

Collegiate Baseball

The Voice Of
Amateur Baseball

Started In 1958 At The Request Of Our Nation's Baseball Coaches

Vol. 66, No. 14

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

\$4.00

Science Of Stealing Home

Gillespie Proved It Can Be A High Percentage Move In Baseball

□ His teams were 50 of 52 in stealing home which only took place in special situations.

By **LOU PAVLOVICH, JR.**
Editor/Collegiate Baseball

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — There is nothing more exciting in baseball than the successful steal of home.

The absolute best system at stealing home was developed by the late Mike Gillespie.

His teams were successful 50 out of 52 times.

Gillespie died in July of 2020 at the age of 80 from respiratory complications.

He coached on the NCAA Division I level for 31 years with an overall

1,156-720-2 record with stops at the University of Southern California (20 years) and his final 11 years as the skipper at U.C. Irvine.

Counting his 16 years as a junior college coach at College of The Canyons, he led teams to 1,588 wins over 47 years.

Nobody will ever forget the 1998 College World Series championship game when he coached Southern California against Arizona State.

Incredibly, Gillespie called a triple steal in the top of the seventh inning with USC clinging to an 11-8 lead with two outs.

Trojan batter Wes Rachels stepped to the plate and was 4-for-4 going into that at-bat with 5 RBI.

Nobody in the world expected it at the time which made it so effective.

On the first pitch from ASU righthander Chad Pennington, who was

More On Stealing Home

■ Selwyn Young, the top teacher of base stealing in the game, explains how his baserunners are highly successful/**Page 9**

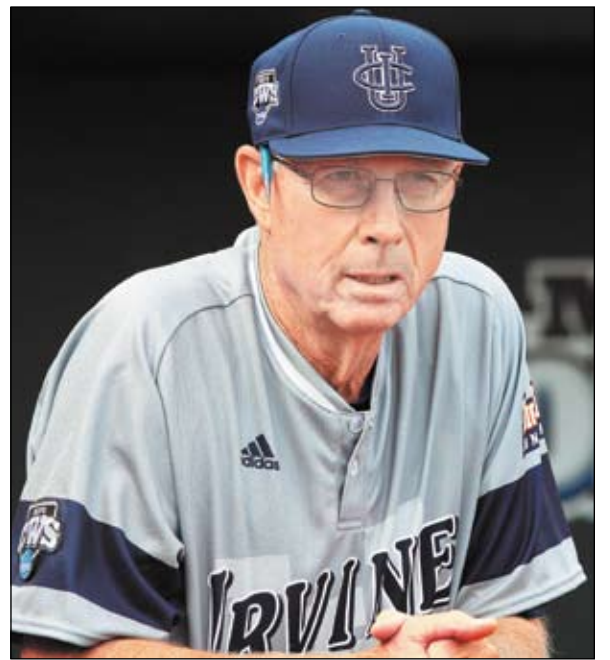
in the full windup position, Morgan Ensberg of the Trojans sprinted from the third base bag halfway down the line in an attempt to get the pitcher to balk.

But Pennington wouldn't bite as the pitch was delivered to Rachels.

Two more pitches were recorded with Ensberg sprinting halfway down the third base line each time.

With a 1-2 count and Pennington not paying much attention to Ensberg because of the prior three bluffs and the unlikely chance of him actually stealing home, the USC runner began

See **STEALING HOME**, Page 8



Head Coach Mike Gillespie

Taking A Deeper Dive Into Excellence

Unseen Skills Of Great Coaches



Rider Head Coach Dr. Barry Davis

□ Hidden driver of greatness in coaching is emotional intelligence and much, much more.

By **DR. BARRY DAVIS**
Head Baseball Coach
Rider University

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. — In July 2024, 10,500 athletes will join one another in Paris, France to represent their country in the 33rd Summer Olympic Games.

The opening ceremony is a spectacle on its own. On display will be the greatest athletes in the world.

They all have one thing in common.

They all have a coach.

Even great athletes like Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods and Serena Williams hired coaches to improve their games. And coaching is not limited to athletes.

There are speech coaches, drama coaches and life coaches. Coaching is critical to all walks of life. It is indisputable that no organization, team, or individual will succeed at the highest level without a great coach.

See **EXCELLENCE**, Page 2

This Will Be The Last Issue Of Collegiate Baseball Due To Pavlovich's Retirement

□ For 66 years, CB has been dedicated to helping college, high school baseball grow.

By **LOU PAVLOVICH, JR.**
Editor/Collegiate Baseball

TUCSON, Ariz. — This is the final edition of *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper.

My wife Diane and I have decided to retire and look forward to this new chapter of our lives.

I have personally worked at *Collegiate Baseball* for the past 52 years and covered 50 College World Series as a writer and photographer.

For 51 years, I have had the pleasure of covering American Baseball Coaches Association Conventions as well.

