

Clinic Sessions
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Official Program & Clinic Speaker Outlines

Greater Columbus Convention Center
January 8-11, 2026 • Columbus, Ohio

AMERICAN BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

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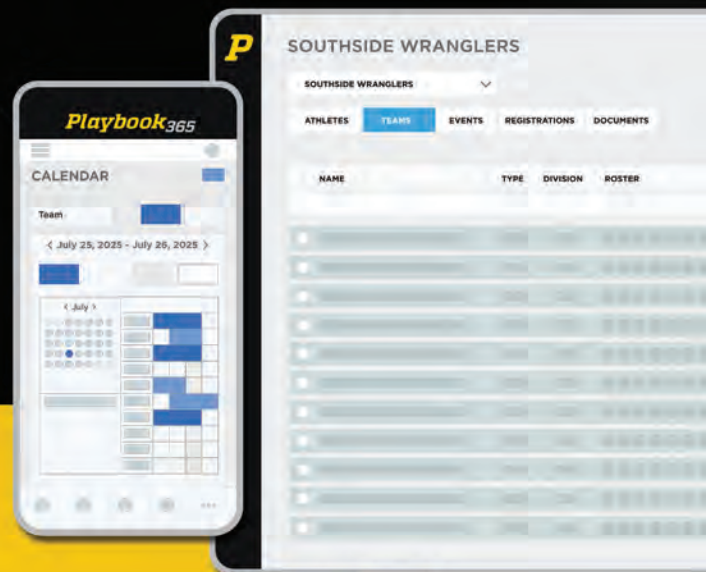
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Program & Clinic Outlines

82nd ABCA CONVENTION

January 8-11, 2026

Clinic Outline Directory

- Pg. Friday Clinic Speakers**
- 31 Jay Johnson, LSU
 - 33 Tony Abbatine, Frozen Ropes
 - 35 Robert Woodard, UNC Charlotte
 - 37 Rachel Folden, New York Mets
 - 39 Diamyn Hall, Baltimore Orioles
 - 41 Karl Nonemaker, Auburn University
 - 43 Tony Clark, MLB Players Association
 - 45 Dan Perlmutter, Duke University
 - 47 Josh Jordan, LSU
- Pg. Saturday Clinic Speakers**
- 49 Justin Haire, Ohio State University
 - 51 Brian Johnson, Author of Areté
 - 53 Jeremy Sheeting, Georgia Gwinnett College
 - 55 Kyle Crookes, University of Central Missouri
 - 57 Tim Held, Archbishop Moeller High School
 - 59 Don Mattingly, Toronto Blue Jays & Harold Reynolds, MLB Network
 - 61 Jamie Pinzino, East Tennessee State University
 - 63 John Vodenlich, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 - 65 Omar Johnson, Jackson State University
 - 67 Mitch Canham, Oregon State University
- Pg. Sunday Clinic Speakers**
- 69 Conor Burke, Iona University
 - 70 Clay Cox, Paris Junior College
 - 71 Jason Whited, Centerville High School
 - 73 Mike Deegan, Denison University

Create your agenda in the My ABCA Mobile App!

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Youth Session Outlines

- Pg. Friday Clinic Speakers**
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 - 79 Charles Bolden, East Coast Havoc
 - 81 Jason Rathbun, St. Bonaventure University
 - 83 Cody Wheeler, Canes Baseball
 - 84 Paul Babcock, Andrew High School
 - 85 Rob Henry, Kentucky State University
 - 87 Duke Baxter & Steve Nikorak, Dominate the Diamond
- Pg. Saturday Clinic Speakers**
- 89 Troy Marrow, Above the Shoulders
 - 91 Ryan Alexander, Bo Jackson Elite
 - 93 Dr. Steve Kelly, Foothill High School
 - 95 Chase Brewster, Texas A&M University-Texarkana
 - 97 Ryan Terrill, Georgia Gwinnett College
 - 99 Derek Stecklein, Pleasant Valley High School

Don't miss the ABCA Coaches Social! It's Friday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. among the exhibits in the ABCA Trade Show!

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ICON*



2026 BBCOR



LINEUP



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- **In/Tense Carbon Composite:** Fully engineered seamless carbon composite construction maximizes barrel size and performance while maintaining optimal stiffness and increased trampoline
- **Swing Weight:** Tuned balance performance design provides a balanced swing weight with slight end load, best for all players who want maximum speed and performance
- **Zero Loss Technology:** Strengthened and perfected TPU connection joint yields added durability and stiffness in the handle
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- **In/Tense Carbon Composite:** Fully engineered seamless carbon composite construction maximizes barrel size and performance while maintaining optimal stiffness and increased trampoline
- **Swing Weight:** Tuned balance performance design provides a balanced swing weight with slight end load, best for all players who want maximum speed and performance
- **RevGrip™:** Premium grip material with unmatched tack and cushion



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- **Swing Weight:** Optimized speed performance provides an extended barrel profile with the longest sweet spot possible with the performance and pop of a mid-weight bat
- **Generative Ai Technology:** Patent pending Ai generated technology that finely tunes the performance of the bat 1/8" by 1/8" across the entire bat providing maximum performance over a larger portion of the barrel
- **One-Piece Construction:** Mid-load swing weight with optimized stiffness and ultimate performance
- **RevGrip™:** Premium grip material with unmatched tack and cushion



2026 Convention Schedule

All events are in the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Member Registration & Check-In <i>presented by Traveling Teams</i>	Union Station Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	ABCA Trade Show	Exhibit Halls A & B
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings	See Page 7
4:15 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.	Expo Theater Presentations	Main Concourse (B130)
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Coaches' Divisional Meetings	See Page 7
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Rookie Coaches Mentorship Panel	Short North Ballroom B

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Member Registration & Check-In <i>presented by Traveling Teams</i>	Union Station Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Clinics <i>presented by Wilson/ATEC</i>	Exhibit Hall C
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Spouses Breakfast	C160
9:40 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Youth Coaches Session <i>presented by GameChanger</i>	Union Station Ballroom B
9:40 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Post-Clinic Question & Answer <i>presented by Coaches Insider</i>	Main Concourse (C170)
9:45 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Expo Theater Presentations	Main Concourse (B130)
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	ABCA Trade Show	Exhibit Halls A & B
10:20 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Youth Session Question & Answer	Union Station Ballroom A
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	ABCA Coaches Social <i>presented by the ABCA</i>	Exhibit Halls A & B
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Hall of Fame Banquet <i>presented by C&H Baseball</i>	Battelle Grand Ballroom
7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	Baseball Operations Hot Stove Panel <i>presented by Hilton</i>	Short North Ballroom B
9:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.	Pitching Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom B
9:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.	Outfield Play Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom A

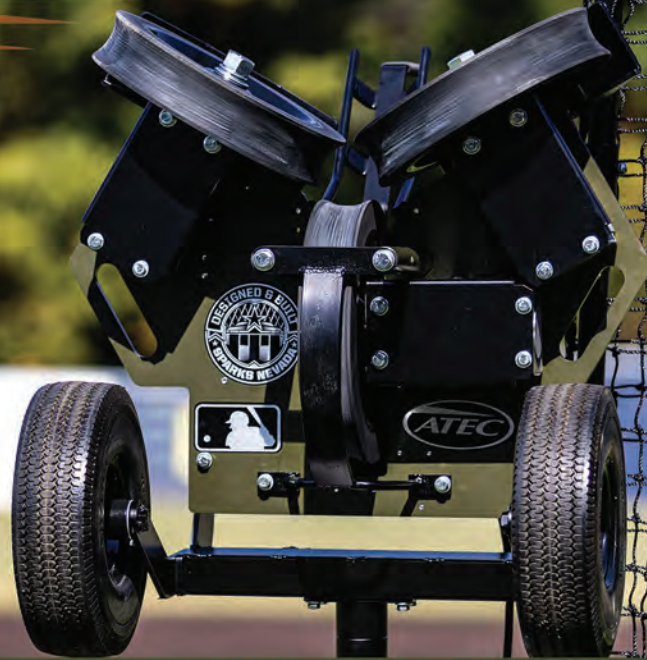
Saturday, January 10, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Member Registration & Check-In <i>presented by Traveling Teams</i>	Union Station Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 4:50 p.m.	Clinics <i>presented by Wilson/ATEC</i>	Exhibit Hall C
8:30 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.	Youth Coaches Session <i>presented by GameChanger</i>	Union Station Ballroom B
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	ABCA Trade Show	Exhibit Halls A & B
9:10 a.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Post-Clinic Question & Answer <i>presented by Coaches Insider</i>	Main Concourse (C170)
9:10 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Youth Session Question & Answer	Union Station Ballroom A
9:15 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Expo Theater Presentations	Main Concourse (B130)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Diversity in Baseball Committee Workshops	Short North Ballroom B
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Youth, Travel and Academy Baseball Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom B
5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Baserunning Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom A
5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Leadership Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom B
7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	Strength & Conditioning Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom A
7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	Hitting Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom B
9:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.	Infield Play Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom A
9:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.	Catching Hot Stove Panel	Short North Ballroom B

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Clinics <i>presented by Wilson/ATEC</i>	Exhibit Hall C
9:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Post-Clinic Question & Answer <i>presented by Coaches Insider</i>	Main Concourse (C170)

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ABCA CLINIC SCHEDULE

Clinics presented by Wilson/ATEC



Friday, January 9, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome, Awards Presentation & Leadoff**
Jay Johnson, LSU
Building a Championship Program
- 9:40 a.m. **Tony Abbatine, Frozen Ropes**
The Swing Works, Your Eyes Don't! Swing Decisions and Chase Rates Matter
- 10:20 a.m. **Robert Woodard, UNC Charlotte**
Charlotte's Balanced Attack: GTO Meets Exploitative Pitching
- 11:00 a.m. **Rachel Folden, New York Mets**
Hitting Coaches: Therapists in Disguise
- 11:40 a.m. **Lunch Break**
- 12:40 p.m. **Diamyn Hall, Baltimore Orioles**
Coaching the Mental Game: Skill Acquisition from the Neck Up
- 1:20 p.m. **Karl Nonemaker, Auburn University**
Infield Training That Translates to In-Game Performance
- 2:00 p.m. **Tony Clark, MLB Players Association**
Protecting America's Pastime
- 2:40 p.m. **Dan Perlmutter, Duke University**
Turning Strength into Power: Data-Driven, Velocity-Based Training for Player-Specific Development
- 3:20 p.m. **Josh Jordan, LSU**
Grit Meets the Gear: The Powerhouse of Catching

Saturday, January 10, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Justin Haire, Ohio State University**
Hard To Kill: Building a Bulletproof Pressure-Driven Offense
- 9:10 a.m. **Brian Johnson, Author of Areté**
Forge Antifragile Confidence
- 9:50 a.m. **Jeremy Sheetinger, Georgia Gwinnett College**
IT: The Thin Line Between Where We Are and Where We Want to Go

Saturday, January 10 (continued)

- 10:30 a.m. **Kyle Crookes, University of Central Missouri**
Winning 90 Feet at a Time: A Systems Approach to Aggressive Baserunning
- 11:10 a.m. **Lunch Break**
- 12:50 p.m. **Tim Held, Archbishop Moeller High School**
Unlocking the Power of a Dynamic Offense
- 1:30 p.m. **Don Mattingly, Toronto Blue Jays & Harold Reynolds, MLB Network**
Keeping Hitting Simple
- 2:10 p.m. **Jamie Pinzino, East Tennessee State University**
Evaluating Pitchers and Creating an Efficient Feedback Loop
- 2:50 p.m. **John Vodenlich, Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater**
Fundamental Baseball That Wins Games
- 3:30 p.m. **Omar Johnson, Jackson State University**
Using Bunting to Create Offense
- 4:10 p.m. **Mitch Canham, Oregon State University**
Growth Through Player Development Plans

Sunday, January 11, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Conor Burke, Iona University**
Using Pillars to Organize Outfield Development
- 9:10 a.m. **Clay Cox, Paris Junior College**
Developing Dynamic Infielders: The Power of Athletic Freedom
- 9:50 a.m. **Jason Whited, Centerville High School**
Creating Outs That Win the Game: A Deep Dive Into Pickoffs
- 10:30 a.m. **Mike Deegan, Denison University**
Culture, Training Environments and Competition: A Systematic Approach to Development

Post-Clinic Q&A Sessions

Following each presentation, a Question & Answer Session will be held in the Main Concourse across from the Clinic Hall. You may exit and re-enter through the rear doors of the Clinic Hall.

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2026 Convention Meeting Schedule

All events are in the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time	Committee Meeting/Function	Room
9:00 a.m.	NAIA-BCA Voters and Chairs Breakfast	B240
10:30 a.m.	NAIA-BCA Past Presidents	B232
11:00 a.m.	NJCAA Hall of Fame Committee	A210
1:00 p.m.	ABCA Ethics in Coaching Award Committee	A112
1:00 p.m.	NAIA Rules	B242
1:00 p.m.	NJCAA Executive Committee	A211
2:00 p.m.	ABCA Competition & Rules Committee	A114
2:00 p.m.	ABCA Hall of Fame Committee	A110
2:00 p.m.	ABCA Lefty Gomez Award Committee	A111
2:00 p.m.	ABCA Youth & Travel Baseball & Research Committees	A122
2:15 p.m.	NAIA Tournament Procedures	B240
2:30 p.m.	ABCA High School All-America & Divisional Chairs	A212
3:30 p.m.	ABCA Editorial Committee	A113
4:00 p.m.	NAIA Business Caucus	B230
4:30 p.m.	ABCA High School Playing Rules Committee	A123
4:30 p.m.	ABCA Youth & Travel Baseball Service Award Committee	A212
5:15 p.m.	NAIA - Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference	B232
5:15 p.m.	NAIA - Mid-South Conference	B233
5:15 p.m.	NAIA - Frontier Conference	B234

Coaches' Divisional Meetings - You are encouraged to attend your division's meeting!

