound, he attacked the zone with a fastball up to 84 mph and a slurvy breaking ball. Though his arm worked loose and live, he projects best as position player at the collegiate level and beyond.

**8. Casey Upperman, RHP. Ht.: 6-0. Wt.: 175. B-T: R-R. Class of: 2009. High School: Notre Dame Prep, Phoenix, Ariz.**

Upperman is an average-sized righthander with a clean delivery and quick arm. He pitches most comfortably when his fastball sits in the high 80s with good downward plane and occasional tail, though we've seen him creep into the low 90s in the past. He throws a quality changeup that he keeps down in the zone with some sink and mixes in both a slider and curve that are pretty similar pitches with tight rotation and late break. He attacks the strike zone consistently and shows the ability to throw his fastball to both sides of the plate — traits that the University of Arizona hope to see next fall if he makes it on campus.

**9. Colby Holmes, RHP. Ht.: 5-11. Wt.: 190. B-T: R-R. Class of: 2009. High School: Conway (S.C.) HS.**

Holmes is a solid, sturdy righthander with a heavy fastball that he dialed up to 94 mph. His arm action was excellent—it worked loose from the glove and out front with speed and life. His delivery was smooth and repeatable, though he did show a slight tendency to get closed off to the target line, which led to some trouble. He threw a tight curve with late, hard break at times up to 77 mph. His changeup was up to 78 mph and was thrown with good arm speed and some feel. Holmes signed with the University of South Carolina, and projects as a closer or late-inning reliever professionally.

**10. Ali Knowles, OF/LHP. Ht.: 5-10. Wt.: 170, B-T: B-R. Class of: 2009. High School: Christ School, Arden, N.C.**

Knowles is a talented and capable two-way player that makes the game look easy. His combination of tools and playing skills sets him apart from the majority of players and makes him an especially attractive college prospect. His arm showed near major league average from the outfield, and he showed the ability to play all three outfield positions. At the plate he featured good balance, quick hands and a quiet approach. His move to contact was loose and easy. His righthanded approach was similar, though he appeared more comfortable from the left side. Knowles ran 7.12 in the 60-yard dash and got down the line in 4.4 seconds from the left side. He showed an 85 mph fastball and a 74 mph breaking ball with late slurvy bite and tight spin. In addition to a fair changeup, he showed feel to pitch along and the same easy actions he showed as a position player.