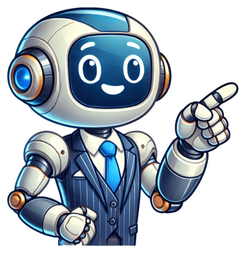
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Given article text hereBecame the best prospect in their system, with a clear path to the big leagues. Power and patience are key for Kurtz, who walked as much as any college hitter while hitting 61 home runs over three seasons; more than half of his hits went for extra bases. He can be passive at times and may strike out more due to deep counts, but he's not bad at contact and should get on base often. Athletic for his size, the A's gave him a chance in the outfield during the Arizona Fall League, offering hope for positional versatility. His biggest concern is staying healthy, having missed time in college and his pro debut last year.Caglianone has unmatched power potential in the class. He made progress at the plate in his draft year, but concerns about his free-swinging nature could undermine those gains. When he's fooled or gets a good pitch, he can exceed 110 mph exit velocities and push to the top of Statcast leaderboards. In the second half of the AFL season, he became more selective, which should help him tap into his high offensive upside.Condon has great potential but struggled in his pro debut with whiffs and difficulty getting into rhythm. He's a power hitter who needs adjustments to make the most of his abilities. On the plus side, he offers double-plus raw power and handles velocity well. If he can adjust his swing or maintain his college plate discipline, he could be a quality power bat.Smith edges out Burns as a fantasy prospect due to his unique combination of fastball and slider pitches. His mid-90s fastball generates elite whiffs thanks to its ride and run from an unusual release. Opponents struggle against his fastball, with lefties barely hitting .100 against it.Given article text here Smith's slider is comparable to Carlos Rodon's, featuring two plane breaks in the mid-80s. Among 500 sliders tracked in 2024, batters hit around .100 against this pitch with a 25% swinging strike rate. While concerns exist regarding his third pitch, Smith's two lead offerings are likely dominant enough to carry him, although they may not need to be. With Brian Bannister involved and Smith making strides with his changeup, the potential for a more complete arsenal is promising.Burns' strengths lie in his ability to rack up innings while maintaining velocity deep into starts. Standing 6-foot-4, 210 pounds, he possesses a sturdy frame that contributes to his effectiveness. Despite sitting in the upper 90s, Burns fills the strike zone well, with a 7.5% walk rate in college. However, his fastball was hit hard during his draft year, with opponents posting an OPS of .960.Burns' slider is arguably the best pitch in the draft, featuring a downward bite that plays up from his release point. His curveball can sometimes blend with the slider, but it's a quality third offering. The home run issue may persist at the pro level, but Hunter Greene's experience provides a template for success.Montgomery offers rare power potential as a switch-hitter, making a significant leap in 90th percentile exit velocity during his transition from the PAC-12 to the SEC. While his bat speed is plus and he trimmed his strikeout rate, his hit tool may not be elite, requiring development of pitch recognition and swing decisions.Griffin is the toolsiest player in the class, boasting elite athleticism and arm strength. He projects as a plus defender at shortstop and center field but faces concerns regarding his hit tool due to an occasionally rushed swing. The Pirates will likely take their time with Griffin, but his power/speed combo makes him a tantalizing prospect.Rainer and Griffin are the top prep hitters in the draft, with Rainer potentially being more refined offensively. While Griffin is more explosive, Rainer's refinement may give him an edge.He still has questions about his hitting tools, but Rainer is a smooth defender with a plus arm who could stick at shortstop and already shows exit velocities as high as 111 mph. He has an advanced feel for the strike zone and power to come. Caldwell makes up for his lack of size with twitchy movements and an advanced feel for the game, using his quick and compact swing to get to tough pitches. He projects for 15 homers and plenty of doubles. Benge is a two-way prospect who excelled offensively and could stick at shortstop or second base. He has whippy bat speed and patience at the plate but may need to refine his swing. Gillen's polished offense and patient approach make him a strong pick, despite some injury concerns. Payne is an underslot pick with great feel for the strike zone and good hand-eye coordination, showing potential as he develops physically. Sloan has advanced prep arm skills with smooth mechanics and three quality offerings, including a plus slider. King has loud tools but tends to put the ball on the ground; he comes with some risk but has high upside.Scouting reports suggest that Waldschmidt's combination of above-average speed and power potential makes him an intriguing prospect. His patient approach at the plate bolsters his offense, but he tends to overemphasize pull-side lift, which could be a concern against tougher competition. Despite this, Waldschmidt's impressive batted ball data is hard to argue with. Health concerns caused Yesavage to slip in the draft, but if he remains healthy, he has the talent to quickly rise through the minor leagues. His splitter is an exceptional pitch, and his slider took a step forward in 2024, projecting as above-average.Cijntje's unique aspect is being a switch-pitcher who may eventually settle into a right-handed role, where his stuff looks more natural. His fastball has a desirable ride at the top of the zone, and both breaking balls have flashed exceptional potential. Although younger than many collegiate arms, Cijntje's development in a favorable environment makes him an exciting prospect.Burkholder was a priority for the Phillies due to his exceptional athleticism and power projection. Caminiti stands out as one of the best lefty prep