

## 2023 MLB Mock Draft Analysis: Rounds 10-20

By: Ethan Kagno

### *11th Round*

#### **316. Oakland Athletics (\$150,000) - Drew Conover, RHP, Rutgers ([Video](#))**

The Athletics took their second Scarlet Knight of the draft after teammate Ryan Lesko was selected 41st overall. Drew Conover was one of my favorite players in the middle rounds. The lanky 6-foot-5 righty had some serious stuff against top competition on the Cape in 2022. He was one of the more relied-on relievers in the Harwich bullpen, owning a 1.50 ERA, 0.83 WHIP, and .172 BAA in 18 IP for the Mariners.

While control issues were a constant concern while at Seton Hall and Rutgers, Conover has an elite fastball and slider that could turn him into a terrific reliever at the big league level. It's a high-90s heater out of the pen with tremendous run and a high spin slider with tons of life that sits in the mid-80s. Conover possesses whippy arm action from a lower arm slot and has success getting batters to swing and miss evidenced by his 11.3 K/9 rate throughout his collegiate career.

#### **317. Pittsburgh Pirates (\$197,500) - Magdiel Cotto, LHP, Kentucky ([Video](#))**

Cotto is a big-bodied Southpaw who isn't very overpowering with a low-mid 90s fastball but creates good deception with a sweeping slider and a low-80s changeup. He threw 27 innings on the Cape in 2022 and was among the best arms while being named starting pitcher in the league's all-star game.

He struggled with control issues (11.5 BB%) while in college at the University of Kentucky and was hit around quite a bit (1.64 WHIP). He reminds me of a slightly bigger Marc Rzepczynski who started out as a starter but moved to the pen early on in his career. Similar situation here for Cotto who should get multiple chances starting games in the lower levels to show what he's got but ultimately seems like a future bullpen arm. Albeit a small sample size, Cotto still owned a 13.0 K/9 rate in his last season with the Wildcats in 2023.

#### **329. Chicago White Sox (\$170,000) - Rikuu Nishida, 2B, Oregon ([Video](#))**

The 5-foot-6 150-pound Rikuu Nishida started his collegiate career at Mount Hood Community College and spent a summer on the Cape before transferring to the University of Oregon for the 2023 season. The upside is offensively with blazing speed and great bat-to-ball skills in the box. He swiped 25 bags with the Ducks and slashed .312/.395/.443 in his final collegiate season. A fan favorite for Hyannis in the Cape Cod Baseball League, Nishida stole the show and was a natural with the wooden bat, reaching base at a .390 clip. In addition, he led the league with 28 stolen bases in the regular season and added four more in the playoffs.

Nishida possesses fast hands and is a threat to reach base at any ball he puts in play. He protects the plate well, limiting strikeouts and taking pitchers deep into counts. The knack here is on defense as he totaled eight errors in 43 games on the Cape. It's a below-average arm which will limit him to second base where routine mishaps were made fielding the position. He could utilize his plus-plus speed in center field but remaining at 2B and cleaning up his mistakes seems more likely.

The speedster from Japan could easily swipe 30+ bases at any professional level but could best be utilized as a gadget bat or base runner off the bench in late-game situations at the big league level.

### *12th Round*

#### **356. Chicago Cubs (\$150,000) - Carter Trice, 2B/OF, NC State ([Video](#))**

Trice was a standout as a freshman and sophomore at Old Dominion before transferring to NC State in 2023. ACC play was clearly a step up for him, as he continued to struggle with strikeout concerns and produced a lower output in 41 games for the Wolfpack.

On the positive side, Trice tapped into his power and was able to show it on the Cape in 2022 against stiff competition. There's a lot of noise in the box, moving his hands and bat head prior to loading up. He remains loose and has a very even swing and smooth bat path through the zone. Despite 18 stolen bases while at ODU, he's an average runner with an average arm but athletic enough to play the outfield. While playing mainly at second base during his first two collegiate seasons, Trice appeared solely in the corner outfield during summer ball. If he can manage to cut down on whiffs and stay competitive against better pitching, he could slot in as a future utility man.

### *13th Round*

#### **375. Washington Nationals (\$150,000) - Liam Sullivan, LHP, Georgia ([Video](#))**

The hefty 6-foot-6, 255-pound lefty was a starter in his last two seasons at Georgia but saw mixed results. He had the ability to miss bats in the SEC with a 10.6 K/9 but struggled with control and giving up the long ball his junior year (2.0 HR/9).