I also have been fortunate to cover four summer Olympics in Los Angeles (1984), Seoul, Korea (1988), Barcelona, Spain (1992) and Atlanta (1996) as a writer and photographer.

It has been an enjoyable journey working with thousands of college and high school coaches across the nation during this time along with wonderful folks in the sports



First Edition Was In 1958

information departments of our nation's colleges and advertisers.

The first issue of *Collegiate Baseball* was in 1958 with Abe Chanin being the initial publisher.

My dad Lou, Sr. purchased it in 1971, and it has been a Pavlovich production for the past 53 years.

Few realize how valuable my mom (Rose) and wife (Diane) have been to the success of this publication over the past 53 years.

For many years, my mom not

See **WILD EVENTS**, Page 4

INSIDE COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

Web Site: www.baseballnews.com

NCAA Div. I Recruiting Rundown
Arkansas lands top class in USA with impressive haul of 24 athletes led by 7 top 100 players/**Page 10**

Bat Testing Prior To Every Game
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee makes important recommendation to curb potential cheating/**Page 4**

2024 ABCA Convention News
Incredible lineup of speakers planned for the largest baseball convention in the world/**Page 21**

Excellence In Coaching Explored By Dr. Barry Davis

Continued From Page 1

A majority of those reading this article are coaches or someone who aspires to become a coach. For the record, the world needs more great coaches.

Coaching can be a rewarding profession affecting the lives of many. Evangelist Billy Graham once said, “A coach will impact more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime.” That is a strong statement.

Today’s collegiate and professional climate is competitive. It is a win-now climate.

Thus, head coach selection has become one of the most important decisions a club owner, general manager (GM), University President, or athletic director (AD) will make.

Search firms are often called upon to assist in finding the best candidates. And even this method arrives with holes in the process. Locating and selecting greatness at the head coach level is a rather tricky task. Search firms included.

Picking the right person for the job is elusive.

The entire selection process is often repeated. ESPN.com reported that from January 1, 2010, until January 31, 2021, former head coaches received \$533.6 million from their previous employers not to coach.

In 2022-2023, 127 head coaching positions changed in college football, men’s college basketball and baseball. Let’s face it, there is no real solution to selecting the next John Wooden or Nick Saban.

Or, for us baseballers, selecting

the next Skip Bertman, for that matter.

This process is not an exact science. History offers plenty of proof.

This article aims to reduce the failure rate in head coach selection by illustrating and examining three often unseen, indisputable traits and tendencies consistent with great coaches.

Although this only scratches the surface of the in-depth process required in head coach selection, it reveals three non-negotiables of today’s great head coach.

Non-negotiables aside, please understand targeted candidates have been associated with winning.

They are considered winners. Because the athletic climate is a win-now climate, more W’s and less L’s matter.

That is clear. Now that we’ve eliminated the obvious, let us focus on the three non-negotiables.

They are experience, emotional intelligence and a growth mindset.

Experience Matters

Becoming great at anything takes time. History says it may take decades to become great at anything. Coaching is no different.

Take basketball coach John Wooden, a winner of ten national championships. Wooden began his head coaching career as a high school coach.

After spending 13 years at the high school level, Wooden moved to Indiana State for three years. At UCLA, Coach Wooden would build his Bruin program over the next 15 years, winning his first national title in 1964.



“ This article aims to reduce the failure rate in head coach selection by illustrating and examining three often unseen, indisputable traits and tendencies consistent with great coaches. Although this only scratches the surface of the in-depth process required in head coach selection, it reveals three non-negotiables of today’s great head coach.

— Coach Barry Davis
Rider University

”

Coach Wooden was 53 years old. It was his 31st year as a head coach.

University of Alabama coach Nick Saban spent 22 years (21 as an assistant) before being hired as the head football coach at Michigan State in 1995.

Saban would win his first national championship in 2003 as head coach of LSU.

Saban was 52 years old and had coached for 30 years.

College baseball coaching legend Skip Bertman began his career, like Wooden, in high school.

Bertman spent 11 years at Miami Beach High School before assisting Hall of Fame coach Ron Fraser at Miami for eight years.

After 19 years, Bertman accepted

the head baseball coaching position at LSU. Bertman spent the next seven years building his LSU program.

He won his first of five national championships in his eighth season. Skip Bertman was 53 years old and had coached for 26 years.

Many examples align with these three coaches and their career paths. Names like Jackson, Smith, Lombardi, Auriemma, Staley, Mulkey, and Garrido, are all comparable.

It is the Who’s Who of coaching. And, remember, this is only football, men’s and women’s basketball, and baseball.

Further examination and research to cement that experience are vital to sustainable success includes the following: Coaching researchers,

Clifford Mallet and Sergio Lara-Bercial also show that an elite coach spends 18 to 20 years of coaching experience to produce championship-caliber teams at the highest level.

The elite coaches’ average age falls between 40 and 64. Furthermore, in research by Dr. Feng Xiong, Jean Cote, and Dr. Wade Gilbert reveals that preparation and repetition over decades separate great coaches from the rest.

