Top 15 College Pitchers

The best college pitcher rankings are made up of several categories.

The hierarchy below shows the amount of weight each category and sub category was given to determine the ranking.

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| **Name** | **Handed** | **Rank** | **Ultimate Pitcher Rating** | **Movie** | **Comments** |
| Mel Clark | R | 1 | 21.99 | Angels in The Outfield | Clark makes sense as the top pitcher as he grades well as above average in the three major categories Velo(2) Spin(9) ext(13). He also has exceptional differences between FB to CH and FB to BRK. |
| Mickey Scales | R | 2 | 21.705 | Little Big League | Scales rates highly in all the major categories. He also has great vertical break on his pitches. |
| Hank Murphy | R | 3 | 20.05625 | Angels in The Outfield | Murphy is a solid prospect as he is in the top 5 of the three major categories. |
| Pete Klein | R | 4 | 20.005 | Trouble with the Curve? | Has good FB velo and extension but lacks ideal spin rate overall. |
| George Knox | L | 5 | 19.9025 | Angels in The Outfield | Is great in the three major groups. He lacks movement on his pitches and is one of the worst in speed variance. |
| Jim Bowers | L | 6 | 19.8975 | Little Big League | Might be a undervalued pick. Rated as the 6th overall best pitcher with no CH data. |
| Ben Williams | L | 7 | 19.5275 | Angels in The Outfield | Has good FB velo but needs to improve extension. |
| Roger Bomman | R | 8 | 18.4175 | Angels in The Outfield | Bomman is above average at most. If he could improve spin rate he would jump up the board. |
| Ken Strout | R | 9 | 18.1625 | For the Love of the Game? | Could also be an undervalued pitcher. Has great spin rate on all his pitches. He lacks elite velo. |
| Jack Bradfield | R | 10 | 17.71 | Rookie of the Year | Has the best fastball velo in the draft. Falls off on extension. He also doesn’t have a big gap between his FB and CH. |
| Lou Collins | L | 11 | 17.34 | Little Big League | Has good spin rate. Great at velo differences and movement on pitches. |
| Roger Dorn | L | 12 | 17.17125 | Major League | He is also 12th in spin rate and 12th in extension. |
| Mickey Hart | R | 13 | 16.13875 | For the Love of the Game? | Hart has good extension and spin rate. |
| Jake Taylor | R | 14 | 16.0925 | Major League | Best extension in the group. |
| Terrence Mann | R | 15 | 14.72875 | Field of Dreams | Great outside of the big three categories. |

Velocity is comprised of 90% current results and 10% potential. The best pitch to evaluate overall velocity is a fastball. I eliminated other pitches as looking at the average of all would include pitches that are intended to be slower. I set the weights heavily to current performance (average) because these are college prospects. We expect them to perform sooner rather than later. If we were evaluating younger pitchers, I would weigh potential (max) as there is more room for upside through strength, mechanics, and age.

Spin Rate was almost equal across the three pitches with a slight heaver weight to breaking balls. Being college prospects, I only want to see ready to draft pitchers. Breaking balls can take time to develop and for older prospects I want to see ready to preform breaking balls. Spin Rate overall got the highest weight because spin rate can be an indicator of future success.

I gave fastball extension a slightly greater weight as I thought as the most commonly thrown pitch in the majors, the closer delivered to the plate can be an indication of superior mechanics. It can also indicate less wear on the pitchers’ arm as the closer released the less force is needed to reach the plate. Also, pitchers with a greater extension have a greater perceived velocity.

For break horizontal and vertical I gave a higher weight to breaking balls. Once again, I believe that college pitchers should be evaluated harder on breaking balls as it is the harder of the three pitches to teach and work on.

I gave weights to changes off fastballs for breaking balls and changeups because speed variation is an underrated weapon pitcher have in throwing off batters timing. I wanted to give a boost to pitchers that can variety speeds as well as punish those who can’t.

Last I assigned a small weight to left handers. Left handed pitchers only make up 39% of all pitchers in the MLB. They are still a commodity to be had as managers still play left-right match ups.

If I were to continue with this project, I would want to know some more categories such as, pitcher height, age, plate height, plate slide. I would want to evaluate some accuracy as part of the analysis.

**Velocity Leaderboard**

I have described above how the ranking was broken down. I thought the best way to construct all these leaderboards was through a subjective weighting for a list. Theoretically I could have just taken the average of all velocities of all pitches, grouped them, ranked them, and handed in that list When we want to know who has the “best velocity” we are asking a subjective question on the person who is assigning the rank. As a member of the Kansas City Royals Amateur scouting I focused on specific characteristics I would want to see in a college pitcher. Velocity wise I want to see a fastball that is major league ready. Like I mentioned above I would have multiple leaderboards depending on the group of prospects I am looking at. I expect to see consistency in fastball velocity from a ready to draft college draft pick.

**Spin Rate Leaderboard**

I gave the slight bump in importance for the breaking balls as I think if we draft a college kid he should have a plus breaking ball on draft day. With high schoolers we get an extra 3 - 4 years to develop a secondary pitch. With College pitchers we draft them to make a impact at the major league level within the first 2-3 years. In my experience as a coach teaching a breaking ball is the hardest to do and takes the longest to develop. I wanted to rate guys who spin rate was already superior as higher values pitchers in the draft. Also spin rate is a strong indicator of better swing and miss stuff. With the game the way it is currently I would want pitchers that produce better swing and miss pitches.

**Extension Leaderboard**

For this leaderboard there is practically equal among the three pitches in terms of weight. The reason I separated out the three pitches as I know extension on breaking balls can be less than fastballs or changeups. I like extension as a category of evaluation as the closer you can release the ball to the plate the less the ball has to travel. This shows great mechanics by landing as forward as you can. It could also indicate a higher perceived velocity. This means the ball appears to be traveling faster than it is because the hitter has less time to react to the pitch.