arms in the class, with a fastball that should aid in his transition to pro ball. His changeup is expected to be effective off this pitch, and the positive trend of his slider suggests he can develop a well-rounded arsenal.Sanford has a strong chance of sticking at shortstop, accompanied by impressive wheels and decent contact skills from the left side. While power projection may not be significant, his complementary tools make him a potential everyday shortstop. Morlando's draft stock increased due to improved athleticism and swing mechanics, projecting above-average power. However, it remains uncertain if these adjustments will lead to more consistent contact as a pro.Mayfield, an older high school prospect, boasts polish and command of three pitches for a strike. His fastball has reached 92-94 mph with potential for further growth. Both his slider and changeup have flashed exceptional ability. At 6-foot-4, 190 pounds, Mayfield may still develop more velocity as he matures.Lindsey was the fastest player in the draft, impressing scouts with rapid development after focusing solely on baseball. He's a work-in-progress with a swing needing refinement, but natural ability is evident. Sterling, another prep arm ahead of his years, earned praise for polish and an advanced feel for a changeup. His heavy fastball and 6-foot-5, 200-pound frame make him a notable prospect.Given article text here**Top Prospects Update: Top 500 Dynasty Rankings**The latest update to the top prospects list has been released, featuring 2025 draft prep for dynasty rankings. The list includes players from various teams and positions, with notable risers and fallers.Some of the biggest movers up the ranks include:* Malcolm Moore (C), Dylan Dreiling (OF), and Jared Thomas (OF/1B)* Kash Mayfield (LHP), Kellon Lindsey (SS), and Elian Pena (SS)Notable players who have fallen in the rankings include:* PJ Morlando (OF), Ben Hess (RHP), and Jackson Kent (LHP)* Dakota Jordan (OF), Walker Janek (C/UT), and Dorian Soto (SS)This update is part of a larger effort to provide fantasy baseball enthusiasts with comprehensive draft prep tools. The list includes players from all levels, from DSL to the major leagues.**About the Author**Follow the author on X (@ProspectsOnWes) for more updates and insights on top prospects and dynasty rankings.**About Fantrax**Fantrax is a leading fantasy sports platform that offers customizable, easy-to-use tools for dynasty, keeper, redraft, and best ball leagues.doesnt sleep, and neither does Fantrax, with seasons running 365 days a year. Take your fantasy leagues to the next level now at Fantrax.com! Eric Cross reveals his top 50 fantasy baseball prospect rankings for 2025 first-year player drafts (FYPD). MLB prospect rankings for fantasy baseball dynasty leagues. The offseason is in full swing, and we're approaching the heart of draft season for dynasty leagues. This time of year is always exciting as we get to add new players to our teams and try to improve them for the future. Approach your draft differently depending on your contention window. If you're a win-now or win-soon team, advanced collegiate bats or arms might be more appealing. But if you're in rebuild mode, you might opt for a toolsy high school player with potential to blossom into a high-impact fantasy player. Below are Eric Cross' Top 50 FYPD rankings, combining the 2024 Major League draft class and the 2025 international class, led by Roki Sasaki. For the full rankings, check out Eric's Patreon. Also, read Chris Clegg's article on RotoBaller outlining his favorite FYPD targets! Be sure to explore our fantasy baseball lineup tools and resources:FYPD draft rankings notes suggest Roki Sasaki should be the top pick due to his instant impact on fantasy teams. His 2023 performance, including a 2.35 ERA and 28.7% strikeout rate, is hard to ignore despite some concerns over declining velocity. Even with reduced innings in 2025, Sasaki could still provide elite starting pitcher value.Konnor Griffin stands out for his impressive all-around skills, including elite speed and defensive range. His power upside at the plate is significant, but there are questions about how well he'll hit against more advanced pitching.Charlie Condon's stock has dropped following a mediocre stint in minor leagues, but two standout collegiate seasons can't be ignored. He displayed an elite mix of hitting and power, making him a middle-of-the-order force with potential.Vance Honeycutt is a polarizing prospect due to his all-around skills, including above-average defense and offense. His plus speed and power bat make him a valuable asset for real-life baseball, but his fantasy value is harder to gauge.The 2025 FYPD draft class boasts several top prospects, with Roki Sasaki reigning supreme due to his immediate impact on fantasy teams.The hit tool is the one area where players are struggling to keep up this spring in FYPDs. Honeycutt's performance after the draft has raised some concerns with his .177 batting average and 42.9% strikeout rate. Yet, he possesses significant upside as an all-star caliber player with potential for over 20 home runs and 20 steals annually. The key will be whether he can hit consistently enough to reach that level. Being part of the Baltimore organization certainly improves his long-term prospects.International signings have garnered attention in recent years, but it's essential to temper expectations due to the unknown variables involved. This year's crop is intriguing, but it's unlikely anyone will match Leodalis De Vries' performance from last year. Targeting these players can be challenging, especially when there's so much uncertainty surrounding their potential.Historically, international prospects have shown varying degrees of success, with some like Jasson Dominguez flourishing while others, such as Robert Puason and Erick Pea, struggling to make an impact in the Major Leagues. It's essential to approach these signings with caution, focusing on those who demonstrate exceptional talent and potential.

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