Studies also have indicated that it takes 10,000 hours to meet coaching efficacy (productiveness, efficiency, effectiveness).

Experience and preparation are common denominators when

See **EMOTIONAL**, Page 7



Slide into Tucson

FEB 26 - MARCH 31 2024



Home of Collegiate Spring Training


TIG offers all games at one location and:

- MAJOR LEAGUE FACILITIES ★ 8 PROFESSIONALLY MANICURED FIELDS ★ BATTING CAGES AVAILABLE
- ACCOMMODATING SCHEDULES ★ ON-SITE DIRECTOR AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES ★ GREAT WEATHER
- DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOMS/COMPLIMENTARY COACHES ROOM ★ ICE & WATER COOLERS IN DUGOUTS

Absolutely the best hospitality you will find during a spring training event.

 520-777-7680

 tigsports.com



Collegiate Baseball

The Voice Of
Amateur Baseball

Collegiate Baseball (ISSN 0530-9751) is published twice a month January-May and once in June, July, September and October (14 total issues) by *Collegiate Baseball* Newspaper, Inc., 2515 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705. Periodicals postage paid at Tucson, AZ.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Collegiate Baseball
P.O. Box 50566
Tucson, AZ 85703

Overnight Mail: 2515 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705

Past Publishers: Abe Chanin, Lou Pavlovich, Sr.
Single 1-Year Subscription Rate: \$28 for 14 issues.
Single 1-Year First Class U.S. Subscription: \$45
Single 1-Year Foreign Air Mail Subscription: \$50
Special Team Subscriptions: 11 papers each issue sent to one address — \$110 (save \$198 off the single subscription price), and 21 papers each issue sent to one address — \$189 (save \$399).
Other Multiple Subscription Offers: Please inquire with subscription department at (520) 623-4530.

Directory

Area Code (520)
Publisher: Lou Pavlovich, Jr. (Call 623-4530)
Editor: Lou Pavlovich, Jr. (Call 623-4530 to report stories)
Advertising Director: Diane Pavlovich (Call 623-4530)
Subscription Department: (Call 623-4530)
Fax Machine: (Call 624-5501)
E-Mail: editor@baseballnews.com
Web Site: www.baseballnews.com

2023 Publication Schedule

January 6	March 10	May 5	September 1
January 27	March 24	May 19	October 1
February 10	April 7	June 16	
February 24	April 21	July 14	

Moving?

Make Sure CB Moves Along With You!

To change your address, please write us 30 days in advance if you can. Mail to: *Collegiate Baseball* Newspaper
Dept. Address Change
P.O. Box 50566
Tucson, Ariz. 85703

1. Please print OLD address here.

NAME _____
STREET _____ APT. # _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF
MOVE: _____

2. Please print NEW address here.

NAME _____
STREET _____ APT. # _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Vanderbilt Receives Lead Pledge Up To \$10 Million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt announced an opportunity for former Vanderbilt baseball players to take the lead in shaping the future of Hawkins Field.

An anonymous Commodore baseball alumnus and his alumna spouse will match all qualifying gifts and pledges by other baseball alumni, up to \$10 million.

With this significant lead gift, the donors hope to challenge baseball alumni and inspire all supporters to join them in ushering in the next era for the home of the two-time national champions.

Last summer, Vanderbilt revealed renderings for enhancements that include creating extensive premium seating opportunities, expanding capacity and reimagining the game day experience for supporters of one of college baseball’s most successful programs.

Under head coach Tim Corbin during the Hawkins Field era, 22 Vanderbilt players have been selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft.

Last July, three-time All-American Enrique Bradfield, Jr. was selected in the first round of the MLB draft by the Baltimore Orioles.

Issue Goes To Wide Circulation

TUCSON, Ariz. — This issue of *Collegiate Baseball* is being brought to you by the American Baseball Coaches Association and this publication.

This widely distributed issue will be received by baseball coaches in our nation’s high schools, junior colleges and 4-year institutions.

For more information about the ABCA and its offerings to baseball coaches, please see page 24. We hope you enjoy reading *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper.

Advertiser Directory

Beam Clay/Partac Peat.....3	Gerry Cosby & Co3
Big League Chew.....15	Glover’s Scorebooks.....5
CheapBats.com3	Own The Zone Sports9
<i>Collegiate Baseball</i> Instructional E-Books.....22	PYT Sports.....7
Diamond Pro23	Tucson Invitational Games2
Diamond Sports13	Web Flex11

For more information on joining the American Baseball Coaches Association or their convention, call (336) 821-3140 or see page 24.

For information on obtaining back issues of *Collegiate Baseball* or instructional e-books, call (520) 623-4530 or see pages 17 and 22.

Find quick links to all our advertisers on www.baseballnews.com and let them know you saw their products in Collegiate Baseball.

