

6/15/24

Barron Tanay

Silas High School

1202 N Orchard St, Tacoma, WA 98406

253-244-1164

atanay@tacoma.k12.wa.us

To Whom May Concern,

It is my distinct pleasure to write a letter of character and recommendation for Joe Duke. My name is Barron Tanay, and I am the Head Baseball Coach at Silas High School in Tacoma, Washington. Formerly a collegiate baseball player at Green River College, I have been coaching and managing at the youth select, high school, and men's league levels for the past decade. Over the couple of years that I have known Joe he has demonstrated a strong work ethic, commitment to his team, and a joyous personality. This is why I can confidently say he would be a dedicated student-athlete who leads by example and will be an asset to any future team he is a part of.

Joe has been in the Silas Baseball program for three years running and has been a contributing Varsity member for each of the past two seasons. Including earning PCL First Team during his Junior year, where he had a .258 batting average on 17 hits, a .354 on-base percentage, scored 12 runs, and lead our team with 23 runs batted in. On the mound Joe also found success, as he pitched 16 1/3 innings with a 3.00 earned run average. He had a 3-0 record with one save. The steady production on both sides of the ball, paired with a passion to compete, has helped deliver Silas to a second consecutive State Tournament appearance.

Exhibiting a commitment to growth, Joe has improved steadily every year. So far, he has shown improvement both physically and through his performance. He has increased both his explosiveness and arm strength, which has allowed him to be a steady defender who became our everyday second baseman. These physical gains, along with some added maturity, have shaped Joe into a confident hitter who trusts that he can get the job done. This was proven by him being one of our leading hitters and coming up with many clutch hits over the season.

From my perspective, Joe is one of those people that you *want* to coach. He listens diligently, does his best to apply instruction, and is willing to ask questions or have a conversation to broaden his understanding. Whenever there are coaching moments in a game, Joe doesn't take the lessons personally and makes the effort to grasp and execute the concepts immediately. While he can get a bit worked up at times, it comes from a place of care and competitive passion, and that never boils over into destructive habits or becomes toxic for the dugout. Joe may not be the most vocal leader, but he guides others through his practice habits, energy, and willingness to do whatever is necessary for team success.

His dedication to baseball goes beyond high school, as Joe has spent his summers playing for reputable select organizations. The past two years he has been involved with the Prospect United program and prior to that he played for New Level Baseball. Both of which compete at a high level and include top coaching and training opportunities. Joe has also spent training hours with former professional player Peter Maris, who has helped to refine his swing and fielding ability. With the time

and energy Joe puts into his craft, it is obvious that he cares and is dedicated to becoming a better player, both for himself and his teams.

Off the field Joe spends his free time with self-improvement activities. He is currently employed at Cheney Stadium, further demonstrating his emphasis on hard work. Beyond that he enjoys weight-lifting, playing all types of sports, and hanging out with his friends and family.

Joe has made it a goal to play baseball in college. From my experience coaching him, I have zero doubts that he has the skills to make this happen and would be a valuable team member wherever he goes. He works hard, takes instruction well, and is a good teammate. If you have any questions about Joe or would like to discuss his qualifications further, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Barron Tanay
Silas High School
Head Baseball Coach