

This is a letter of reference for Zack Turpin. My name is Mike Jensen. I am the owner of Diamond Sports Academy, an indoor individual improvement and instruction facility in Urbandale, Iowa. I am also a baseball hitting and pitching instructor, with over 12 years experience. I have known Zack and the Turpin family for around 6 years. Zack is not only a skilled and highly dedicated baseball player, but a young man of tremendous character.

As someone who has spent more than a decade working closely with youth, high school, collegiate and professional ball players, I can say with confidence that you won't find many players with a greater dedication and work ethic than Zack. Whether it be on his own or in an instruction session, Zack always comes ready to work, listen and communicate in a respectful and workman-like manner. Through this dedication he has advanced his skills greatly in the time I've known him and I know he will continue to do so throughout his baseball journey.

While Zack's dedication to continuously improving his baseball and athletic skills and inclination to outwork other athletes is impressive enough, what sets Zack apart from other ballplayers and kids of his age in general is his tremendous character and interpersonal skills. I could list countless instances in which I've seen Zack go above and beyond to do the right thing, and not just when he knows someone is watching, but always. Whether it be picking up balls and/or equipment others have left out, offering his help in many of the projects around the facility or just taking time to stop and say, "hi," Zack is the type of person you always enjoy having around. I've seen Zack take the time to check on others when he's noticed something doesn't seem right, even with people he doesn't know all that well. Zack is always looking out for others, giving them a hand when they need one. Zack has become a favorite person of mine over the years. I've had countless conversations with him over the years and can't tell you how many times I've gone into those conversations with my goal being to help, teach or inspire him, only to realize he's done just that for me. Each and every time I see Zack he asks how I'm doing and how my family and kids are doing, and just like many other things I see Zack do, that's something kids his age just don't do. With all of the great qualities Zack possesses, from dedication and work ethic to high character, kindness, great morals and a tremendous sense of humor, I'd bet on Zack Turpin's success and I'm looking forward to seeing all that he achieves.