

PRODUCT CASE STUDY / 03

Ninefold Baseball Evaluation Data & Decision Workflows

Product design and information architecture | Independent project | October 2026

Research question. How can publicly scattered JUCO player information be standardized into a coherent discovery, comparison and evaluation workflow for college baseball decision-makers?

Project scope

Ninefold is an independent baseball software project focused initially on California JUCO player discovery and recruiting support. The current work combines product requirements, data organization, player comparison concepts and coach-facing evaluation workflows. Broader conference coverage and staff analytics integrations are in development.

The related Program Hub concept is intended to help authorized staff organize their own performance files and evaluations. TrackMan and Rapsodo import workflows, derived performance summaries and other private-data features are product objectives; they should not be interpreted as a fully validated or broadly deployed analytics system.

Core user questions

User question	Information/workflow required
Which players fit an immediate recruiting need?	Search by position, school, class, handedness and playing-time thresholds.
How do two players compare?	Consistent stat definitions, comparable season/level context, side-by-side views.
Which candidates need another look?	Saved candidates, notes, follow-up questions and evaluation status.
Can the staff trust the numbers?	Provenance, refresh metadata, missing-value flags, parser checks and review workflows.

1 | From raw records to evaluator-facing data

A player-discovery workflow needs reliable entity identification. Players may appear with different name formats, school labels, position abbreviations, statistics, or reporting schedules across public sources. Each discrepancy can compromise filters or comparisons if not addressed.

Data layer	Design responsibility	Current evidence/status
Identity	Normalize player and school names; identify suspected duplicates.	Specified and included in pool/data-quality workflow design.
Performance	Distinguish raw source counts from calculated rates; record denominators.	Core stat definitions and reporting fields defined.
Context	Record season, competition, position, role and last updated date.	Structured as intended player/profile attributes.
Review	Make missing or conflicting records visible for manual verification.	Review/status workflow and administrative health concepts designed.
Staff-only data	Restrict imports, team information, and evaluations to authorized users.	Access and permission requirements specified; not independently security-audited.

2 | Evaluation output

The intended user experience follows a repeatable decision process: discover a group of players, apply eligibility and performance filters, inspect a player’s profile, compare candidates, record uncertainties, and update the recruiting board. The value proposition is reduced time searching and reconciling information, not a claim that software can replace scouting judgment.

Example evaluator workflow

Select LHP candidates from California JUCO schools → apply minimum innings filter → compare strikeout and walk indicators → review age, role, level and missing information → flag players for video or live evaluation.

No individual candidate is recommended by this case study. The example illustrates the information and review sequence the system is designed to support.

3 | Product decisions and tradeoffs

Decision	Rationale	Unresolved risk
California-first coverage	Allows a smaller initial source scope and closer data-quality checks.	Source completeness and school-by-school formatting variation.
User-adjustable columns	Different evaluators prioritize different inputs.	Poor defaults can overwhelm new users.
Public Scout / restricted Hub	Separates discovery workflows from team-owned information.	Entitlement checks and access controls require dedicated testing.
Scheduled refresh visibility	Shows when source data may be stale or incomplete.	A successful run does not guarantee source correctness.
Missing-value transparency	Prevents apparent precision from fabricated fill values.	Some comparisons remain impossible without better inputs.

4 | Evidence of work completed

- Structured a defined JUCO player discovery product and the required data fields across hitting, pitching, fielding, team and game-level contexts.
- Developed search/filter, comparison, shortlist, saved evaluation and reporting requirements around practical staff tasks.
- Specified administrative refresh health, data-quality review and restricted staff-access workflows.
- Iterated on usability and presentation requirements after considering feedback from baseball staff and testing needs.

Not presented as completed

No claim is made here of production-scale completeness, accuracy guarantees, an independently verified player-projection model, or complete TrackMan/Rapsodo integration. These remain distinct validation or development tasks.

5 | Proposed evaluation plan

- Measure source coverage and missing-field rates by JUCO school before and after parser changes.
- Test duplicate identification and player matching against a manually reviewed sample.
- Time staff completion of player-discovery and comparison tasks using a standard checklist.
- Validate calculations, access-control paths and error handling before extending private data access.

Project link

<https://ninefoldbaseball.com> | Independent product project; not an MLB-affiliated platform.