5:45 p.m.	NAIA Coaches Meeting <i>Presented by eTeamSponsor</i>	C150
6:30 p.m.	NCAA Div. I, II & III Rules Meeting	Union Station Ballroom B
6:30 p.m.	NJCAA Coaches Meeting <i>Presented by eTeamSponsor</i>	C160
6:30 p.m.	Pacific Association Division Coaches Meeting	B144
6:30 p.m.	International Coaches Meeting	B140
6:30 p.m.	High School, Youth & Travel Baseball Coaches Meeting Recruiting Seminar: What Coaches are Looking For <i>Presented by PlayMetrics</i>	Short North Ballroom B
7:15 p.m.	Youth & Travel Baseball Coaches Meeting	Short North Ballroom B
7:15 p.m.	High School Coaches Meeting	Short North Ballroom A
7:15 p.m.	NCAA Div. I Coaches Meeting	Union Station Ballroom B
7:15 p.m.	NCAA Div. II Coaches Meeting	Union Station Ballroom A
7:15 p.m.	NCAA Div. III Coaches Meeting	Union Station Ballroom C
9:00 p.m.	Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coaches Huddle	C172

Friday, January 9, 2026

Time	Committee Meeting/Function	Room
9:00 p.m.	Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coaches Huddle	C172

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Time	Committee Meeting/Function	Room
7:00 a.m.	Fellowship of Christian Athletes Breakfast	Battelle Grand Ballroom
8:00 a.m.	ABCA Diversity in Baseball Committee	Short North Ballroom A
5:30 p.m.	Mass sponsored by the Assoc. of Catholic Coaches & Athletes	C150

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Expo Theater Presentation Schedule

GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER // MAIN CONCOURSE (B130)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

HeyBLU

3:30 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

The Data-Driven Coaching Revolution: Owning the 17 Inches. Getting the Truth. Building the Future of Amateur Baseball

Rob Regan, Founder/CEO, HeyBLU; Jonathan Parkhurst, Co-Founder CRO, HeyBlu; Steve Hammond, Head Coach, Miramonte High (CA)

HiCast Sports

4:15 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Grow Your Program or Venue with Professional-Grade Livestreaming that Engages Fans and Attracts Sponsors

Stephanie Calabrese, Co-Founder & COO, HiCast Sports Network

Team Sports Consulting Group

5:00 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

Relational Science Advantage®: Modern Coaching for Today's Athlete

Kevin Burr, President/CEO, Team Sports Consulting Group; Travis Davidson, Vice President of Business Development, Team Sports Consulting Group

Friday, January 9, 2026

Shaw Sports Turf

9:45 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

Turf, Performance and Wellness: Setting Elite Standards for the Future of Baseball

Dr. Trey Brindle, Director of Research and Development, Shaw Sports Turf; Matt Donahue, Vice President of Baseball, Shaw Sports Turf; Jamie Reed, Senior Director of Medical Operations, Texas Rangers

Playbook365

10:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

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Billy Becher, Founder, Playbook365; Nelson Gord, National Sales Director, Playbook365

Core Energy Belt

11:15 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

Buckle Up Coaches! Optimize Your Baseball Performance with Advanced Belt Technology

Dr. Ryan Crotin, Ph.D, CSCS, RSCC, Core Energy Independent Researcher; Rob Ducey, Former MLB Player; Travis Miller, Director of Sales, Core Energy Belt; Ryan Weiss, Pitcher, Hanwha Eagles (KBO)

PitchCom

12:00 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.

Leveraging Electronic Signal Calling to Improve Execution and Performance

Jon Updike, Vice President of Customer Relations, PitchCom; John Hendricks, Advisor

Rapsodo

12:45 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Coaching with Confidence: Leveraging Rapsodo Data Across All Levels

Trevor Charpie, Head Baseball Coach, Youngstown State University; Brian Page, MLB/Key Accounts Manager, Rapsodo; Craig Rogers, Head Baseball Coach, Milan High School (TN); Brent McNeil, Associate Head Coach, Lake Erie College

Friday, January 9, 2026 (continued)

eTeamSponsor

1:30 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

How Championship Programs Turn Fundraising into Their Competitive Edge

Lyndon Coleman, Pasco-Hernando State College; John Knott, Mt. San Antonio College; Corby McGlauffin, Briar Cliff University; Larry Turner, Owasso High School

GameChanger

2:15 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.

The Future is Now: Accessible Tech Transforming Youth Baseball

Mike Donfrancesco, CEO & Founder, HitTrax; Tanner German, General Manager, TheStack; Steve Goody, CEO, Pocket Radar; Bobby Tewksbary, Co-Founder & Chief Product Officer, Peletero; Alex Trezza, Sr. Manager of Business Development, GameChanger

ATEC/Wilson Sporting Goods

3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Training Today's Players with the ATEC M3X 2.0

Alex Hale, Founder, CHIPS Performance Training

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Baseline

9:15 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

The Secret Weapon That Separate \$100K Facilities from \$1M Facilities

Eli Herrick, Founder & CEO, Baseline; Zack Ladner, COO, Baseline; Patrick Stanley, Founder, Complete Game LLC.

HitTrax

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Data-Driven Swing Decisions: Leveraging the Point of Impact with Driveline

Travis Fitta, Hitting Coordinator, Driveline Baseball

PureTorque

10:45 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Prepping for Competition – Increasing Spinal Mobility to Reduce Arm Strain

J Braun, Inventor, PureTorque; Ryan McWilliams, Founder, BSF Pitching Performance, Bo Jackson's Sports Domes

Pocket Radar

11:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Coaching with PLUS: A Platform That Transforms Practice & In-Game Performance

Steve Goody, CEO, Pocket Radar; Alex Trezza, Sr. Manager of Business Development, GameChanger

Full Swing

12:15 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.

Full Swing KIT: The New Standard in Baseball

Kyle Attl, Director of Strategic Partnerships-Baseball, Full Swing; Ryan Reinsel, General Manager-Baseball Operations, Full Swing

Driveline Baseball

1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Driveline Baseball: Launchpad

Mike Rathwell, CEO, Driveline Baseball



ABCA TRADE SHOW EXHIBITOR GUIDE

EXHIBITOR HOURS

Thursday, January 8	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday, January 9	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
ABCA Coaches Social	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 10	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALLS A-B // GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER

100% – 1209

San Diego, CA
619-876-4202
Frank Schrantz
frank@100percent.com
100percent.com

3N2 Sports – 2700

Maitland, FL
407-862-3622
Jeffery Meads
sales@3n2sports.com
3n2sports.com

431 Sports – 1560

Hillsborough, NC
727-543-7982
Evan Hayon
ehayon@sportsendeavors.com
431sports.com

4D Motion Sports – 2257

Allendale, NJ
917-553-0596
David Todhunter
david@4dmotionsports.com
4dmotionsports.com

4Most Sport Group – 1559

Grove City, PA
724-870-4249
Christie Fromm
ross@4mostsport.com
4mostsport.com

5ive Tool Baseball Academy – 2260

San Diego, CA
858-449-2696
Jared Eichelberger
playball@5ivetool.com
5ivetool.com

64 Analytics – 2739

Orlando, FL
479-200-5008
Jason Ratcliff
jasonr@64analytics.com
64analytics.com

643 Charts – 2052

Olympia, WA
903-399-3654
Timothy Kuhn
tim@643charts.com
643charts.com

6Tool – 1656

Potomac, MD
617-429-4805
Chris Hayes
info@6-tool.com
6-tool.com

9 Strap – 2159

San Clemente, CA
949-378-6308
Ryan Vaughn
ryan@9strap.com
9strap.com

99Pledges – 912

Palo Alto, CA
650-594-6122
Steve Peirce
steve@99pledges.com
99pledges.com

A1 Glove Repair – 2818

Parma, OH
440-655-2674
Gordon King
gking@a1gloverepair.com
a1gloverepair.com

AccuShag – 2327

Medford, OR
541-690-8121
Erin Parent
russell.hodgdon@gmail.com
accushag.com

Accusplit – 1006

Pleasanton, CA
925-290-1900
Barb Jacobs
busdev@accusplit.com
accusplit.com

Adinext Enterprises – 2361

Punjab, Pakistan
92-333-294197
Qadeer Nawaz Ghumman
sales@adinext.com
adinext.com

Aero-Swing – 2753

Louisville, KY
502-712-1104
Bill Orosz
bill@aero-swing.com
aero-swing.com

Airwaav – 2716

Louisville, KY
855-253-4680
Matt White
sales@airwaav.com
airwaav.com

Akadema – 2803

Hoho-Kus, NJ
973-304-1470
Kris Totten
lawrence@akademapro.com
akademapro.com

Alaska Baseball League – 1854

Palmer, AK
907-745-6401
Pete Christopher
generalmgrminers@gmail.com
alaskabaseballleague.org

All-Pro Tactical – 1432

Virginia Beach, VA
757-615-9982
David Bohannon
info@allprotactical.com
allprotactical.com



All-Star Sporting Goods – 2821

Leominster, MA
800-777-3810
Brad Jurga
bjurga@all-starsports.com
all-starsports.com

Allied Powers – 1952

Las Vegas, NV
702-283-6401
Josh Greenman
alliedpowersllc@gmail.com
emp10.com

Amaze Awards – 1852

Chehalis, WA
360-262-6477
Justin Colebrissi
justin@amazeawards.com
amazeawards.com

American Baseball and Softball – 1114

Wharton, TX
979-532-8155
Joe Sliepka
sales@muhltech.com
muhltech.com

American Specialty Insurance – 1657

Fort Wayne, IN
765-490-9256
Haley Agnew
hagnew@americanspecialty.com
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AMTI Force & Motion – 2713

Watertown, MA
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**Ares Sportswear – 958**

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Arizona Fall League/Desert Invitational - MLB – 1910

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ArmCare.com – 2317

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Armilla Tech – 1259

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Armored Heat – 1354

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Ballparks of America – 1741

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Baron Championship Rings – 2163

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Baseball Flows App – 1263

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Better Baseball / Bullet L Screens – 2507

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G Sports – 2659

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G-Form – 2430

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Game Day Signals – 1748

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Glover's Scorebooks – 2607

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Goat Boxco – 1258

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**GrandStand Buckets – 2624**

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Great Ape Grips – 1961

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Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League – 1615

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Guard Up By Mcswinners – 2842

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Hakusoh Bat – 2256

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Hall of Fame Plaques and Signs – 2359

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**Hasty Awards – 1256**

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HiCast Sports Network – 1661

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Jack Thode
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Your ABCA Clinic Videos



The ABCA Video Library is the premier learning hub for coaches worldwide: it empowers coaches across all levels of baseball with more than 1,000 on-demand videos included with your membership! You can access the Video Library at www.ABCA.org/videos or on the My ABCA app.

The ABCA Video Library includes all clinics from Conventions dating back to 2008 and new videos are added continually throughout the year, ensuring that fresh ideas are always available. **Videos from the 2025 Barnstormers Clinics are currently being added!**

Videos from the 2026 Convention – Main Stage Clinics, Main Stage Q&A, Youth Coaches Session and Expo Theater – will be added by early February. **Coaches who registered for the Convention or Live Video Streaming will get access as soon as they are available, while all other ABCA members will get access on May 25.**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Coaches,

On behalf of the City of Columbus, welcome! We are thrilled to host the American Baseball Coaches Association for an unforgettable weekend as you hold your Annual Convention here for the first time.

Baseball has deep roots in Columbus. Today, you can find the Ohio Village Muffins still playing 19th century baseball, a reflection of when the sport first took hold in 1877 with the Columbus Buckeyes. Nearly 150 years later, America's pastime continues to thrive with the Columbus Clippers, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians in the downtown Huntington Park, a local favorite since 1977. Notably, the New York Yankees' legendary "Core Four" — Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Jorge Posada and Andy Pettitte — all played for the Clippers in 1994 and 1995. Columbus also is home to players you are familiar with, including Paul O'Neill, Nick Swisher, Mike Matheny and the legendary Frank Howard.

Beyond the Greater Columbus Convention Center, the city is ready to welcome you with open arms and endless opportunities to explore. Discover nationally recognized restaurants in the Short North Arts District, stroll through the historic charm of German Village and experience the hospitality that earned Columbus recognition as both a Best Big Food City and one of the Friendliest Cities in America by Condé Nast Traveler readers. This summer, Food & Wine also named Columbus one of America's Next Great Food Cities, and we can't wait for you to experience why.

Thank you for being here. We wish you a productive conference, a memorable stay, and a weekend that truly knocks it out of the park.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Ginther
Mayor



My ABCA Mobile App

Your Guide for Convention Week.

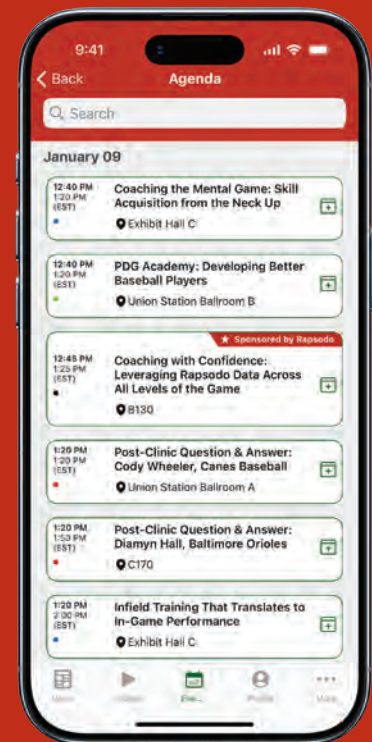
Your Coaching Partner All Year.

The My ABCA app is your all-access guide to Convention week with schedules, maps, speaker bios, exhibitor profiles, and reminders all at your fingertips. Then, when you head home, it transforms into your year-round coaching hub packed with coaching videos and resources that will enhance your coaching knowledge.

This Week in Columbus:

Use the app to maximize your ABCA Convention experience!

- View complete clinic schedules for every day of the Convention.
- Build a personalized agenda and structure your day efficiently.
- Check room locations and maps to quickly find where you're going.
- Explore exhibitor profiles to learn more about products and deals.
- Read speaker bios and session descriptions to preview each clinic.
- Bookmark sessions that you don't want to miss.
- Receive timely reminders so you stay informed with helpful alerts.



Every Week of the Year:

Use the app to elevate your coaching all season long!

- Watch ABCA Clinic Videos on-demand and learn from anywhere.
- Download charts and practice plans to add new drills and ideas.
- Listen to the ABCA Podcast directly in the app each Monday.
- Read coaching news, Inside Pitch Magazine, and other updates.
- Connect with fellow members through messaging and forums.
- Renew your membership or register for events quickly.
- Manage your ABCA account profile to keep your details up-to-date.

Search "My ABCA" in your app store and log in with your ABCA username and password!



Your ABCA Membership

It isn't just about attending an event, it's about being part of a community that helps you keep learning, connecting, and growing!

As a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association, you are part of the world's largest baseball coaching community, with more than 15,000 coaches from all levels of the game. The ABCA delivers year-round value while keeping membership dues among the lowest of any national coaching association. Your membership connects you to a network of coaches, resources, and opportunities that extend far beyond this week in Columbus. Take a look at everything your membership gives you access to throughout the year!

Early Access Pass to Chicago 2027: As a 2025-26 ABCA member, you will have Priority Registration for the 2027 Convention in Chicago, giving you the first opportunity to register and reserve your hotel room while supply lasts beginning in August 2026! Registration and hotel booking open to everyone on September 1, so mark your calendar now and be ready to register as soon as you're eligible.

Learn from the Game's Best, Anytime: Keep your momentum from Columbus going with the ABCA Video Library, your all-access pass to the game's best coaching education. Explore more than 1,000 on-demand presentations from Convention clinics, Barnstormers sessions, and partner webinars dating back to 2008. The 2026 Convention sessions will be added soon, with Convention and Live Video Stream registrants receiving access in early February and all other members gaining access on May 18. Plus, the 2025 Barnstormers Clinic videos have already started being added, with more to come this spring!