Coaching Changes Take Place

TUCSON, Ariz. — More college coaching changes have taken place.

Here’s a look at some of the promotions and new staff additions.

Head Coach
John Muller was named the new head coach at Union College.

He recently finished his seventh season at the helm of the College of Mount Saint Vincent. He rebuilt that team and over the last three seasons, MSV boasted 62 wins. In 2022, the team tied for second in the Skyline Conference regular-season standings.

While at that MSV, he also served as an Associate Director of Athletics and was the liaison between the Athletic Department and Admissions Office.

Assistant Coaches
David Berg was promoted to a full-time assistant coach position at UCLA.

One of the most distinguished student-athletes in the school’s history, Berg served in a variety of roles over the past five years. He returned to the program as an undergrad assistant coach in 2019, then became the director of baseball operations for two seasons before being promoted to volunteer assistant.

During his five seasons on staff, UCLA has gone 170-81 and made the NCAA Tournament in three of four possible years.

Kansas State promoted **Austin Waters** to Associate Head Coach.

His primary focus has been on hitting, outfield and baserunning in addition to recruiting responsibilities over the past five seasons. He helped guide K-State to its third consecutive run in the Big 12 baseball championship semifinals.

He helped the team to top 10 performances in five offensive categories — home runs, stolen bases, walks, sacrifice flies and runs batted in.

Kent State has hired two new assistants in **Ryan Sloniger** and **Ryan Shawley**.

Sloniger is rejoining the Golden Flashes as the third assistant coach after spending last year as an assistant coach at Gardner Webb.

Shawley takes over as the Director of Player Development. He was a volunteer assistant for the 2022 season where he worked with catchers and assisted with the pitching staff.

Former Pitt ace and All-ACC pitcher, **Matt Gilbertson**, returns to Pittsburgh to be the new Director of Player Development.

In 2022 he was an assistant coach with the Las Vegas Baseball Academy where he would run practices, camps, games and summer leagues for youth baseball players of all ages. He also was an assistant trainer at Greathouse Physical Therapy and Sport Science.

In 2023 he served as an assistant coach at the University of Saint Katherine in San Marcos, CA, and then went to play baseball in the Czech Republic for the summer.

Norfolk State added **Brett Mays** as the pitching coach and **Joe Morris** as the outfield coach and recruiting coordinator.

Mays was the pitching coach at Randolph-Macon College the past two seasons. The team was ranked as high as sixth in the NCAA Div. III poll nationally.

Morris spent the previous two seasons at Wagner College as the outfield and hitting coach. He had several All-Conference outfielders during his time at the school.

Air Force added **Drew LaComb** and **Kyle Winkler** to its coaching staff.

LaComb will be the new hitting coach and offensive coordinator for the Falcons. He previously was the head coach at Regis University for four seasons.

Winkler was an accomplished hurler for Texas Christian and later joined the staff coaching TCU’s pitchers as a bullpen coach. He helped the team earn a to a trip to the College World Series in 2023. In 2022, he was a volunteer coach for the team.

Northeastern hired two assistants in **Frank Holbrook** and **Chris Bosco**.

Holbrook spent the past five seasons as a head coach at Rhode Island College and posted a career record of 113-52.1. He also was the head coach of the Newport Gulls of the New England Collegiate Baseball League. The Gulls claimed the NECBL championship this past summer with a 31-11 record.

Bosco returned to Northeastern after one season as an assistant coach at Dartmouth College.

Zak Taylor joined the Oregon State baseball staff as the Director of Baseball Personnel. He will be responsible for working with the team’s alumni, OSU’s camps as well as player mental skills.

CheapBats.com

1-800-589-HITS

Order today
have it tomorrow

The Professionals’ Choice

GERRY cosby

ATHLETIC OUTFITTERS

Custom-made player, catcher’s, ball and bat bags. The **#1 choice** of youth to professional baseball teams.

800-548-4003
www.cosbysports.com

BEAM CLAY®

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE!

- ◆ Infield mixes, mound clays, and red warning tracks for **ALL 50 STATES** from regional plants nation-wide
- ◆ Over 10,000 sportsfield products for **ALL SPORTS!**
- ◆ **SPECIAL CO-OP PRICING FOR ALL 50 STATES!**



BEAM CLAY® INFIELD MIXES

Available Nationwide from the:
Northeast, Midwest, South & West

800-247-BEAM (2326)

sales@beamclay.com | www.BeamClay.com

Collegiate Baseball
The Voice Of Amateur Baseball

OPINION

Publisher: Lou Pavlovich, Jr.
Editor: Lou Pavlovich, Jr.

The Topic:
Expanded Bat Testing
Each issue, *Collegiate Baseball* explores a major development in the world of baseball. This issue’s editorial explains why the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee made an important recommendation.

Testing Before Games Will Prevent Cheating

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee has recommended that conferences on all levels of NCAA baseball consider expanding bat testing to each game day before the start of contests for the 2024 season.

