

C Ryder Helfrick

School: Arkansas

Grade: Junior

DOB: 02/17/2005

HT: 6-1

WT: 205

H/T: R/R

Grades

| Hit | Power | Field | Throw | Run | OFP | Risk |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|------|
| 40 (45) | 50 (55) | 45 (50) | 55 (55) | 50 (50) | 45 | High |

SCOUTING BLURB - *Ethan Kagno*

Physical: Helfrick is a superb athlete with a terrific mind behind the dish with a high baseball IQ. He enters the box with a closed stance, hands high and bat head waiving above his head. As he enters his load, Helfrick uses a high leg kick and relies on quick hands and plus bat speed to drive the ball pull side.

Strengths: Helfrick is very well rounded with all of his tools likely being fringe average at the very least. While there isn't necessarily a carrying trait, he's proven to be one of college baseball's best game managers behind the plate. Helfrick has an above average arm and uses his athleticism well to block balls in the dirt. Offensively, it's a power over contact profile with most of the damage done pull side, displaying plenty of in-game juice to the left side gaps. He's an average runner but runs well for a catcher, nabbing eight bases on the Cape in 2024; a summer that saw him tie for the lead the league in home runs (11) with a wood bat. He also improved his swing decisions that summer which carried over to the spring with relatively low chase rates across the board.

Weaknesses: Despite the recent success in the power department, Helfrick's most concerning trait is the hit tool. While he mashes fastballs, the bat path can get flat at times and he'll sometimes lunge. The swing and miss remains prevalent, although he cut down on his strikeout rate by roughly 4.5% during his breakout sophomore campaign. Pitch recognition is another battle as he needs to do a better job of picking up the secondaries in-zone – missing 40% of sliders and 43% of changeups last spring. Defensively, he caught just 9% of runners in 32 attempts on the Cape which was largely in part due to poor receiving and transferring skills.

Summary: Offensively, the plate approach and stance are similar to that of Nolan Arenado. The pull side juice is evident and plays in-game but will need the hit tool to catch up to reach his ceiling of a potential first round pick in 2026. Defensive question marks at catcher could lead him to utilizing his athleticism and above average arm in the outfield, although he has the IQ to stick behind the dish in the meantime especially if he can improve his handwork.