Stories, Strategies, and Inspiration All Year Long: Your ABCA membership includes a subscription to *Inside Pitch*, the Official Magazine of the ABCA. Each issue is packed with coaching insight, leadership lessons, and stories that celebrate the people and programs shaping the game. The January/February issue you received at check-in kicks off the year, followed by new editions in March, May, July, September, and November. You can also explore the full digital archive of more than 70 past issues at ABCA.org/magazine, making it easy to revisit your favorite articles anytime.

Peace of Mind While You Coach: If you are a U.S. resident, your ABCA membership includes \$1 million in personal liability insurance coverage while performing one-on-one or group baseball or softball instruction at a practice or playing facility. This coverage offers protection and confidence as you work with your players throughout the year. Review the full policy at ABCA.org/insurance.

Weekly Coaching Connection: Each Wednesday, the ABCA Press Box e-newsletter delivers the latest coaching news, milestone victories, job openings, and exclusive educational content straight to your inbox. Every edition keeps you connected to the ABCA community and the game's ongoing conversations.

Your Voice in the Game: Through legislative surveys, the ABCA ensures coaches have a seat at the table to share their feedback on key issues like roster sizes, recruiting timelines, and competition rules. Each year, this input is shared with governing bodies to advocate for the best interests of coaches and student-athletes. When a survey arrives in your inbox, take a few minutes to make your voice count and help shape the future of our game and association.

Gear Up and Save: Access to exclusive discounts on the game's top brands in equipment, technology, apparel, and training tools. From bats and gloves to radar units, pitching machines, and performance gear, members save on products from trusted ABCA Partners like Rawlings, Wilson, Netting Professionals, Pocket Radar, Rapsodo, Crossbar, Easton, and many more. You'll also find savings on coaching software, facility products, and team orders. Whether you're outfitting your players, upgrading your setup, or investing in development tools, your membership helps you save hundreds each season. Visit ABCA.org/discounts to explore all current offers.

Hit the Road with Exclusive Savings: Your ABCA membership gives you access to exclusive travel savings year-round. Enjoy discounted rates on rental cars from Enterprise, National, and Alamo, perfect for recruiting trips, tournaments, or family travel. Members also receive hotel discounts of 10% to 25% at top brands including Marriott, Best Western, Red Roof Inn, and Studio 6 Extended Stay. Whether you're on the road for baseball or taking a well-earned break, make sure to book through ABCA.org/discounts to get the best available rates.

Find Your Next Opportunity or Game: Whether you're looking to hire, searching for your next coaching opportunity, or trying to complete next season's schedule, the ABCA Job Postings and Open Date Listings are invaluable tools that are completely free for members. Members can post coaching jobs, browse openings, or list open schedule dates, all without the fees charged by other sites.

Earn Continuing Education Credit: By participating in the ABCA Convention or Clinics Live Video Streaming, members who need professional development hours or continuing education credits can often fulfill those requirements. It's an easy way to grow as a coach while earning credit toward your professional goals.

Your ABCA membership doesn't end here; it continues through ABCA.org and the My ABCA app, where you can access videos, resources, and your coaching community anytime, anywhere!



ABCA CORPORATE PARTNERS



Visit www.ABCA.org/partners for more information!



American Baseball Coaches Association Awards

The ABCA's robust awards program honors hundreds of coaches and thousands of athletes on an annual basis. The National Head and Assistant Coaches of the Year, Lifetime Members, Travel Baseball Service Award, Youth Baseball Service Award and Ethics in Coaching Award recipients will be recognized on-stage on Friday, January 9, at 8:30 a.m.

2025 ABCA/ATEC National Coaches of the Year

- NCAA Div. I:** Jay Johnson, LSU
- NCAA Div. II:** Joe Urso, Tampa (FL)
- NCAA Div. III:** John Vodenlich, Wisconsin-Whitewater
- NAIA:** Brad Neffendorf, LSU Shreveport
- NJCAA Div. I:** David Nelson, Salt Lake (UT)
- NJCAA Div. II:** Lyndon Coleman, Pasco-Hernando State (FL)
- NJCAA Div. III:** Rob Valli, RCSJ Gloucester (NJ)
- Pacific Association:** John Knott, Mt. San Antonio (CA)
- High School Div. I:** Joe Giummule, Jupiter (FL)
- High School Div. II:** Chris Roof, Governor Livingston (NJ)
- High School Div. III:** Josh Raney, Blanchard (OK)



2025 ABCA/Soldier Sports Assistant Coaches of the Year

- NCAA Div. I:** Matt Williams, Coastal Carolina (SC)
- NCAA Div. II:** Sam Mote, Angelo State (TX)
- NCAA Div. III:** Alex Loparco, Endicott (MA)
- NAIA:** Jordan Schwellenbach, LSU Shreveport
- NJCAA Div. I:** Sean Robinson, Walters State (TN)
- NJCAA Div. II:** Adam McGinnis, Heartland (IL)
- NJCAA Div. III:** Roy Vernon, Surry (NC)
- Pacific Association:** Steve Pryor, San Diego Mesa (CA)
- High School Div. I:** Mike Sabatino, Edwardsville (IL)
- High School Div. II:** Josh Sorge, St. Ignatius (OH)
- High School Div. III:** Mike Jacobs, St. Thomas Aquinas (KS)



Baseball Service Awards

Travel Baseball Service Award
Jerry Ford, Perfect Game

Youth Baseball Service Award
Larry Redwine, Continental Amateur Baseball Assoc. (CABA)

The Travel and Youth Baseball Service Awards were created prior to the 2023 ABCA Convention to honor an ABCA member who has made a significant, positive effect on those divisions at the local, state or national level.

2025-26 Lifetime Members

- Bill Currier, Fairfield University (CT)
- Jack Dahm, Mount Mercy University (IA)
- Bill Decker, Harvard University (MA)
- Dave DeGeorge, Beloit College (WI)
- Rudy Garbalosa, Lynn University (FL)
- Dan Griesbaum, Grosse Pointe South High School (MI)
- Jamie Hamilton, Grand Junction Baseball Committee (CO)
- Ron Malcolm, Reno High School (NV)
- Rich Maloney, Ball State University (IN)
- Scott McAtee
- Matt McDonald, Saint Olaf College (MN)
- Steve Owens, Rutgers University (NJ)
- Craig Rainey, Adrian College (MI)
- Tom Riginos
- Steve Ruzich, South Suburban College (IL)
- Jim Schlossnagle, University of Texas at Austin
- Brian Shoop, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Jon Sjogren, Rollins College (FL)
- Marty Smith, College of Central Florida
- Tom Succow, Yavapai College (AZ)
- Robert Ugel, Renegades Baseball (IL)
- Dave Van Horn, University of Arkansas
- Chris Veidt, Whiteoak High School (OH)
- Ritchie Ware
- Scott Winterburn, University of La Verne (CA)
- Joe Wladyka, Wladyka Baseball (NJ)

The ABCA's Lifetime Members are coaches who have been members of the association for 35 consecutive years.

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Griffin, Smith honored with ABCA Dave Keilitz Ethics Award

Two standout leaders in the collegiate baseball community – Tom Griffin of Carson-Newman University (TN) and Kermit Smith of Appalachian State University (NC) – have been selected as the recipients of the 2026 ABCA Dave Keilitz Ethics in Coaching Award.

The ABCA Ethics in Coaching Award honors individuals who embody the ABCA Code of Ethics. In 2017, the award was named in honor of ABCA Board Member, Hall of Fame inductee and former Executive Director Dave Keilitz.

During his 20 seasons at Carson-Newman, Griffin has earned a national reputation as one of the most respected catching instructors and collegiate coaches in the game. He has spent 28 years as a collegiate head coach, compiling a 746-574-2 (.564) career record. Known for his expertise in catching instruction, Griffin is a staple at national events such as CatcherCON and has been a featured clinician at four ABCA Conventions. He also served as a coach in the Prospect Development League from 2021 to 2023 and has been a guest speaker at state coaching conventions across the country. In addition to coaching, Griffin holds the role of Assistant Athletic Director for Coaching Development at Carson-Newman. His impact on Tennes-



Tom Griffin



Kermit Smith

see baseball was recognized with his induction into the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2024, highlighting a career defined by teaching, mentorship, and passion for the game.

Smith has established himself as a trusted leader in collegiate baseball, guiding multiple programs to success while taking on key roles both on the field and within the broader coaching community. He completed his ninth season at Appalachian State in 2025 and has previously served as head coach at both Lander University (SC) and Belmont Abbey College (NC). With both programs, he led teams to the NCAA Division II College World Series. He has amassed over 600 career victories. A three-time ABCA Regional Coach of the Year, Smith has held leadership roles on campus and within his conference, including chairing the coaches' council at Belmont Abbey. His impact extends beyond the diamond, as evidenced by being honored with the 2024 App State Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Influence Award. Smith was also selected to coach in USA Baseball's Prospect Development League in 2022, further demonstrating his reputation as a mentor, educator, and leader within the collegiate baseball community.

AMERICAN BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

First and foremost, the ABCA strives for sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity to the highest degree. On June 29, 1945, 27 coaches formed the American Association of College Baseball Coaches, which eventually became the American Baseball Coaches Association. At that first meeting in New York City, those founding fathers stated that coaching ethics were of utmost importance. Proper sportsmanship and ethical conduct in coaching established at that first meeting in 1945, certainly continues today as the ABCA's highest priority.

PREAMBLE:

The next and following generations will be the stewards of our great game of baseball. More importantly, they will be the caretakers of our families, communities, and nation. The present and future well-being of our society will depend on men and women of high moral character who will demonstrate and live out the virtues of honesty, integrity, respect, and personal responsibility. Recognizing that these and all other ethical values do not develop automatically in our players, the ABCA will make a

deliberate and conscious effort to assist them in developing the values and ideals necessary for moral decision making and conduct. This stated goal is best achieved through the ABCA coaches and members. The single most important variable in promoting ethical conduct on the baseball field is the coach.

PURPOSE:

The Code of Ethics has been written to protect and promote the best interests of the game of baseball and the coaching profession. It seeks to define what are right and ethical practices and what practices are wrong and detrimental. The principles and articles herein reflect the foundation of democratic society; in particular, honesty, integrity, respect, discipline, personal responsibility, fairness, and loyalty. Additionally, these virtues reflect the highest calling of baseball coaches and players.

The ultimate success of the principles and articles of this Code depends on those for whom it has been established – the baseball coaches.



PRINCIPLE I: Responsibility to Players, Officials, Parents, and Fans

ARTICLE A: Players

1. Always place the academic, emotional, physical, and moral well-being of your players above desires and pressures to win.
2. The rules of baseball are clear. Any attempt to circumvent these rules to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct has no place in coaching baseball.
3. The coach shall set the example for winning without boasting and losing without bitterness, thus earning the respect of his players.
4. The coach shall discourage and disallow the use of illegal or performance enhancing drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
5. The coach shall not permit any player to make unsportsmanlike or uncomplimentary remarks to opponents, umpires, or spectators. Taunting, boasting, and fighting demean individuals and the sport of baseball.
6. The coach shall discourage and disallow profanity, obscenities, and vulgar language from players, coaches, and all others associated with the team. Civil and respectful language is a mark of manhood and maturity.
7. The coach shall advocate and promote the value of education over and beyond the desire for professional stardom.
8. The coach shall not make demands on his players that will interfere with the players' opportunities for achieving academic success.
9. The coach shall recognize, address, and educate against harmful personal practices that may involve the players, e.g., drug, alcohol and tobacco addiction; unwise friends and places; misuse of power; and physical and mental abuse.
10. The coach shall take immediate disciplinary action when a player's on or off the field behavior is considered egregious. The integrity and reputation of the team, institution, and the sport of baseball must be protected.

ARTICLE B: Officials

1. The coach shall respect and support the umpires, scorers, public address announcers, and others charged with conducting the game. On and off the record criticism of officials to players or the public is unethical.
2. The coach shall not permit anyone on his team to address uncomplimentary remarks to any official during a game or to indulge in conduct which might incite players or spectators against the officials.

ARTICLE C: Parents

1. The coach shall treat the parents and family of his players with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals, and policies; and maintain open communication.
2. The coach shall be candid with players and parents about the likelihood of getting a scholarship or playing on a professional level.

ARTICLE D: Fans

1. The coach shall strive to educate the home fans to be respectful and courteous to the opponents while still maintaining enthusiasm and support for their team.
2. The coach shall be responsible, within reason, for the conduct of his team's fans and refrain from arousing the crowd by his conduct.

PRINCIPLE II: Responsibility to the Institution

ARTICLE A: Institutional Integrity

1. The coach shall conduct himself so as to uphold and maintain the integrity and dignity of his institution.
2. The coach shall discuss problems with his athletic director and/or other superiors in a professional manner, and then accept and support decisions that have been reached.

ARTICLE B: Academic Integrity

1. The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give players consideration they do not deserve.
2. The coach shall not exert pressure on the Admissions Office to admit players who are not qualified.

PRINCIPLE III: Responsibility to the Rules and Integrity of Baseball

ARTICLE A: Rules

1. The coach shall maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and assure that his players know and understand the rules.
2. The coach shall require his players to know and abide by the letter and the spirit of all baseball rules and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices, and other provisions regulating their competition.

ARTICLE B: Integrity of the Game

1. The coach shall communicate to his players a respect and reverence for the grand history of baseball and instruct them never to knowingly bring shame or dishonor to the game.
2. The coach shall not allow himself, or his players, to gamble on professional or intercollegiate baseball games.

PRINCIPLE IV: Professional Responsibility

ARTICLE A: Recruiting

1. The coach shall strictly observe all institutional, conference and national regulatory body rules and policies.
2. The coach shall not attempt to recruit a player enrolled at another institution unless properly authorized according to legislation.
3. The coach, or his players, shall not attempt to recruit players from another academic institution during summer baseball.



4. The coach shall not participate in negative recruiting against another coach, institution, or its players. Derogatory statements toward other coaches, players, or schools are considered unethical.
5. The coach shall not make any statements to prospective students which, knowingly, cannot be fulfilled.
6. The coach shall respect both the written and verbal commitment a student/athlete makes to another institution. It is considered unethical to urge or suggest a young man break his word.

ARTICLE B: Relationships

1. The coach shall maintain appropriate professional relationships with student-athletes, managers, and trainers and respect proper coach/player boundaries.
2. The coach shall treat news media with courtesy, honesty, and respect.
3. The coach shall teach his players how to conduct themselves in interviews in the best interest of the team and the game.
4. The coach shall instruct his players that any disciplinary, academic, or personal problems are “family affairs” and not to be made public.
5. The coach shall not be associated in any way with professional gamblers and should not be present where gambling on team sports is encouraged or permitted.
6. The coach shall act toward other coaches in a manner characterized by courtesy, good faith, and respect.
7. The coach shall help develop the baseball coaching profession by exchanging knowledge and experiences with colleagues, athletes, and students while being a participant, course facilitator, or master coach in courses and internships.
8. The coach shall uphold his or her responsibility to coaching by bringing inconsistent or unethical behavior of others to the attention of appropriate regulatory committees in a manner consistent with this code, but only if informal resolution or correcting the situation is not appropriate or possible.