Collegiate Baseball feels it is a superb plan of action.

According to the NCAA Div. I Baseball Statistics Trends report, there were more home runs hit per game per team (1.14) last season than in the past 54 years going back to 1970. That was the first year such records began being kept.

It interesting to note that 1974 was the first year aluminum bats were introduced into college baseball.

It also is interesting to note that 2023 had the highest scoring average per game per team at 6.75 in the last 13 years and the highest batting average (.280) in the last 12 years.

It is doubtful there has ever been a higher home run average in college baseball history than in 2023 since wooden bats were used before 1974.

There is no question some teams are using illegal, high performance bats in games, according to a number of coaches *Collegiate Baseball* talked to. With that being said, the vast majority of teams use legal bats and would never use anything else.

The only way to stop cheaters is to more tightly define what bat testing should encompass.

With this not being a rules-change year for the sport, the rules body decided to make this a suggestion and not mandatory.

Under the current rule, teams are required to have bats tested before the first game of a series, the first game of a tournament or before the start of single games or doubleheaders.

Bats that pass the testing procedure have stickers placed on them to indicate to the umpire that they can be used in games.

While nobody on the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee would say it, it appears that illegal bats may have been used during the 2023 season.

This new directive will all but stop it from taking place.

It is highly likely that bat testing will be done daily at NCAA Div. I, II and III baseball championships, although no official decision has been made.

“The discussion we had centered on the integrity of the sport,” said Doug Aiken, committee chair and associate director of athletics and compliance at Chapman.

“We want to emphasize that conferences look at what is best when it comes to bat testing, and that it can be done more frequently than what is currently required.”

Ben Brownlee, NCAA Assistant Director of Championships and Alliances with Playing Rules and Officiating, said the Baseball Rules Committee felt it was a prudent step to take.

“Throughout the 2023 baseball season, there were assertions, although not wide spread, that maybe things could happen,” said Brownlee.

“There were some factors that may not be accounted for by doing bat testing prior to the start of a series. If you don’t impound the bats between games, what happens to the bats after that? If teams switch sites during a series, do we have to require testing once again?

“What’s to stop me from putting a sticker on a bat when the testing is over? No opponent will give you a roll of stickers to place on non-tested bats. That simply won’t happen.

“I don’t want to say there is nothing to stop someone from doing that.

“But there is an ethical aspect with a coach’s code of conduct involved which is in the playing rules. You really shouldn’t be trying to cheat.”

“QUOTE
Unquote”

“The highlight of my career? In ‘67 with St. Louis, I walked with the bases loaded to drive in the winning run in an intersquad game in spring training.”

— Bob Uecker

“Baseball was made for kids. Grownups only screw it up.”

— Bob Lemon

Wild Events Often Take Place In Baseball

Continued From Page 1

only handled all of the accounting and advertising, but she also coordinated mailings of printed editions sent out to subscribers.

My wife Diane married me in 1982 and became heavily involved in the newspaper as the new bookkeeper, advertising coordinator and director of circulation after my mom’s health deteriorated. Diane also became heavily involved in the national high school polls we produced.

My dad and I did the easy stuff compared to these remarkable ladies.

Over the years, people have asked me my favorite moments being a part of *Collegiate Baseball*.

There are literally thousands of them that have taken place. Here are a few I think you will enjoy.

Hot Dog Incident

While covering the baseball portion of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, I encountered a big problem.

During the first day of a doubleheader at Chamshil Stadium, I went to the concession stand and spotted a rack of hot dogs being cooked between games.

They looked great since I hadn’t had anything to eat that day.

I ordered two. The vendor took

Around The Horn



one hot dog off the rack and put it on a paper napkin and did the same with the other.

I didn’t speak Korean.

So I asked this beautiful young lady, “Where are my hot dog buns?”

She didn’t understand.

So I replied: “Where bun?” thinking she might understand two words in English instead of six.

She brought over a security guard who could speak a little English, and I asked him the burning question of the moment: “I asked the lady for two hot dog buns. Does she have any? And by the way, do you have ketchup, mustard and onions?”

He stared at me and give me a nasty look. He then brought over another security guard who understood English well since he had gone to college in the USA.

Apparently security guard No. 1 thought I said something sexual about the young lady’s rear end and needed backup.

I explained the situation to fluent English speaking guard No. 2, and he nearly fell on the floor laughing.

He said I was awfully close to being handcuffed and arrested for sexually harassing this young lass.

The moral of the story is to NEVER ask for a hot dog bun in Korea.

I never got my two buns. So I ate the two cylinders of meat without bread and no ketchup, mustard or onions.

It was a bad day as a journalist.

Baseball Photography

Back in 1972, only photo journalists from the *Omaha World-Herald* worked the College World Series in Omaha with rare exceptions.

Other newspapers didn’t send photographers to the event because of budget constraints.

There were no photo booths at that time.

