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HIGHLIGHTS

TOP-RANKED PITCHING PROSPECT:

TAPLIN EVERETTE IS THE NO. 1 RANKED LEFT-HANDED PITCHER IN UTAH FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 AND HOLDS HIS SCHOOL'S SINGLE-SEASON STRIKEOUT RECORD (52 STRIKEOUTS IN 37.2 INNINGS).

ELITE STUDENT-ATHLETE:

BALANCING BASEBALL AND ACADEMICS, EVERETTE MAINTAINS A 3.95 GPA AND IS ON TRACK TO GRADUATE WITH AN IB AND AP DIPLOMA.

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED:

WITH ASPIRATIONS TO PLAY COLLEGE BASEBALL, EVERETTE IS SEEKING A PROGRAM THAT WILL CHALLENGE HIM ATHLETICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY, WHILE PREPARING HIM FOR A LONG-TERM CAREER IN AND AROUND BASEBALL.

As he enters his junior season at West High School, 16-year-old left-handed pitcher Taplin Everette is poised to take on a larger role for his team. With a clear vision and unwavering determination, Everette aims to make two weekly starts and is confident in his ability to do so.

"I'm ready to do that," he said with conviction.

The numbers back him up. Coming off an impressive sophomore season, Everette set his school's single-season strikeout record, solidifying him as one of Utah's top pitching prospects. Currently ranked as the No. 1 left-handed pitcher in state for the Class of 2026, Everette credits his success to a tireless work ethic, disciplined training routine, and an unshakable mindset.

"In my mind, there's no 'you can't do this,'" he said. "It's always that you work hard and do it because you can. That mindset has helped me a lot."

Everette's rigorous training schedule reflects his commitment. During the regular season, he trains six days a week, balancing team practices, bullpen sessions, and live batting practices. Off the field, he follows a strict nutrition and recovery program guided by MLB experts working for RC13 Sports. He commits to maximizing his performance, as he understands that success starts with taking care of his body and continues to refine his preparation.

Everette's arsenal makes him a formidable presence on the mound. His fastball sits in the low 80s, complemented by a 74-mph changeup and a 70-mph slider with the break of a power curveball. His arm strength is 128% of his body weight and keeps getting stronger. His daily commitment to training his throwing arm and approach to recovery continues to give his pitches excellent movement and consistency.

While he also plays in the outfield, Everette's primary focus remains on the bump, where he thrives under pressure and prioritizes controlling critical points of the game within his power. Beyond baseball, Everette is equally committed to his academics with a 3.95 GPA - he is on track to graduate with an IB and AP diploma, demonstrating his ability to balance athletics and high-level academics.

"Education is huge for me," he said. "It opens doors and can give me opportunities a lot of kids might not have."

He plans to major in anthropology or archeology in college, searching for a program that fosters academic and athletic growth. When considering potential schools, Everette is looking for a program with a strong sense of community, a coaching staff that pushes him to improve, and an environment where he can continue developing on and off the field.

His deep understanding of his own body and mechanics set him apart, making him a must for recruiters. Working with Dr. Ryan Crotin, the founder and president of RC13, has helped Everette refine his training, increase his arm speed, and optimize his overall performance.

"I understand what I need from a performance aspect," he said, and Crotin believes Taplin's potential is limitless, as he has only been in the RC13 Sports system for less than 1 year.

Looking ahead, Everette hopes to continue playing baseball and ultimately, extend his career beyond college, staying involved in the game for as long as possible. With his drive, strong academics, and high-level pitching ability, he is on his way to making his visions a reality.

- Written by Haley Smilow, RC13 Content Creator & Writer