PRINCIPLE V:

Personal Responsibility

ARTICLE A: Trustworthiness

1. The coach shall model high ideals of sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor while teaching and advocating good character.
2. The coach shall strive to be himself worthy of trust while teaching his players the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability, and loyalty.

ARTICLE B: Respect

1. The coach shall treat all people with respect at all times and require the same of the players.
2. The coach shall not engage in, or permit, profanity, vulgarities, obscene gestures, trash talking, taunting, boastful celebration, or other actions that demean individuals, or the sport of baseball, or reflect badly on the team and institution.
3. The coach shall use positive coaching methods to increase players’ self-esteem and enjoyment, and to foster a

love and appreciation for baseball. He shall refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and any conduct that is demeaning to players.

ARTICLE C: Conduct

1. The coach shall refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol in front of his players.
2. The coach shall be mindful that he is a role model with high visibility, great influence, and must consistently conduct himself in private and coaching situations in a manner that exemplifies what he expects from his players.
3. The coach shall accurately represent his academic and coaching qualifications, experience, and past affiliations.

ARTICLE D: Fairness and Caring

1. The coach shall be fair in selecting a team, competitive situations, disciplinary issues, and all other matters, and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.
2. The coach shall consistently demonstrate concern for his players as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another.
3. The coach shall put safety and health considerations above the desire to win, and never permit players to intentionally injure an opponent or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.

The ABCA Code of Ethics was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on June 18, 2005, in Omaha, Nebraska.

ABCA STATEMENT ON SPORTSMANSHIP, VALUES, AND IDEALS

Whereas: We believe that coaches are among the strongest influences on a young person’s moral and ethical development; and

Whereas: We believe that the highest calling of a baseball coach is to teach and model the character traits of honesty, integrity, respect, and personal responsibility; and

Whereas: We believe that honorable athletic competition in baseball provides rigid and voluntary rules of right and wrong that can lead to strong character development among our players; and

Whereas: We believe that a baseball coach’s moral and ethical conduct, on and off the field (i.e., recruiting, academic, fairness to all team personnel), will deeply influence his players;

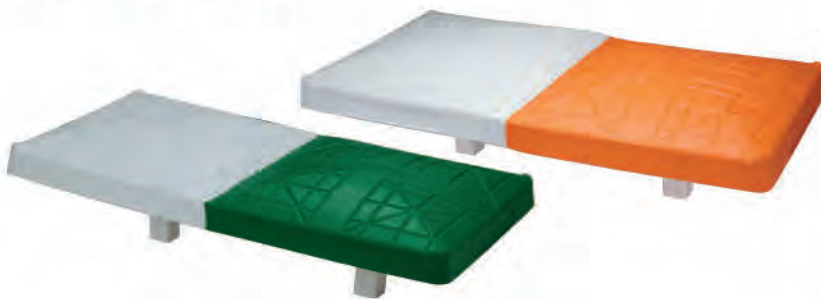
THEREFORE: We strongly encourage all members of the **AMERICAN BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION** to place **the highest priority** on teaching and modeling the moral and ethical values of **HONESTY, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, AND LOYALTY.**

The ABCA Statement on Sportsmanship, Values and Ideals was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on June 15, 2003, in Omaha, Nebraska.

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ROBERT WOODARD UNC Charlotte

Charlotte's Balanced Attack: GTO Meets Exploitative Pitching

Opening:

- Growing up a multi-sport athlete – especially chess & baseball.
- Lessons from both games that have shaped me as a coach.

GTO (Game Theory Optimal) Foundations & Perspectives

- Important to establish: What game are we actually playing?
- Poker – Chess – Blackjack – Baseball (Pitching)
- GTO = balance & consistency.
- Exploitative = attacking tendencies & creating edges.
- The goal: blend both to stay both balanced & dangerous.

Middle Game: Our Pitching Systems & Approach

- People & relationships always come first: Growth over fixed mindset.
- Build the staff: Poker is a game of people, not cards. – Amarillo Slim
- The environment: The standard is the standard. – Mike Tomlin
- Educate them: Stay ahead to slow it down. – Tony La Russa
- Train them: Sweat more in training, bleed less in battle. – Sun Tzu
- Tech & feedback loops: Without feedback – you're just guessing.
- Game planning: Everything ties back to run prevention.
- GTO principles & exploitative tactics: In-game
- Postgame analysis:
We don't move on from games – we move forward from them. – Roy Williams

A great decision is the result of a good process – not necessarily a great outcome.
– Annie Duke (Thinking in Bets)

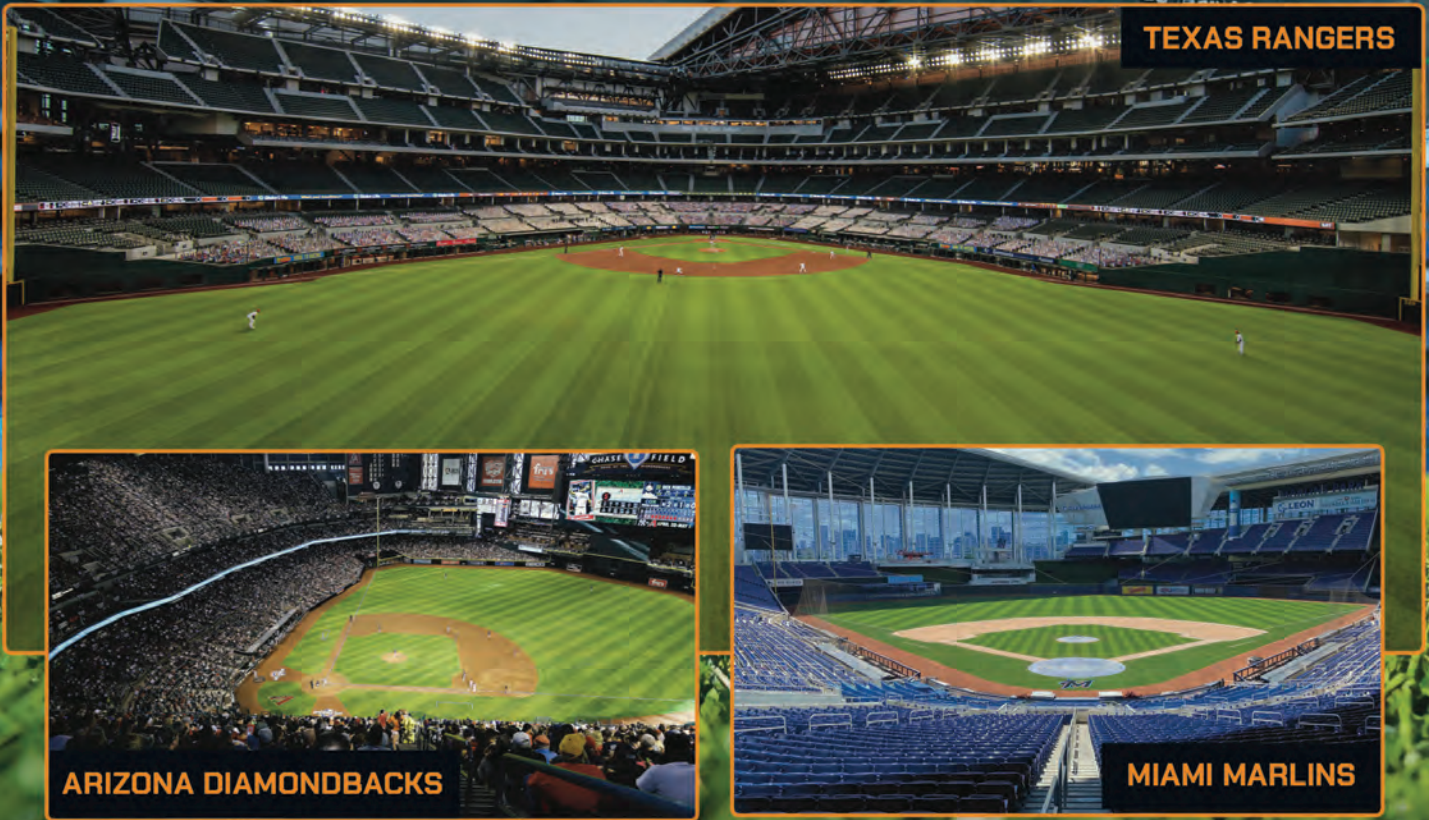
Endgame:

- Balance builds consistency: exploitation creates advantage.
- Courage is the separator – the bridge between plan & performance.

Without enjoyment, it is not worth trying to excel at anything.
– Magnus Carlsen, World Chess Champion



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RACHEL FOLDEN
New York Mets
Hitting Coaches: Therapists in Disguise

Let's talk about therapy!

Core Parallels - Hitting and Therapy

- Listen before you ask
- Build Connection
- Find root causes
- Individualize
- Reframe Failure/Adversity
- Protect Trust & Privacy
- Give homework
- Normalize how muddy the process can be

Hard Realities

- Baseball is a business
- Coaches are one piece of a big machine
- Pressure is immense - use it as a tool to build trust
- "Us vs. Them" mentality

Guiding Principles

- Always about the players
- The best coaches blend precision & empathy
- Support > Solutions - nobody has all the answers

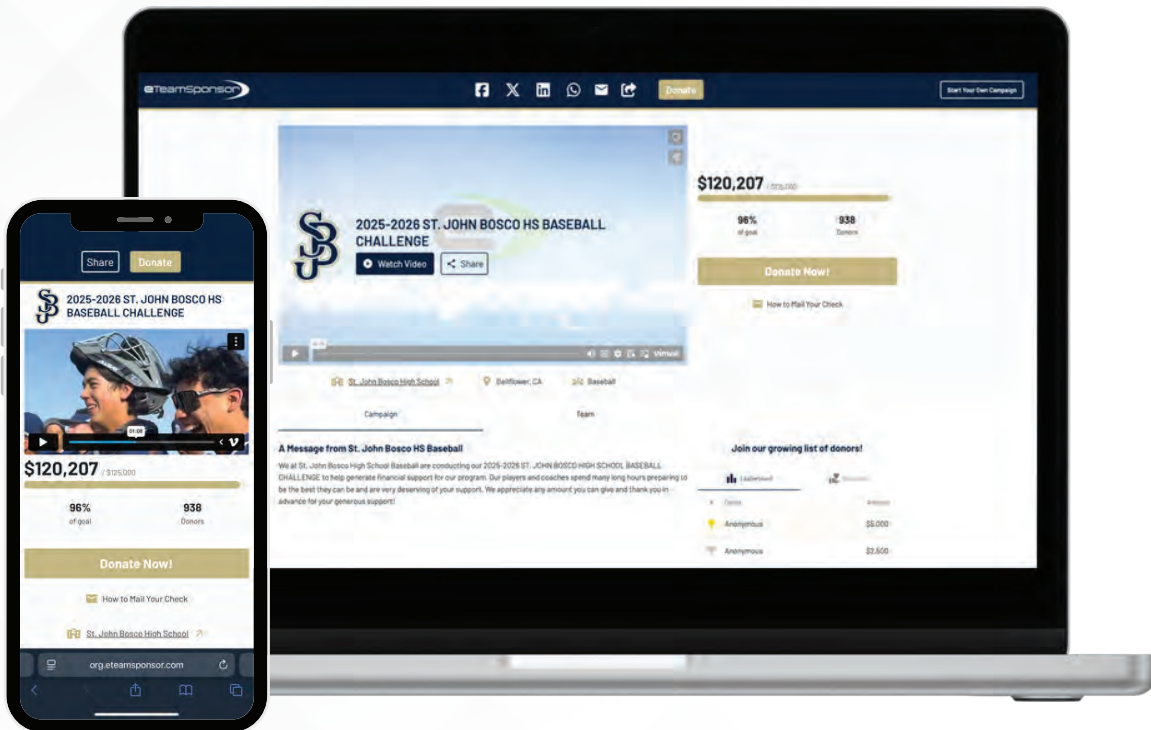
Conclusion

- Hitting coaches hold space for more than just a bat and ball



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TO MEET OUR TEAM!





DIAMYN HALL Baltimore Orioles

Coaching the Mental Game: Skill Acquisition from the Neck Up

Secret 1 - Skill Acquisition for Mental Skills.

Why most programs fail and how to actually move the needle forward this season.

1. Understand skill acquisition. 20-hour rule.
2. Know the mental skills that exist.
3. Identify the big domino mental skill.
4. Break the skill into its smallest parts.
5. Teach them just enough to self-correct.
6. What gets evaluated eventually evolves.
7. A little a lot vs. "A lot a little"
(20 hours is the target)
8. Systematize the above.

Secret 2 - Connection Before Coaching.

Get to know them before you coach them. Meet them where they are before you move them where you want them to go.

1. Curiosity is king.
2. Every player speaks a different language... learn it.
3. Quality questions create quality answers.
4. Stack positive and neutral interactions.
5. Encourage the behaviors you want to see.
6. Feedback lands best on the foundation of trust.
7. You can't instill belief in those you silently judge.
8. Systematize the above.

Secret 3 - It Begins and Ends with You.

The psychology of the leader is the ceiling of the group. If you don't work on your own mental skills, you become the bottleneck. You can't lead what you don't live. Six Questions to Move the Needle Forward:

1. The one mental skill for you this year? Why?
2. The risk if you don't work on it? Negative impact?
3. The possibility if you master it? Positive Impact?

NOTES & QUESTIONS HERE

This section is for you to do 2 things.

1. Take notes that stand out to you from today.
2. MOST IMPORTANTLY you will have questions that come up in your mind during this next hour...write those down here so you don't forget them. No matter how many questions you have, I'll make myself available over the next few days to answer all the questions you have that are unique to you, your program, and your players.