However, he showed some promise in the CCBL as one of the better pitching prospects to take the hill in 2022. He was tied for second on the Cape in strikeouts (45) and allowed just seven earned runs in 29 innings pitched. His control was better as he allowed just eight free passes in that span. Sullivan has a good feel for his slider and commands it well, inducing chases by opposing batters. His fastball is average and doesn't have much carry which is why it was hit around at times in college. Will have a chance to start in the minors but seems like a mid-reliever type long term.

### *15th Round*

#### **464. Houston Astros (\$150,000) - Garret Guillemette, C, Texas ([Video](#))**

The Astros selected the former USC Trojan turned Texas Longhorn in the 15th round of the draft. The ceiling here is a backup catcher at the major league level. Guillemette is pretty average defensively behind the plate but does possess solid receiving skills, paired with a .986 field percentage his junior season at Texas. He has impressed more on the offensive side of things so far in pro ball at Single-A Fayetteville, with a .827 OPS, albeit a small sample size this year. The biggest concern remains striking out. He whiffed 28% of the time in 139 at-bats on the Cape in 2021 and 2022.

I've also noticed a lot of movement with the head of his bat in his approach, which has slowed him down at times. I'd love to see him simplify things and have less overall movement in the box.

### *17th Round*

#### **496. Oakland Athletics (\$125,000) - Coby Halter, 2B, Florida ([Video](#))**

After a down sophomore season at Florida, Halter was phenomenal in the Cape Cod League and parlayed that with a bounce-back season his junior year. Drafted as a second baseman, the former Gator is likely to stick there as he was heavily challenged on the Cape during his playing time at third (12 errors in 47 chances).

There's some raw pull-side power here and was clearly shown during his time with the Falmouth Commodores. I would like to see him hit to all fields more consistently and at a higher clip. He spent 10 games in rookie ball (.455/.539/.576) before getting the promotion to High-A Lansing where he has struggled mightily out of the gate.

### *19th Round*

#### **576. New York Mets (Did Not Sign) - Christian Little, RHP, Louisiana State ([Video](#))**

Little stepped onto campus at Vanderbilt as a 17-year-old freshman and got hit around that season as a starter. He moved into a bullpen role his sophomore year and the results were better. Following the season, the former Commodore entered the portal and landed at LSU after a short stint on the Cape. It was another disappointing season in terms of the output, allowing 30 earned runs in 34.2 innings pitched (7.79 ERA) and walking 29 within mixed duties as a starter and out of the pen.

He has the ability to miss bats but is reckless at times. It's a powerful 6-foot-4, 225-pound frame with a deep pitch mix. Little possesses a mid-90s fastball that topped 97 mph, a cutter/slider in the high-80s that was his most consistent pitch, a high-spin curve in the

high-70s that he can control well, and a powerful mid-80s changeup. The makeup is all there but it remains to be seen if he can improve as a Tiger in 2024.

Little opted to return to Baton Rouge for his fourth collegiate season and will turn 21 a couple of weeks before the 2024 MLB Draft where he remains eligible. He'll be in consideration for a top third-round selection next summer.

### *20th Round*

#### **612. New York Yankees (\$150,000) - Bryce Warrecker, RHP, Cal Poly ([Video](#))**

Aaron Judge, Spencer Jones, and Bryce Warrecker. What do they all have in common? They're all at least 6-foot-6 and 225 pounds. The Yankees are succeeding at drafting and developing large physical homegrown talent. Judge is the obvious one here, with Spencer Jones, a former first-round pick (25th overall) in 2022 who has shown solid development now with Double-A Somerset. While Warrecker doesn't carry the same 1st-round capital as the other two pinstripers, the former Cal Poly right-hander in the 20th round seems like a steal.

While he won't overpower you with a high-80s FB (T92), it's the secondary offerings and extension off the mound that provide the most challenges for opposing hitters. The low-80s changeup and slider are both equal pitches in terms of what he can do with them. He shined on the Cape with Orleans and earned All-Star honors en route to a 2.08 ERA, 0.87 WHIP, 35 K, and 8 BB, in 39 IP. If there's any type of player you want to take a dart throw within the late rounds of the draft, Warrecker is almost as good as you can get.