Believe it or not, you actually took photos of games near the on-deck circle next to batters!

My first duty as a baseball action photographer was near the first base

See CRAZY, Page 6

Letters To The Editor

The Amazing Wes Johnson

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the pitching system of Georgia Head Coach Wes Johnson in the last issue (Sept. 1, 2023) of *Collegiate Baseball*.

One of the areas he studies closely is video of the dominant finger on every pitch his pitchers throw so they can be consistent.

I found it fascinating that he can quantify by scientific data how many pitches each of his pitchers will be able to throw in a given game which cuts down on injuries. So he limits his pitchers to that total.

Plus, he has a unique warmup routine for each of his pitchers prior to game outings to keep them on track with mechanics they need to reinforce from an arsenal of routines available to his pitchers.

Relievers utilize this warmup procedure in place of throwing multiple pitches in the bullpen to save the arms of pitchers so they don’t throw a game in the bullpen. His explanation was pure genius.

I would LOVE to learn more about mobility testing he has for his pitchers several times a year which includes testing on the ankles, knees, hips, spine, shoulder, elbow, hand, wrist and neck.

Roy Wilson
Montgomery, Ala.

More Frequent Bat Testing

Let me applaud the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee for taking the step of recommending additional bat testing during the 2024 season on Divisions I, II and III (Sept. 1, 2023 issue).

With this not being a rules-change year for the sport, the group decided to make this a suggestion and not mandatory.

They recommend expanding bat testing to each game day before the start of contests for the 2024 season.

It undoubtedly will take place in the NCAA playoffs as well, although nothing has been determined yet.


Bats that pass the testing procedure have stickers placed on them to indicate to the umpire that they can be used in games.

There is no question in my mind that some teams are using hotter bats than allowed by NCAA rules and are exploiting the current NCAA Rule that requires teams to have bats tested before the first game of a series, the first game of a tournament or before the start of single games or doubleheaders.


John Smith
17 Mockingbird Lane
Pullman, WA 99164

U.S.
Mail

Collegiate Baseball
P.O. Box 50566
Tucson, AZ 85703



FAX:
(520) 624-5501



E-Mail:
editor@baseballnews.com

**You can also
FAX letters to
the editor or
E-Mail them:**

Collegiate Baseball welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to condense or reject any letter and to limit frequent writers.

Just look at the NCAA Div. I Trends Report. The last few years home runs have gone up dramatically as well as scoring.

The numbers for 2023 tell a story.

The home runs per game per team was 1.14 which is the highest total in the last 54 years.

By having bat testing prior to every game, there is no way illegal bats can be used.

Bill O’Malley
Dallas, Tex.

NCAA Must Regulate NILs

Your recent editorial in the Sept. 1 edition was right on the money in regard to NIL (name, image and likeness) deals in different sports.

There is no doubt in my mind that the U.S. Senate and Congress must work together to pass a federal bill that allows the NCAA to regulate NIL deals given to athletes at universities.

I like the idea that Ted Cruz of Texas introduced a draft of a bill that would empower the NCAA to regulate NIL deals and grant the Association liability protection while also preempting state NIL laws, deeming college athletes as students and not employees.

In addition, a national database for NIL contracts would be produced.

Having the NCAA regulate all of this makes perfect sense.

Jim Lauk
Portland, Ore.

Upcoming Clinics Scheduled Across United States

TUCSON, Ariz. — Each winter a variety of clinics and conventions for baseball coaches are offered.

Here is a rundown on those that were available by our deadline.

Clinic: American Baseball Coaches Association Convention

Date: January 4-7, 2024

Location: Gaylord Texan, Dallas, TX (Dallas/Fort Worth is the closest airport.)

Main Speakers (See the full list in Bob Whalen’s column, page 21):

Jay Johnson, Louisiana State (Building a Championship Program)

Brian Bannister, San Francisco Giants (Valuing Absolute vs. Relative Attributes of Pitchers)

Blake Beemer, Butler (Covering Ground: Outfield Play from the Northeast to the Southwest)

T.J. Bruce, Texas Christian (What I’ve Learned: TCU Infield Play)

Mike Curran, Ohlone College (Creative Strategies to Induce Chaos and Improve Offensive Run Production)

Nick Derba, Univ. of Maine (A Tool Kit to Build and Enhance Your Catchers)

Dave Esquer, Stanford (Coaching Culture – The Locker Room and Coach’s Room of Today)

Darin Everson, New York Mets (A Systematic Approach to Develop Hitters’ In-Game Performance)

Todd Fitz-Gerald, Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S., FL (Practice the Douglas Way: A Championship Formula)

Mike Gambino, Penn State (Indoor Practice Planning)

Bob Kendrick, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (Diversity in Baseball)

Dr. Joseph LaPlaca, Ares Elite Sports Vision (Seeing Is Winning, But Who’s Looking? The Fatal Mistake of Ignoring Vision)