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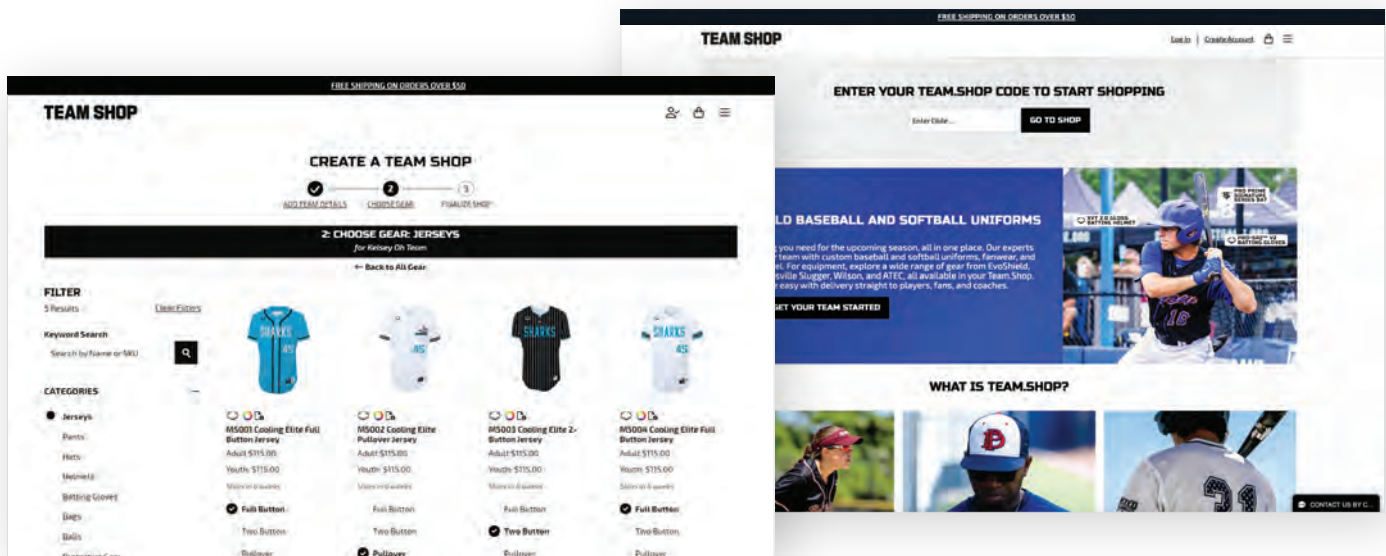


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KARL NONEMAKER Auburn University

Infield Training That Translates to In-Game Performance

- I. Intro
 - ChatGPT- “When information is the goal, not the guide, action suffers.”
 - The Art of Coaching
 - Channel Capacity
 - Physical, Fundamental, Mental: Complete Player Development
 - Onboarding an Infielder

- II. Master Fundamentals of the Infield Checklist
 1. Create a Good Hop
 2. Eyes Behind Glove at Catch
 3. Catch, Center, Transfer, Throw
 - Feet are Active Through the Whole Process
 - Centering the Ball Helps Direction and Throwing Consistency

- III. Develop Comfort playing on the Run
 - Gain Confidence Playing with One Hand
 - Play Through Footwork
 - Right Foot Throw Footwork

- IV. Create Situational Awareness and Develop Decision Making
 - Communicate at an Elite Level
 - Use Situational Fungo and Machine Games to Develop Instincts
 - Ghost Runners and a Stopwatch are Great Tools
 - Highest Percentage Out: Degree of Difficulty Doesn't Add Points!

- V. Closing
 - Influences and the Power of Community
 - 2:04

“We and Us”
“I and My”



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 - Organizing and first CBA
- The Youth Baseball Experience
 - The Families, and the Athletes
- Players Way:
 - What is it, and Why is it?
- Preserving Baseball's Purpose by Restructuring its Delivery
 - Reclaiming development first standards
- Creating Trustworthy and Transparent Systems for Families
 - Development-focused environments over exposure-driven models
- Systems that Build Lifelong Relationships with the Game
 - Diversity of opportunity
- Expanding Access Thru Strategic Alignment and Local Empowerment
 - Empowering local operators through alignment and support, and delivering value-add programming that deepens the long-standing engagement, joy, and passion for our game
- Baseball5: A Scalable Entry Point for the Next Generation
- 2026 and Beyond

For additional information, please contact MLBPA Director of Baseball and Youth Development DJ Wabick at dwabick@mlbpa.org or 917-751-2982.

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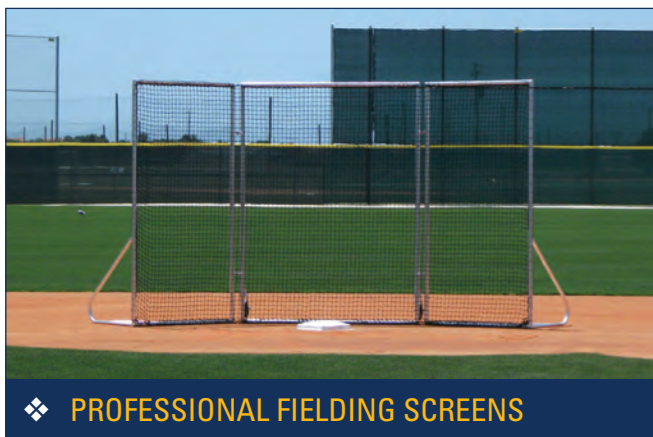
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1. Looking Through the Right Lens: How do I actually help baseball players get better at baseball?
 - Better Movers
 - Better Engines
 - Matching Intangibles with Metrics

2. Tailoring Programs to Meet Player Needs:
 - Measuring Power Generation and COG Control
 - Speed School and Red Zone Training: beyond foot speed

3. The Duke Assessment and Training Calendar
 - Priority #1: Building relationships to drive success
 1. High effort and focused intent every day
 - Assessment process, data analysis, communication
 - Global biomechanical evaluations/speed and power tests/position-specific testing
 - Matching training phases with practice plans
 - Movement dysfunction/mobility limitations and impact on speed and power potential
 - Interdisciplinary Action Plans: “Village” mindset vs. “stakeholders” mindset

4. Climbing the Mountain: A Training Year at Duke
 - Strength work, speed school, power development
 - Major areas of VBT emphasis: speed zones, peak power, time to peak velo, time to peak power
 - Progression examples



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Louisiana State University
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What do I value? | Standards – IMPACT!

- How do WE measure it?
- Outline It For THEM

Who are WE?

- What Must WE Teach?
 - iPhone it
- What Must WE Develop?
 - Fail Again, Fail Better
 - Feel and Feelings
- What Must WE Manage?
 - Tend to the People, and they will tend to the business.

Synergy

- It will take ALL OF YOU!
“An individual can make a difference, but a team can make a miracle.”
–*Doug Pederson*

Energy

- Everything is Energy and that is all there is to it



SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

Receiving | Drills

- Person
- Environment
- Skill

Blocking | Drills

- Will OVER Skill

Throwing | Drills

- Controlling the Running Game

“If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it.” –*Bear Bryant*

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JUSTIN HAIRE
Ohio State University

Hard To Kill: Building a Bulletproof Pressure-Driven Offense

Overview: Building a Hard-to-Kill Offense

Phase 1: CRUSH ZONES – Dominate the Plate

Phase 2: RHYTHM & TIMING – Hit more balls hard, more often

Phase 3: VISION & PITCH RECOGNITION – You can't hit what you can't see

Phase 4: PRESSURE – Training additional tools for your game

Bonus: Training Takeaways & Drills to Add Value

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Do	Don't
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Optimize the “Big 3”

Energy Do Don't	Work Do Don't	Love Do Don't
--	--	--

Make Today a Masterpiece

TODAY'S THE DAY!

Your Ideal Day:

Master Yourself

Character Flaws vs. Design Flaws

Install	Delete
---------	--------

Dominate The Fundamentals

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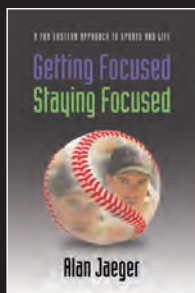


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KYLE CROOKES

University of Central Missouri

Winning 90 Feet at a Time: A Systems Approach to Aggressive Baserunning

1. Philosophy & Mindset

- Run to Score, Not to Stop – always pressure the defense.
- Controlled Aggression – smart risk vs. reward. Anticipation.
- Force Mistakes – make defenses rush and crack under pressure.

2. First Step / Leads

- Primary Lead – distance (3ft, 6ft, 12ft), Back of the bag
 - Comfortably getting back makes it easier to leave
- Secondary – timing with the pitcher's motion! Most are early and out of rhythm.

3. Stealing Bases – gets the most pub, but can be ugly while working on it

- Jumps & Reads – Front foot (Directional Step), shoulders, rhythm.
- Timing Tendencies – U.C.L.A., Head nods, breaths, pick one and go (Backhaus)
 - Educated courageous guesses
- Picking Pitches – counts, off-speed situations, catcher habits.
- Vaulting & Momentum – helps level the speed playing field.
- It's the Start that Stops most People!

4. Drills to Work on Each Fundamental

- Tee Ground Balls – read angle, force defense to make a perfect play.
- BP
 - Fly Balls – tag vs. shadow or halfway, 0 outs vs. 1 out.
 - Line Drives – hard back.
- 2 on 2
- 5 Station Baserunning Think 2 Bases on Every Hit – out of the box with intent.
 - Angles Around Bags – no wasted steps, attack corners, slow straighter than fast
 - Pressure the Relay – force long throws and create pressure on (2 on 2)
- BIDS – instinctive first move. Read the flight of the ball.
 - With Catchers and Without.
- 27 Outs Reps Under Pressure – game speed helps the defense as much as the offense.

Closing Message

- Aggressive baserunning is a weapon. To effectively use the weapon, it needs to be practiced, coached, and refined.
- Make the defense defend every pitch, every base, every inning.
- Act differently than you feel – stay confident and relentless.

COACH to CATCHER

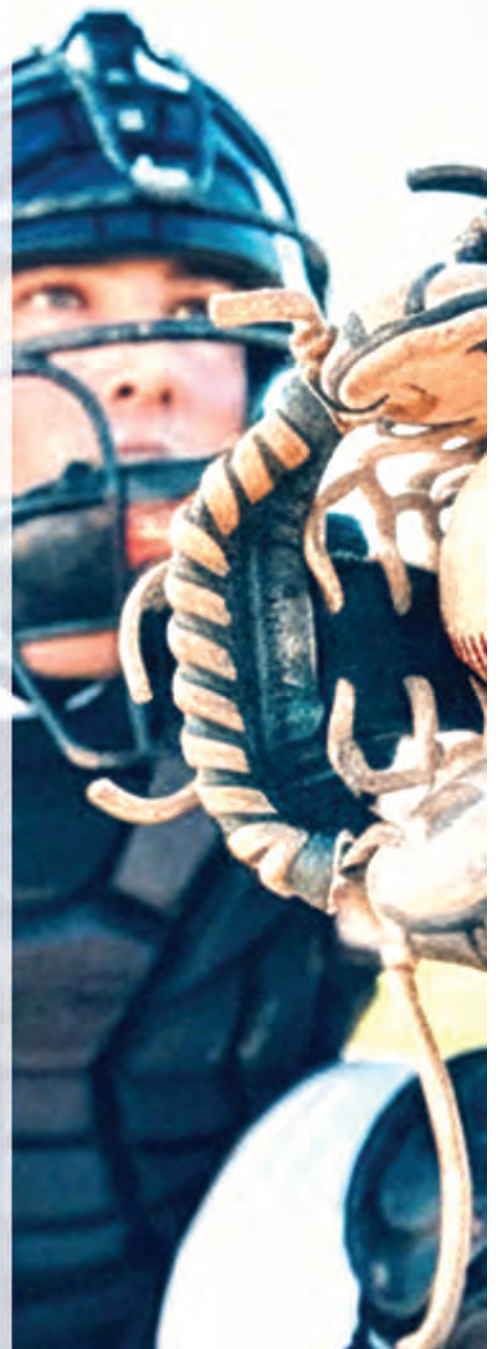
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1. Evolution
 - a. Practice Spaces → Practice Design → Offensive Execution

2. Baserunning
 - a. Stealing bases

 - b. Adding the vault lead in '21

 - c. Dirt ball reads

3. Offensive sessions
 - a. Bunts off machine
 - i. Sac to 1b/3b

 - ii. Drag/Push???

 - iii. Slash

 - b. Bunts off machine with baserunners and INF
 - i. Turns into an offensive and defensive drill

4. Games we play at practice to build aggressiveness
 - a. Point game

 - b. 3 way

 - c. Steal w/o penalty

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DON MATTINGLY, Toronto Blue Jays HAROLD REYNOLDS, MLB Network Keeping Hitting Simple

1. MECHANICS

- The best hitters get themselves in a good position to hit (more often and consistently). The better the mechanics the less holes in the swing. The less holes in the swing the more pitches you can handle.
- The worse the mechanics the fewer pitches you can handle which leads to higher strikeout rates, higher swing and miss in zone rates, higher chase rates, etc.

2. APPROACH and GAME PLANNING (This is the foundation of hitting.)

- The best hitters get themselves a good pitch to hit (more often and consistently). This leads to approach and is tied to your mechanics with an understanding of what you can and cannot do and what pitcher you can and cannot hit. The better the plan and understanding of yourself and the pitcher, the better your swing decisions, chase rates, strikeout rates, well-hit rate, whatever numbers you want to measure.

3. IMPACTING THE BALL

- Insert your own terminology – drive it, hit it hard, exit velocity...
- The best hitters get themselves in good position to hit – get themselves a good pitch to hit – and then hit the ball hard (MORE OFTEN AND CONSISTENTLY). The first two building blocks – mechanics and game plan – have a direct result on how hard and how consistent you hit the ball, and in the end, will have a direct effect on all the numbers you measure a hitter by. The hitter's ability to understand who he/she is and what he/she does is vital in his or her development.

4. HITTER'S ABILITIES

- All players are not created equal, but all of the building blocks above don't change for getting any hitter in a good position to hit. Get a good pitch. Hit the ball hard. Insert your terminology (keeping it simple is not always easy). The best hitters today and all-time make it look easy, but it is hours upon hours of work and even then, it's not easy.

5. NOW GO PLAY.

- Not every game situation is the same, therefore not every approach to every situation should be the same. Nothing changes, other than what is my PLAN for this particular situation.

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SHOHEI OHTANI | OFFICIAL TECHNOLOGY AMBASSADOR



JAMIE PINZINO

East Tennessee State University

Evaluating Pitchers and Creating an Efficient Feedback Loop

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 What has changed in the past 10 years
- 1.2 Creating Efficient Processes

2.0 Evaluation Phase (Fall)

- 2.1 Body/Ball/Game
- 2.2 Body/Arm Screening
- 2.3 Video
 - 2.3.1 Full Body Video
 - 2.3.2 Ball out of Hand video
- 2.4 Ball Flight Data
- 2.5 Building Routine Card
 - 2.5.1 Weekly Practice Overview
 - 2.5.2 Player Input

3.0 In-Season Routines

- 3.1 Weekly Feedback Loop
- 3.2 Post-game Evaluation
 - 3.2.1 Game Goals
 - 3.2.2 Meeting Agenda
 - 3.2.3 Video Analysis
 - 3.2.4 Body/Ball/Game
- 3.3 Build Plan
- 3.4 Prepare
- 3.5 Compete

4.0 Sample Studies

- 4.1 Non-Strike Thrower
- 4.2 Needs a Change-Up
- 4.3 Bullpen All-Star
- 4.4 Lack of Stuff

5.0 Ideas on Organization and Efficiency

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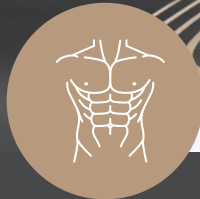
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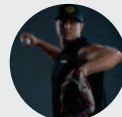
OUR SPEAKERS

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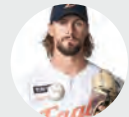
Rob Ducey

13-year MLB Veteran, Japan
MLB, and 2 Time Olympian



Dr. Ryan Crotin

Ph.D., CSCS, 10-years MLB, Expert
in Baseball Injury Protection



Ryan Weiss

Professional Pitcher with
Hanwha Eagles (KBO)



JOHN VODENLICH
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Fundamental Baseball That Wins Games

I. Introduction

- A. Thank you to ABCA & my “Influencers”
- B. My Perspective – 30 years – Things have changed!
- C. Lost focus on what’s important.
- D. The Key
- E. Today – Sort & Suggest those things that lead to winning!

