I am writing in regards to Tanner McKenzie, currently finishing up his freshman year at Combs High School in San Tan Valley, Arizona. I have known Tanner for about one year and coached him for that same period of time, through a short summer schedule, and then during a fall/winter baseball camp through the school.

Tanner has shown himself to love the game of baseball and has expressed a desire to play beyond the high school level. That is going to require continued hard work on the field and in the classroom. I have watched Tanner mature as this first year of high school has progressed. He is becoming a student who takes his work seriously, and who wants to be a leader in the classroom. He has made real strides toward those things and I am confident he will continue to do so.

Tanner has shown respect to his teammates and coaches, working hard to improve his baseball skills and interpersonal relationships. He is willing to make changes when coaches suggest them and is stepping up to fill a role soon to be abandoned by departing seniors. As a middle infielder, he will naturally be looked at as a leader on the team and I feel he is going to become the leader that coaches and teammates need him to be.

I am excited to watch this young man continue to mature, both physically and emotionally, and become everything he could be relative to the game of baseball.

Sincerely,

Rick Surls

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