Bill Mosiello, Ohio State (Old School vs. New School Hitting - Adapt or Die)

H.R. Powell, Univ. of Miami (Power Development in Baseball: A Simplistic Approach to Adding MPH and Increasing Exit Velocities)

John Savage, UCLA (Pitching to Win: Essentials of a High-Level Pitcher)

Jeff Sherman, Flower Mound Marcus H.S., TX (Three Offensive Principles That Transfer to REAL In-Game Results)

Ron Siers, Salisbury University (Leadership 4.0: Empowering Student-Athletes to Lead for Extraordinary Outcomes While Modeling Exemplary Teammate Characteristics)

Zach Sorenson, Atlanta Braves (The Hard 90: How to Prepare, Compete, and Progress in the Mental Game)

Andy Stankiewicz, Southern California (Twin Killing: Double Play Feeds and Pivots)

Matt Talarico, New York Yankees (Lessons From Developing Today’s Base Stealer)

Jerry Weinstein, Colorado Rockies (Catching Nuggets from 60+ Years of Coaching Catchers)

Nathan Whitaker, Bestselling Author (I Am Who My Record Says I Am – And Other Lies I’ve Loved)

The Trade Show and Expo Theater presentations will run from Jan. 4-6 and feature over 250 companies.

Youth Coaches Session will take place on Jan. 6-7. Divisional Coaches Meetings and Rookie Coaches Mentorship also are scheduled along with Hot Stove panel discussions and other committee meetings.

Please check the entire schedule online at www.abca.org

Cost: Registration is now open to current members as well as new members. Early Bird Registration (until Oct. 12) — \$90; Advance I Registration (Oct. 13 to Nov. 16) — \$100; Advance II Registration (Nov. 17 to Dec. 14) — \$120; Late Registration (Dec. 15 to Jan. 6) — \$150. In addition, you must register to be a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association.

There is a limited number of attendees who will be admitted to the in-person clinics. Once that number is reached, coaches will be able to join in and view the clinic presentations and other activities virtually through their

computers. Please contact the ABCA on how to register if you are unable to travel and want to join virtually.

Contact: To register and get more details, visit www.abca.org or call (336) 821-3140.

Clinic: National H.S. Baseball Coaches Association Convention

Date: November 30 to December 3, 2023

Location: Arizona Camby Hotel, Phoenix, AZ

Speakers: Turtle Thomas (former Florida International head coach), Nathan Hemphill (Peake Sorts Performance), Marc Johnson (Cherry Creek HS, CO), Bo Porter (Bo Porter Academy), Johnny Cardenas (Stephen F. Austin Univ), Kameron Lowe (former MLB pitcher), Jon Watson (Chandler-Gilbert CC), Ron Murphy (Rio Rancho HS, NM), Josh Salim (G8waymax), Jack Ferrick (Catchers U), Fred Burnside (South Dade HS, FL), Tim Funkhouser (Edwardsville HS, IL), Logan Stout (Dallas Patriots), Chris Bertrand (Northwestern State), and Sam Gjormand (College of Charleston),

Cost: \$100 for membership and convention fees per person.

Contact: Tim Saunders, executive director, at (614) 578-1864 or NHSBCA@baseballcoaches.org or visit www.baseballcoaches.org/landing/index

Clinic: 29th Annual Alabama Baseball Coaches Association

Date: December 7-9, 2023

Location: Hyatt Regency Birmingham — The Wynfrey Hotel

Speakers: Rob Vaughn (Alabama), John Savage (UCLA), Scot Hemmings (Albany State), Scott Foxhall (Auburn), Justin Haire (Campbell), Brandon Johnson (Appalachian HS), Brandon Guyer (Major League Mindset), Matt Deerman (Piedmont HS), Aaron Everett (Jacksonville State) and Bob Pickett (Ariton HS).

Cost: Early Bird Rate (if paid online by Oct. 6 or school check and form are postmarked by Oct. 6) — \$80 per individual; Pre-Registration Rate (if paid by Nov. 17) — \$100; On-Site (after Nov. 17) — \$120. You must also be an association member to attend the convention, which is \$75 per individual for the school year.

Contact: Barry Dean at (334) 676-0434 or visit www.alabca.org See the Coaches Convention drop down link under the Events tab.

Clinic: Georgia Dugout Club Convention & Clinic

Date: December 7-9, 2023

Location: Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center, Atlanta, GA

Speakers: Ron Washington (Atlanta Braves), Andrew Butler (USA

Baseball/Penn State), Wes Brooks (USA Baseball, Oxford HS, AL), Steve Smith (Milwaukee Brewers), Jeremy Sheeting (Georgia Gwinnett), Jay Lashley & staff (North Oconee HS, GA), Brian Mills (Loganville HS, GA) and others.