II. “Fundamental Baseball” (Practice Development)

- A. Basics of the game - Baseball 101 (Ex: Game of Catch)
- B. 4 Forces influencing Performance - “Master the 4”
- C. 3 Key Characteristics of Practice (Fundamental Baseball)

III. “Moving the Needle” (Program Elements)

- A. OVERALL PHILOSOPHY
- B. OFFENSE (Hitting, Baserunning & Bunting)
- C. DEFENSE (All Position Approach)
- D. PITCHING (Getting hitters out)

IV. “Bringing it Together”



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OMAR JOHNSON
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Using Bunting to Create Offense

1. DRAG BUNT (Right & Left)

- a. What to Look For
 - i. Read the Defense
 - ii. Strike
 - iii. Mid- Away
- b. Timing
- c. Stance (Feet Straight Back)
- d. Hands out to Third Base
- e. Chest to First Base
- f. Location
 - i. 1'-2' off foul line
 - ii. Miss Fair or Foul
 - iii. Same plane of the ball (v)

2. PUSH BUNT (Right & Left)

- a. What to look for
 - i. First Baseman In or Back?
 - ii. Second Baseman up the middle?
 - iii. Strike up in the Zone
- b. Timing
 - i. Late
 - ii. Early
- c. Stance (Feet)
- d. Hands out to Second Base
- e. Chest to Second Base
- f. Location
 - i. Step to where you want to bunt the ball
 - ii. Same plane of ball (v)

3. SAC BUNT (Runner at 1B) Right & Left

- a. One Knee
 - i. Hands (Out, Separate on bat)
 - ii. Chest to Second Base position
 - iii. Knob of bat at 3B coaches box (v)
- b. Standing
 - i. Timing
 - ii. Stance (Feet)
 - iii. Hands out First Base
 - iv. Chest to Location of Bunt (4 hole/ First baseman)
 - v. Knob at third base Coaches Box (v)

4. SAC BUNT (Runner at 2B) Right & Left

- a. One Knee
 - i. Hands (Out, Separate on the bat)
 - ii. Chest to Short Stop Position
 - iii. Cap of Bat at the First Base Coaches Box (v)
- b. Standing
 - i. Timing
 - ii. Stance (Feet)
 - iii. Hands out to third base
 - iv. Chest to Location of Bunt (Shortstop / Third Baseman)
 - v. Cap of the Bat at the First Base Coaches box (v)

5. SQUEEZE (Suicide)

- a. Type of Runner (slower)
- b. Timing
- c. Fastball Count
- d. Runner's Responsibility (pitcher must go to the plate)
- e. Ball / Bunt Placement (Fair)

6. SAFETY SQUEEZE (Two Types)

- a. Type of Runner (Faster)
- b. Timing
- c. Location of Bunt
 - i. First base Safety Squeeze
 - ii. Third base Safety Squeeze
- d. Runner's Responsibility
 - i. Walking Lead Bunt down First base line
 - ii. Bunt down Third base Line
 - Walking Lead move on throw from Third Baseman
- e. Ball / Bunt Placement (first base / third base line)

7. DRILL / PRACTICE TIPS

- a. Check Angle
- b. Adjust in or over legs
- c. Use Aluminum Bats
- d. Cone Drill (v)
- e. Bunt Offense vs. Defense
- f. Drag Bunt vs. Defense
- g. Squeezes vs. Defense



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Oregon State University

Growth Through Player Development Plans

Culture Matters – Create One That Thrives

- Increase EFFORT, COMMITMENT, PERSISTENCE, ENERGY, CONFIDENCE
- Constantly Evolving → Keep Growing With It

The Sheet

- Dream, Write, Share...Then Act On It
 - Academics, Character, Skill, Health/Strength/Mobility
 - Goals → 1 Per Month = 12 Per Year = 48 While Here
 - Accountability Partner → Tighten The Group
 - Create The CALENDAR

The Meeting

- Where You Do It
- When You Do It
- Who You Do It With
- What Information You Share
- How To Prepare
- Share The Information + Follow Up

Why We Have These Meetings

- Build Relationships
 - James 4:8
 - Freshman/Transfers/Upperclassmen
- Give Answers To The Test
 - What We See
 - Depth Chart
 - Analytics
- Connecting Once a Month
 - With Each Coach
- Training Super Heroes

Examples

- Setting Daily Alarms
 - Hydration, Prayer, Social Media
- Developing Spin
 - Productive Time When Shagging
- Leadership
 - Teaching A Class, Breaking The Huddle, Community Service
- Nutrition
 - Cooking For Roommates



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CONOR BURKE Iona University

Using Pillars to Organize Outfield Development

Introduction

- Practice
 - What is the Goal?
- The Pillar System
 - Values or Skills you determine are needed to play position/accomplish the task.
 - 4-5 Macro skills required to play position successfully in game.

The Pillars

1. Catching Fly Balls
2. Fielding Ground Balls
3. Throwing
4. Prevention/Communication

Breaking Down the Macro Skill to Organize Development

1. Catching Fly Balls
 - a. Judging Fly Balls, Tracking on Run, Blind Reads, Misreads, Slice/Hook/Topspin Balls, Line Drives, Efficient Routes, etc.
2. Fielding Ground Balls
 - a. Multi-Directional GB's, Do or Dies, Bad Hops, etc.
3. Throwing
 - a. Arm Strength, Accuracy, Long Hops, Getting Behind Ball, Efficient Footwork, Clean Transfers, etc.
4. Communication/Prevention
 - a. Ball Calls, Priority OF, Wall Calls, Keep Double Play in Order, Advanced Thinking/ Baseball IQ

Implementing The Pillars Into Practice

- Organize in advance to make sure you are covering all pillars during the week
- Attempt to use indy defense portion of practice to lead up to team defense
 - Ex: Fly Ball Lead Ups – Machine/Fungo Fly Ball – Split Blind Read Fungo/Machine Fly Ball – Team Fly Ball Communication
- We aren't trying to reinvent the wheel, just trying to be intentional with our actions/plans
- Daily Routine:
 - Lead Ups/Every Days: Quick, easy, short range, very controlled, warm up (5 Min)
 - Controlled Simple Drills: Longer Range Drills with little variables (5-7 Min)
 - Challenge Drills: Adding Variables that challenge the skill (5-10 Min)

Using Drill Library to Create Daily Routine

- Example: Fly Ball Day
 - Lead Ups: Partner Side/Front Toss, QB Drill, Cone Toss (Ws, Vs, Ts)
 - Controlled: Machine Fly Ball, Fungo Fly Ball, Multi-Cone Machine/Fungo
 - Challenge: Blind Machine, Blind Machine with Partner, Multi-Ball Machine with Partner
- Example: Ground Ball Day
 - Lead Ups: Partner Front Rolls, Coach Rolls, Cone Rolls
 - Controlled: Machine GBs. Fungo GBs, Multi-Cone GBs
 - Challenge: Ground Ball Attack, Partner Gap Communication, Land Mines
- Example: Throwing
 - Lead Ups: Catch Play
 - Done every day, can work ball in glove throwing, long hops, getting through balls, efficient footwork
 - Controlled: Double Machine Fly Ball/Ground Ball and Long Hop
 - Challenge: Garbage Can Throws, Do or Dies with Land Mines
- Example: Prevention and Communication
 - Lead Ups: Short Toss Wall Communication, Three Man Partner Ball Call
 - Controlled: Machine/Fungo Fly Ball with Partner
 - Challenge: Blind Machine with Partner. Multi-Player Multi-Ball Machine, Blind Multi-Partner Multi-Ball Machine



CLAY COX Paris Junior College

Developing Dynamic Infielders: The Power of Athletic Freedom

- I. Defining Athletic Freedom

- II. Traditional vs. Dynamic
 - a. Limits of Traditional Model
 - b. Developing a Dynamic Mindset
 - c. Balancing Structure with Freedom

- III. Core Principles
 - a. Movement Variability
 - b. Creative Decision Making
 - c. Chaos and Adaptability
 - d. Trust and Autonomy

- IV. Removing the Handcuffs
 - a. Management Styles
 - b. Creating Space to Explore
 - c. Celebrating Success

- V. Where Freedom Lives
 - a. Creating Constraints to Solve
 - b. Building Space for Exploration
 - c. Promoting Adaptability
 - d. Growth Oriented Culture



JASON WHITED Centerville High School

Creating Outs That Win the Game: A Deep Dive Into Pickoffs

1. Why a Presentation on Pickoffs?
 - a. The Type of Out it Can Be
 - i. Outs that Create CHAOS (Game Winning Outs; 9U-HS-College-Pro)
 - b. Impact on Leads and Baserunning
 - i. Coach Talarico Meeting; Cause and Effect
 1. Steal Bases vs. Elite Arm and Flat FB for Hitters
 - ii. Counter Measure to New School
 1. Great Pick Game Impact
 - iii. 1st-3rd and 2nd to Home
 1. Most Embarrassing Way to Get Out
 - a. Shorter Leads, Over Cautious, Takes Away Extra 90's, etc.
 - c. Scouting Us Impact
 - i. Offensively: Bags, Bunts, and Barrels (Sheets)
 - ii. Defensively: Tempo (12 Second Rule), TOP (Time of Possession), and Picks
 1. Create a Hybrid Way of Attacking a Team
 2. Mike Maack and Charlie Greene: The Move
 - a. "Once a team or pitcher gets a reputation"....
2. Types of Pickoffs
 - a. 1st Base
 - i. R1 Basics: Looking In, Top, Middle, and Set; LHP (Balance, Direction, & Follow Through; The Move.)
 1. Priority of Teaching: Location, Glove to Glove Time (.9 & Below is Magic #), and Velo of Throw (Distant Third in Importance)
 - a. Tag Series: Arrive Early, Arrive on Time, and Arrive Late
 - ii. R1 Plays: Long Hold/Freeze, Timing, Backpicks (Another Element), etc.
 - b. 2nd Base
 - i. R2 Basics: Daylight, Inside Move, Spin Move, and Step Off
 1. Develop a System with MIF (Dugout, SS Relays, Positioning, etc.)
 - ii. R2 Plays: Timing, Blind, Z Cut, Fake Wheel, Backpicks, etc.
 - c. 3rd Base
 - i. R3 Plays: LHP to 1B Move for RHP, Timing, Squeeze Pick
3. Efficient Practice Strategies
 - a. How To Improve Within Practice Structure
 - i. Off-Season Intensive (Let Players Own It); Video Overlay and Data
 - ii. Mongero Throwing Series & POs Practice Schedule (Indy Defense)
 - iii. Situation-Dead-Dead-Live (Sheets); SCRIPT IT
4. Best Advice I Have
 - a. Accountability Groups & Non-Negotiables; I Bring This Every Day
 - b. Fall Ceremony and Cook/Camp Out
 - c. Thank You Notes (5 Per Week; Rotate It) and Top 100 Thank You

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MIKE DEEGAN
Denison University

**Culture, Training Environments and Competition:
A Systematic Approach to Development**

- I. It Starts with Questions:
 - a. What is our North Star?
 - b. How Can We Best Track and Measure?
 - c. What Training Environments Can We Create to Produce Results?
 - d. Where Can We Create Competition?

- II. WMI...What's Most Important
 - a. Shared Purpose of Denison Baseball
 - b. Three Major Systems: Pitching, Offense, Defense
 - c. The North Star for Each
 - d. Framework for Each Domain

- III. Offense
 - a. The Scoreboard: OPS / K Walk
 - b. Swing Decisions and Damage
 - c. Equipment to Support and How We Track Progress
 - d. Drills to Drive Results

- IV. Defense
 - a. The Scoreboard: Defensive Efficiency / Internal Indy System
 - b. Conversion and Range
 - c. Equipment to Support and How We Track Progress
 - d. Drills

- V. When Good Meets Good...Winning Baseball
 - a. Preparation is Everything
 - b. Study the Tape
 - c. Scaffolding
 - d. Competition is Everything
 - i. Situational Scrimmage
 - ii. Live Abs
 - iii. Game within the Game

The Most Important System!

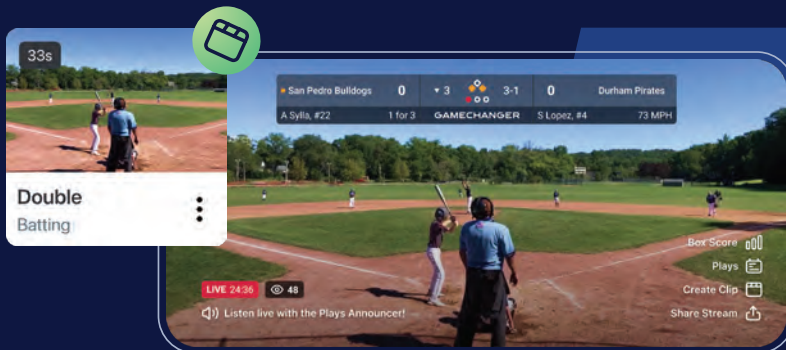
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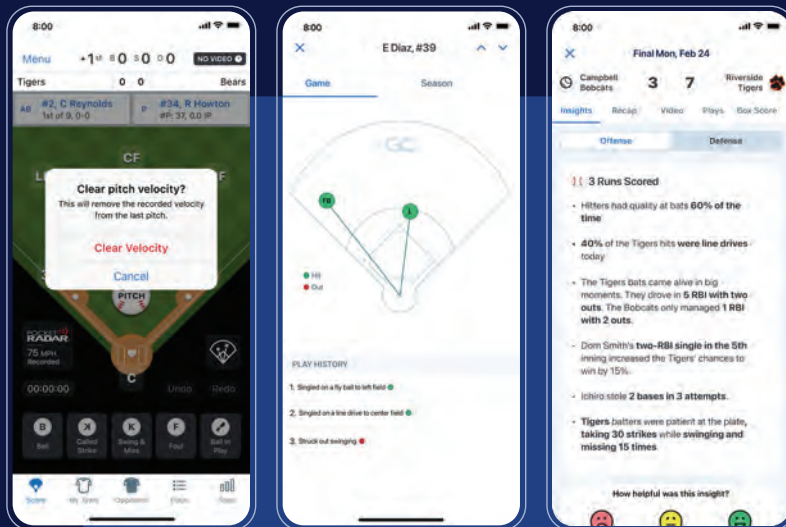
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Friday, January 9, 2026

- 9:40 a.m. **Jack Ferrick, Catching U**
Cutting Through the Noise: Catching Simplified
- 10:20 a.m. **Charles Bolden, East Coast Havoc**
Outfield Play: From the Ground Up
- 11:00 a.m. **Jason Rathbun, St. Bonaventure University**
Pitching Mindset: It is More Than Just Throwing, But You Have to Throw!
- 12:40 p.m. **Cody Wheeler, Canes Baseball**
PDG Academy: Developing Better Baseball Players
- 1:20 p.m. **Paul Babcock, Andrew High School**
Transformational Coach: Lessons from Gordie Gillespie
- 2:40 p.m. **Rob Henry, Kentucky State University**
Developing a Swiss Army Knife Approach to Improving Offensive Performance
- 3:20 p.m. **Duke Baxter & Steve Nikorak, Dominate the Diamond**
The Ultimate Practice Plan: Creative Drills, Purpose & Skill Development

Saturday, January 10, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Troy Marrow, Above the Shoulders**
The Four Pillars of Infield Play
- 9:10 a.m. **Ryan Alexander, Bo Jackson Elite**
Competitive Practice: Bridging the Gap from Practice to THE Game
- 9:50 a.m. **Dr. Steve Kelly, Foothill High School**
Let the Kids Play: Gamifying Athletic Development
- 10:30 a.m. **Chase Brewster, Texas A&M-Texarkana**
A Thin Line: The Similarities Between College and Travel Ball
- 12:50 p.m. **Ryan Terrill, Georgia Gwinnett College**
Attacking the Bases: Grizzlies on the Hunt for 90 Feet
- 1:30 p.m. **Derek Stecklein, Pleasant Valley High School**
Practice Efficiency: Mastering Player Time
- 2:30 p.m. **Youth & Travel Baseball Hot Stove**

Post-Clinic Q&A Sessions

Following each presentation, a Post-Clinic Question & Answer Session will be held in Union Station Ballroom A.



All current ABCA members have access to over 1,000 clinic videos on www.ABCA.org and in the My ABCA mobile app! The videos from the 2026 Convention will be released to attendees by early February.

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Player Name	Date	Velocity (mph)	Rotational/Camp Status	Max Distance (ft)	Predicted Vel.	Staff	By Pitch
Austin Wilson	2024-11-05	83.3 (95.6)	Good	11.8	89.9	OK	OK
Jagger Nijhof	2024-10-18	82.3 (94.0)	Good	11.6	84.2	OK	OK
Tyler Davis	2024-10-12	81.3 (95.0)	Good	10.3	90.3	OK	OK
Matthew Thompson	2024-10-07	82.4 (94.0)	Good	10.5	80	OK	OK
Andrew Wilcox	2024-10-06	81.3 (95.0)	Good	9.4	86.1	OK	OK
Maxim Williams	2024-09-29	91.4 (94)	Good	10.2	91.4	OK	OK
Oliver Martinez	2024-09-27	89.9 (92.0)	Good	9.9	87.3	OK	OK

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JACK FERRICK Catching U

Cutting Through the Noise: Catching Simplified

Catchers face information overload because of constant new drills, gadgets, and trends. Success comes from simplifying and focusing on what's functional, repeatable, and game-ready.

1. STANCES – Understand the Why Behind Each Stance

Goal: Build an efficient, athletic, and stable setup that fits the situation and athlete, while understanding why and when to use each stance to maximize performance.

Three Functional Positions:

- Traditional: Most neutral stance; balanced, ready to block or throw.
- Glove-Side Knee Down: Lowers the target, keeps the glove clear, and simplifies repetition. Angled toward arm side of plate for better consistency.
- Arm-Side Knee Down: Lowers the target, keeps the glove in front of eyes, simplifies throws to second base, and easier to repeat consistently.

Pre-Pitch Movement (The “Why”):

- Load creates timing and tempo (individualized per catcher).
- Allows catchers to start from a desired, game-ready position.
- Maintain a visual of the glove on the pre pitch; do not allow it to get under the chin.

2. RECEIVING – Own the Zone

Goal: To create a simple path to reception where the natural momentum of the catch takes the glove to the strike zone.

Core Principles:

- Pocket the Ball: Catch correctly in the glove and close properly. Middle finger & thumb
- Path: Work from outside the ball toward the strike zone.
- Eye Position: Always receive in front of your eyes.

3. THROWING – Right Left Release

Goal: Build consistent, efficient throws under pressure.

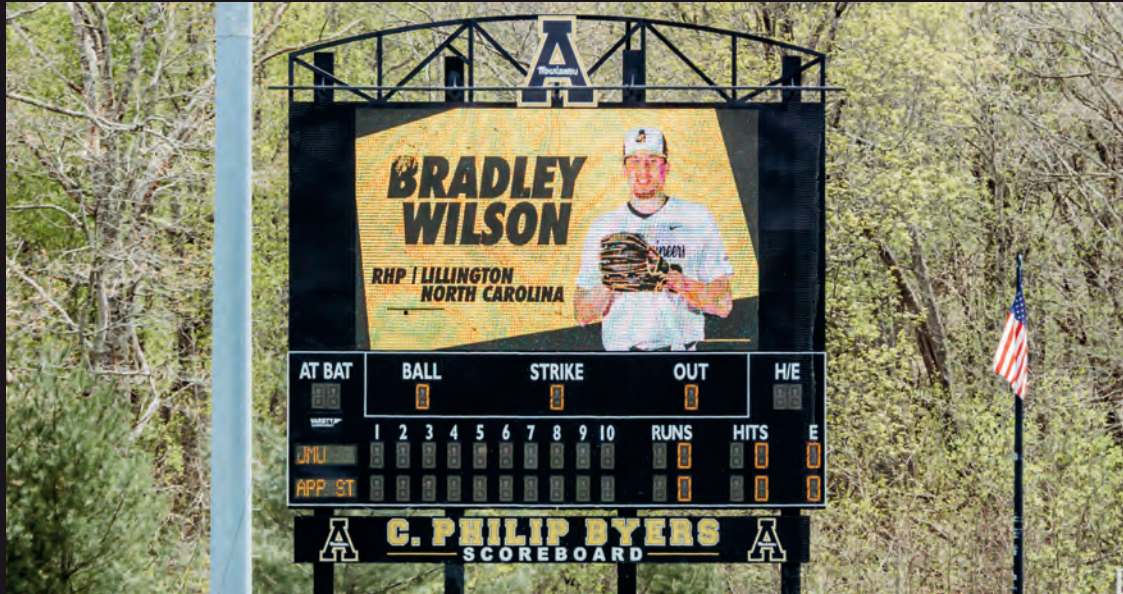
Core Pattern: Right → Left → Release

- Separate immediately on transfer; gain free time while feet get down.
- Whole hand to transfer vs. only grabbing with 3 fingers.
- Load without losing balance; create the stack. Right heel lands first.
- Square to second vs. turn. Maintain optimal direction.
- Stay “in” legs vs. low; only one level change as a catcher.

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CHARLES BOLDEN East Coast Havoc Outfield Play: From the Ground Up

The Setup:

- Upright position like a WR from the balls of your feet with a 1-2 hop
- Using the front bill of your hat to judge the ball
- Loose hips are critical
- Arm: throw at 200ft daily release of 1.3 or quicker

Objectives:

- Getting behind/through every ball
- Hitting cuts
- Chest to knee throws
- Keeping the double play in order
- Communication
- Understanding the situation
- Being prepared for the worst case
- Situation – OF mistakes cost multiple bases
- Keep eyes on ball with shoulder turns

Drills:

Alternate glove and no glove days

- Oh blank drill-charge in and adjust to ball over the head – or side to side and we also break back then have to adjust coming in
- Hip/cone drill
- Willie Mays over the shoulder
- Shoestrings
- Mini hack sliders to the line both RF & LF
- BP reps are best reps for reads

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JASON RATHBUN
St. Bonaventure University

Pitching Mindset: It is More Than Just Throwing, But You Have to Throw!

1. Introduction
 - a. Know your environment

 - b. What are you looking to accomplish

 - c. Let them play...anything

2. Control or Velocity
 - a. Velocity
 - i. Variables in Velocity

 - b. Control
 - i. How can we teach control

3. 10,000 Hour Rule
 - a. More than just baseball

4. Have a Plan
 - a. Schedule

 - b. Drills and Focus

5. Create your environment



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- Introduce Owner, GM and all coaches and talk about the importance in what we do and having a coach for every position.

Positional Breakdown

- Infield
 - Building foundations with daily work (Dailies)
 - Footwork for different situations (i.e. different angles to GB's and Double plays).
 - Internal clock work
- Outfield
 - Building foundations with dailies
 - Communication reps and angle reps every day
 - Understanding of getting ball out fast and low
- Catching
 - Building foundations for good posture
 - Glove work and anticipation drills
 - Footwork and intent throwing drills
- Pitching
 - Building foundations with a good base and thought process of how each kid's body works the best.
 - Understanding of being a complete pitcher (i.e. holding runners, knowing bunt plays, 1st & 3rds and being 1.30 or under the plate).
 - Mental side of pitching is paramount. Never showing emotions. You steer the ship for the entire game.
- Hitting
 - Tee work progression
 - Front toss progression
 - Situational BP rounds (backside, lift, H/R, infield in, infield back)
 - Understanding mental side of hitting with what pitchers are trying to do in certain situations based on base runners, counts and outs
- Relationships
 - All the work we do is great work but we didn't reinvent the wheel.
 - We have effectiveness with our players because they know we care about them.
 - They must understand we care about the person first and the player second.
 - Baseball is what you do not who you are.



PAUL BABCOCK
Andrew High School

Transformational Coach: Lessons from Gordie Gillespie

- I. Gordie's Last Message
- II. Difference Makers
 - a. Impact of one year
 - b. Just a ...
 - c. Father figure
- III. By the Numbers
 - a. You can win AND make an impact
- IV. C.O.A.C.H.
- V. Communication
 - a. Dugout, Postgame, Bus Rides
 - b. Phone Calls
- VI. Optimism/Enthusiasm
 - a. Shout praise, whisper criticism
 - b. Power of the human spirit
- VII. Attention to Detail
 - a. Tough Schedule
 - b. Practice organization
- VIII. Commitment
 - a. Consistency
 - b. Integrity- You are the example!
- IX. Hero
 - a. Mick's bat, Coaching Tree
 - b. Former players

pbabcock92@gmail.com



ROB HENRY

Kentucky State University

Developing a Swiss Army Knife Approach to Improving Offensive Performance

- I. Understanding the goal of becoming a complete offensive player
 - a. Knowing your job as an offensive player depending on the score, out, inning, situation and lineup
 - b. Developing skills to become a more effective offensive player

- II. Measuring Offensive Performance and Effectiveness
 - a. Offensive plan of attack
 - b. Quality at-bat chart

- III. Different Offensive Roles
 - a. Getting on base
 - i. Strike zone awareness/work count
 - ii. Willingness to take HBP
 - b. Strike zone discipline
 - i. Understand your best zones to hit based on situation
 - ii. Two-strike vs. less than two strike counts
 - c. Barrel control
 - i. Training to hit pitches in different zones
 - ii. Training to adjust to different pitch types
 - d. Power hitting
 - i. Ability to drive baseball/hit with “leverage.”
 - ii. Recognize pitch counts/types to “hunt” or “ambush” pitches
 - e. 2-strike hitting
 - i. Relentless approach to fighting off 2-strike pitches
 - ii. Desire to drive up pitch counts and force defense to make plays
 - f. Bunting/Short game
 - i. Basic short game offense – Sac bunt, drag, run and bunt, squeeze
 - ii. Extended short game offense – Push, double squeeze, fake bunt/steal, slash, etc.
 - g. Advancing baserunners
 - i. Moving runners – Power right side, hitting behind runner
 - ii. Driving in runners – 2-out RBI, sac fly, infield in, infield back, knockout punch
 - h. Effective baserunning
 - i. Advancing without contact – Steal, dirtball read
 - ii. Advancing with contact – Hit and run, base hit, sac fly, etc.

- IV. Skills and Drills Matrix

- V. Resources

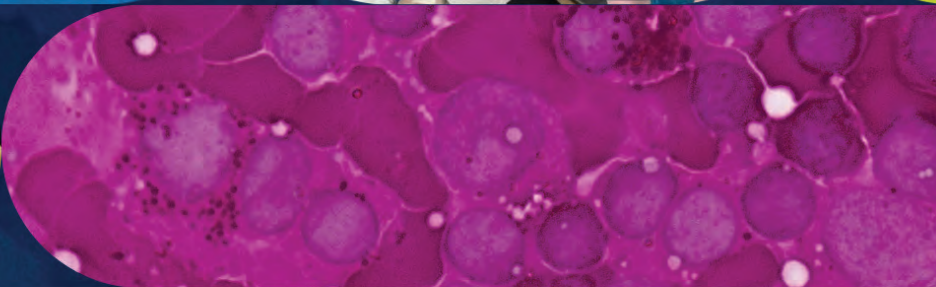
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DUKE BAXTER & STEVE NIKORAK Dominate the Diamond

The Ultimate Practice Plan: Creative Drills, Purpose & Skill Development

Core Philosophy: To provide coaches with resources and tools to run a practice plan full of Creative Drills, Purpose & Skill Development.

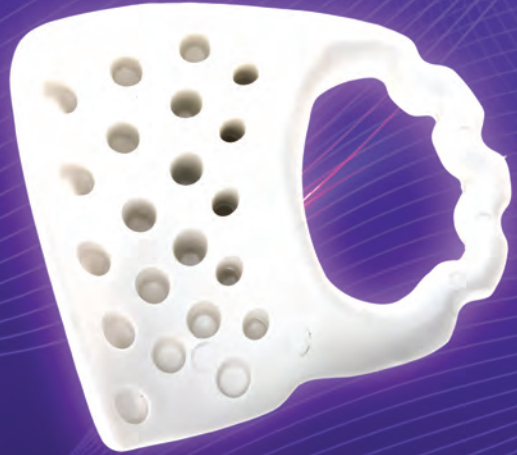
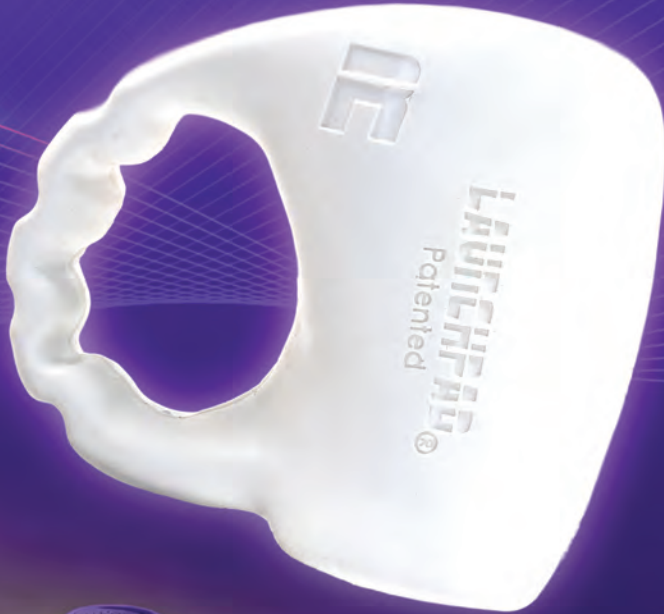
Overview: We will dive into the impact of the youth coach & the ultimate practice planning template. We will discuss key elements that keep players engaged, moving, competing & having fun.

- What does it mean to Take on the Title of Coach?
- Preparing for Your Practice (Practice Acronym)
- Common Challenges
- Resource Limitations
- Utilizing Small Spaces & Indoor Training

We will dive into each category and discuss the importance of planning, time management, & utilization of their resources. We will provide examples of how creativity, competition & structure will create a practice environment that is exciting, organized & engaging.

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TROY MARROW

Above the Shoulders

The Four Pillars of Infield Play

Introduction Troy Marrow:

- Experience What Makes Elite Infielder
- Former Division 1 Baseball Coach & USA Baseball
- Experience with Baltimore Orioles and San Francisco Giants

Core Philosophy: Elite infielders aren't born, they're built.

Goal: To provide a blueprint for becoming a complete infielder, focusing on how you prepare, think, and execute every single repetition, beyond just glove and feet. This includes your actions before the ball is hit, approach, positioning, footwork and throwing mechanics.

Overview: Diving into the foundational skills that make up a great infielder. If you want to become a more confident, consistent, and complete infielder, these four pillars are where it all starts.

4 Pillars:

Actions - The Art of Fluid Movement

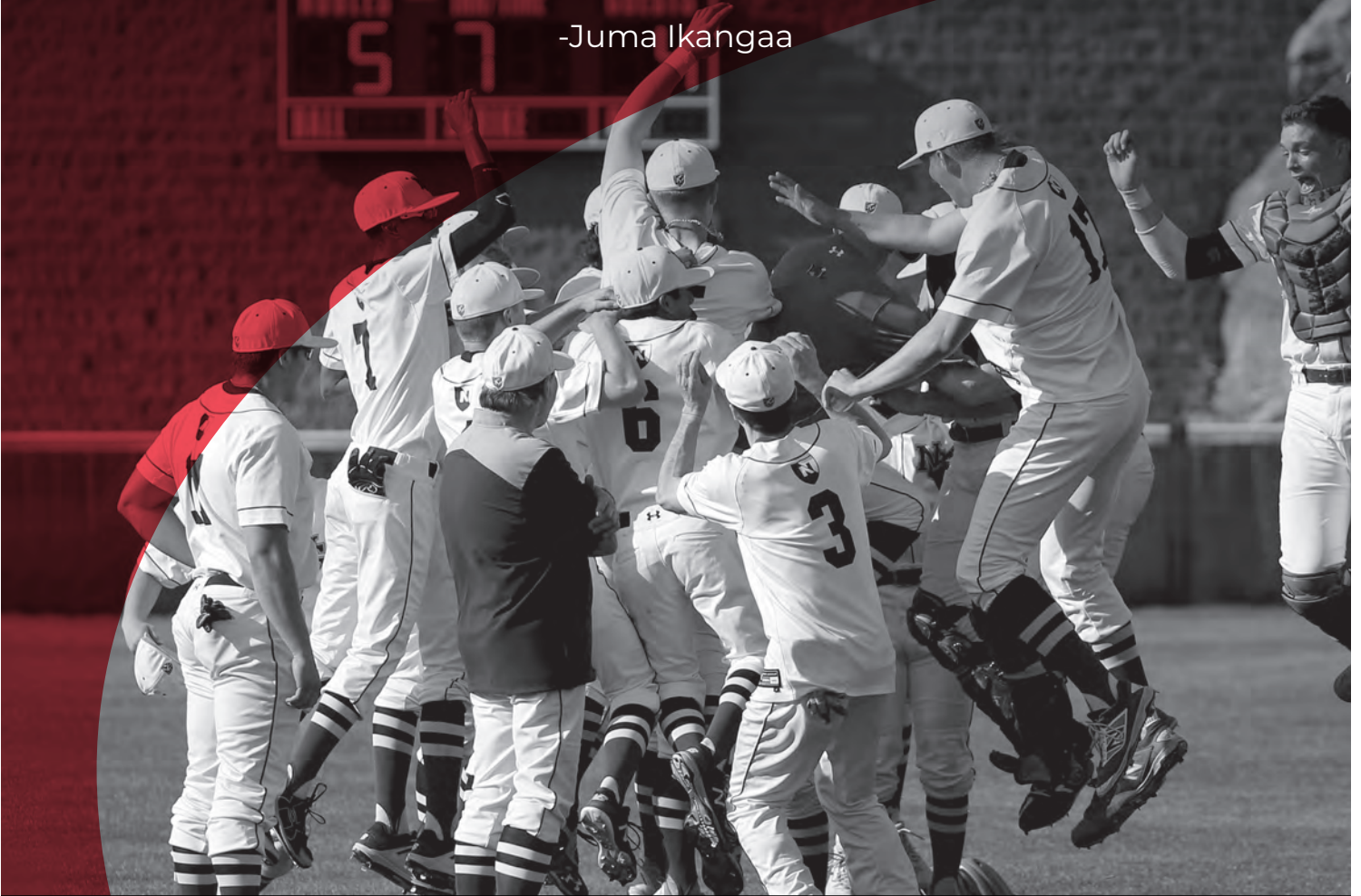
Approach - Mastering Decision-Making

Adjustability - Adapting to the Unpredictable

Athleticism - The Engine Behind Every Play

THE WILL TO WIN MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT THE WILL TO PREPARE

-Juma Ikangaa



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Competitive Practice: Bridging the Gap from Practice to THE Game

- I. Competing on Offense – Train in the Jungle every day.
 - a. Challenge days
 - b. 5 on 5 on 5 on 5 (set the scenarios)
 - c. Bunt Game
 - d. Donna Round

- II. Competing on Defense
 - a. Blackjack
 - b. Right side defense (including pitchers)
 - c. Timed Double Plays
 - d. Double Plays to end BP – Outfielders hit (must hit ground ball)
 - e. Outfield Arm Day
 - f. Running Game Day
 - g. 21 Outs

- III. Competing on the Mound
 - a. Tee Game
 - b. HORSE
 - c. Correction Pens
 - d. PFP Knockout
 - e. 15 pitch LIVE Pens

- IV. Mental Toughness – Daily Mindset Training
 - a. Toughness – No Excuse Policy
 - b. No crying or arguing with umpers
 - c. Routines
 - d. Visualization
 - e. What can you do for each player – Every player is different

- V. Make it FAST, Make it FUN



FAST. EASY. PROVEN.

Discover what makes
your team click.

"TSCG has become an invaluable development tool for us. Being able to build relationships quickly and establish open lines of communication with players from every background is crucial in our team's development. TSCG allows us to accelerate these processes."

Ryan Folmar
Head Coach, Oral Roberts University

"In an ever-changing competitive environment we are looking for ways to maximize our program and we feel like Team Sports Consulting Group is a big part of that."

Skip Johnson
Head Coach, University of Oklahoma

It takes *5 minutes*
to start seeing your
team differently.

Take the survey now, then visit **Booth #901**
to see how a simple look at team connection
can unlock stronger communication and
performance all season long.

BOOTH #901



SCAN TO START



DR. STEVE KELLY Foothill High School

Let the Kids Play: Gamifying Athletic Development

- The Big Goals
 - Joy and Retention above all
 - Building good humans through play: compassion, empathy, mudita, teamwork
 - Athleticism
- The Opportunities
 - Childhood redefined: ↓ PE + ↓ unstructured play = ↓ movement literacy
 - Early specialization: sports and positions
 - Pressure, expectations, clout, scholarships, rankings, accolades
 - Loss of autonomy, creativity, self-discovery
- The Solutions
 - “Play creates new neural connections and tests them.” –*Dr. Stuart Brown*
 - Infinite Game: keep the important things important
 - Fill Buckets: movement, strength, speed, body control, agility, balance...
- The Key Competencies
 - Run/Skip forward, backward, sideways
 - Shuffle/Carioca
 - Stop, start, change direction
 - Spin
 - Jump/Hop
 - Get down/get up
 - Crawl/Roll
- The Activities/Games
 - Large Group
 - Small Group
 - Partner
 - Individual
- The Lesson Plan
 - Small doses go a long way, but entire practice can be gamified
 - Depends on needs, time of year, team personality
- The Tools/Toys
 - Data's Role
 - Needs vs. Wants
 - Timing gates, radar, VJ, medballs, hurdles, ladders, weights...

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Flexfit® Full Fabric
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CHASE BREWSTER

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

A Thin Line: The Similarities Between College and Travel Ball

People, Process, and Product = Program!

- It all starts with the people
 - Believe in them
 - Give them a reason to show up
 - Remember the people who helped along the way

- The process is the heartbeat of your program
 - What are your long- and short-term goals
 - The process never stops
 - Process and results are two different things

- It is never a finished product
 - What do you want your program to look like
 - Microwave vs. the oven
 - Actions achieve goals

- The three pillars of our program at TAMUT
 - Add value
 - Be Consistent
 - Be Efficient

“What can we do today, to win a championship tomorrow?”

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RYAN TERRILL

Georgia Gwinnett College

Attacking the Bases: Grizzlies on the Hunt for 90 Feet

Environment Defined:

- G.R.I.Z.
- Attitude of Gratitude
- Goal Setting and Passion
- Individual Responsibility
- Law of 10,000 Reads

Tour of the Bases

- Home Plate (Where it Begins)
- 1st Base
- 2nd Base
- 3rd Base
- Finish Line (Statement Stomp)

Team Practice Application

- Four Corners Variations
- Baserunning Cycles
- Shortgame Game Changers
- Baserunning BP (Reads Focus)
- Baserunning BP (90 FT)

Role of the 1B & 3B Coaches

Tracking the Metrics

- Bringing the Numbers to Life

Cell: 301.807.2601 // RTerrill@ggc.edu // X: CoachTerrill21



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Coach-to-player in less than one second.

 **CLARITY**

Eliminate missed or misread signs.

 **SECURITY**

End sign stealing for good.

 **RELIABILITY**

No cellular or Wi-Fi required.

 **VALUE**

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Pleasant Valley High School
Practice Efficiency: Mastering Player Time

I. Introduction

A. WHY

II. UDL

A. Goal

B. Importance

C. Prioritize

III. Practice

A. Meeting *15 minutes

B. Dynamic *10 minutes

C. Baserunning *10 minutes

D. Throwing Program *15 minutes

E. Indy D *10 minutes

F. Team D *10 minutes

G. Team O *50 minutes

IV. FINISH



The Inaugural Meeting, June 29, 1945. Front Row (left to right): John H. Kobs, Michigan State; William V. McCarthy, New York University; Robert A. Rolfe, Yale; Ray L. Fisher, Michigan; Everett D. Barnes, Colgate; George K. James, Cornell; Robert B. Martie; John F. Coffey, Fordham; Joseph Bedenk, Penn State; Emerson Dickman Jr., U.S. Merchant Marine. **Back Row (left to right):** Albert D. Riopel, Holy Cross; Henry R. Hodge, Clarkson; Max F. Bishop, U.S. Naval Academy; Robert H. Dunn, Swarthmore; Howard A. Hobson, Oregon; Dan E. Jessee, Trinity; Louis A. Alexander, Rochester; Capt. Paul J. Amen, U.S. Military Academy; L.W. Whitford, Iowa State; John W. Gill, Western Michigan; Walter Roettger, Illinois; Charles W. Ward, Rutgers. **Not Pictured:** E.F. Caraway, Lehigh; William B. Cook, Manhattan; Thomas J. Harrington, Brooklyn; Horace J. Henderson, Pennsylvania; William E. Reaser, Lafayette; Forest Wyatt, Lynchburg.

History of the American Baseball Coaches Association

In 1945, a group of college baseball coaches gathered in New York City to formulate ideas for the promotion and improvement of the collegiate game. Eppy Barnes of Colgate University and Joe Bedenk of Penn State University originated the idea that college baseball needed organization and direction. Prior to 1945, a survey revealed that only one-third of the more than 600 colleges were playing baseball. More than 140 coaches responded to the survey approving the formation of a college baseball coaching organization.

We are now hosting our 82nd ABCA Convention!

The first meeting was held at the New York Athletic Club on June 29, 1945. Twenty-seven coaches were in attendance. Presentations were made urging college coaches to organize so they could better promote the game, help gather national statistics and cooperate with professional baseball. Former college coach and President of the Brooklyn Dodgers Branch Rickey was one of the speakers. It was determined that a constitution would be written.

The new organization was to be named the American Association of College Baseball Coaches (AACBC). The founding fathers decided to hold annual meetings (conventions).

In January 1946 in the city of St. Louis, the second convention of the AACBC was held with approximately 60 members in attendance. Items of discussion included: All-America teams, a playoff system, promoting the game, creation of conferences and leagues, and problems with early signings by professional baseball.

The Association was instrumental in the creation of the College World Series. The first AACBC College World Series was held in June of 1947 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was a two-team series with the University of California defeating Yale University the first two

games of a two-out-of-three series. The next year, the AACBC requested \$5,000 from the NCAA to operate the College World Series, which was also held in Kalamazoo. In 1949, the AACBC expanded the tournament to four teams and the series moved to Wichita, Kansas. The College World Series moved to Omaha in 1950, where it has been held ever since, and eight teams were involved. Today the CWS is conducted by the NCAA, but the Association continues to attend and hold meetings in Omaha.

In 1949, the Association established its first All-America team. The program was expanded over time and, today, the annual ABCA/Rawlings All-America and Gold Glove teams are selected in 11 divisions of college and high school.

By 1980, the AACBC's membership had broadened significantly to include more than just college coaches. At the January 1981 convention held in Miami, the membership voted to change the name of the Association to the present name: the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA).

Prior to 1983, the Association's governing body was known as the Executive Committee. In 1983, the ABCA Board of Directors was formed. The Board establishes general policy, directs the business and affairs of the Association, is responsible for Constitution/By-Law Amendments, and in general, governs the Association. The Board consists of all past presidents, the current president and vice presidents of the ABCA, and three members of the Executive Committee.

The ABCA has had five full-time Executive Directors: Lee Eilbracht (1978-87), Jerry Miles (1987-91), Dick Bergquist (1991-94), Dave Keilitz (1994-2014) and Craig Keilitz (2014-present).

Since those early years, the Association has grown to more than 15,000 members, with coaches from all 50 U.S. states and more than 40 countries.

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the 83rd ABCA Convention!**

2027 ABCA Convention
January 7-10, 2027 – Chicago, IL

2029 ABCA Convention
January 4-7, 2029 – National Harbor, MD

2028 ABCA Convention
January 6-9, 2028 – Nashville, TN

2030 ABCA Convention
January 3-6, 2030 – Austin, TX



The American Baseball Coaches Association
wishes to acknowledge and thank ATEC
for its sponsorship of the ABCA clinics.