Cost: \$100 for staff

Contact: David McDonald at David.mcdonald26@yahoo.com or call (678) 910-0163 or visit www.gadugoutclubbaseball.org

Clinic: Virginia Baseball Coaches Association

Date: December 14-16, 2023

Location: Marriott Fair Oaks, Fairfax, VA

Speakers: To Be Announced

Cost: \$100 per person

Contact: Tim Merry, executive director, at (804) 370-3556 or email tmerry@vbca.org

Clinic: Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Clinic

Date: January 11-13, 2024

Location: Kalahari Resort in Round Rock, TX

Speakers: Max Weiner (Texas A&M), Skip Johnson (Oklahoma), Jeff Frye (Former MLB), Chris Tracz (Army), Eugene Bleeker (108 Performance), Jason Colleran (The Kinetic Arm), Jim Schwanke (former LSU coach), Kyle McNeely (NFHS Rules), and others.

Cost: \$100 membership before Dec. 15; \$120 per person after that date.

Contact: Rex Sanders at rexanders@thsbca.com or visit thsbca.com for registration info.

Clinic: Mohegan Sun World Baseball Coaches’ Convention

Date: January 11-13, 2024

Location: Mohegan Sun Expo Center — Mohegan Sun Resort Casino, Uncasville, CT

Speakers: Butch Thompson (Auburn), Kerrick Jackson (Missouri), Mike Glavine (Northeastern), John Yurkow (Penn), Ray Montgomery (Angels Bench Coach), Pete Walker (Blue Jays Pitching Coach), Tim Lieper (Giants Coach), among others.

Cost: \$175-\$219 depending on when you register. Please check registration information on the website.

Contact: For more details and registration info, visit www.BaseballCoachesClinic.com

Clinic: Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association Clinic


Date: January 18-20, 2024

Location: Sheraton at Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN

Speakers: Will be available at ihsbca.org in November

Cost: \$80 per head coach; \$75 for assistant coach

Contact: Brian Abbott at babbott@ctlnet.com or visit www.ihsbca.org



GLOVER'S

SCOREBOOKS

Baseball & Softball

Trusted For Over 50 Years

BINDER

- Fits All 11 x 14½ Refills

SCORING REFILLS

- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
30 Games, Plus Stat Sheets
- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
50 Games, No Stat Sheets
- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
30 Games, 9–15 Player Batting Order
- ANNOUNCER SCORE-SHEETS, 50 Games

SCOREBOOKS

No Binder Necessary

- 9–15 PLAYER BATTING ORDER (Blue Cover)
30 Games, Large Size (11 x 14½)
- SHORT FORM (Orange Cover)
9–15 Player Batting Order
30 Games, Smaller Size (10 x 12)

ACCESSORY ITEMS

- 4-PART LINE-UP CARDS
35 Cards - Super Size (5½ x 8½)
- PITCHING/HITTING/SCOUTING CHARTS
30 Charts - Fits Binder (11 x 14½)
- DUGOUT LINE-UP CHARTS
30 Charts - Fits Binder (11 x 14½)
- ACRYLIC LINE-UP CARD HOLDER (6 x 10)
- LARGE ACRYLIC HOLDER (9½ x 12)
- ALUMINUM ALLOY CLIP-BOARD, Large Size (12 x 17)
Small Size (10 x 13)
- SCOREBOOK BAG
Holds all our products & supplies.
Visit our Website for color combinations.

GLOVER'S SCOREBOOKS

6600 Broad Ave. • Waco, TX 76712 • Phone: (254) 776-3605 • FAX: (254) 776-9187

www.glovers-scorebooks.com

Crazy Situations Result Covering College Baseball

Continued From Page 4

on-deck circle as I shot photos with Rudy Smith of the *World-Herald* for two games.

His veteran advice to me? “Make sure your left shoulder is pointed toward home plate so you are sideways to the batter. That way, you have less surface area to get hit by a line drive. Also watch out for the batter on deck so you don’t get hit in the head with his bat.”

I was lucky and never got hit by a line drive in that College World Series or the 49 others I covered in a photo booth.

But I was nearly hit by an Arizona St. first baseman who dove headfirst into the photo booth. Another time I dodged a flying bat.

In one wild situation, an unfortunate fan right behind me on the third base side of Rosenblatt Stadium had to have an emergency tracheotomy performed when a line drive hit him in the throat as he stopped breathing.

That was gruesome as a paramedic cut open his throat to save his life.

Deluge Of Blood

At the College World Series several years ago, I had a long day at T.D. Ameritrade Park as I got in my white rental car a little past midnight.

I drove on the freeway heading toward my hotel on Interstate 80.

After about 15 minutes on the freeway, the vehicle was suddenly splattered with muddy liquid of some sort.

I quickly turned on the windshield wiper so I could see. Unfortunately, I made matters worse.

Ten minutes later, I took the exit for my hotel. I stopped at a gas station so I could see what the liquid was.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that blood, skin and the fur of some animal was everywhere on this white rental car. Another vehicle had hit it.

It dawned on me that I probably should try to clean up the vehicle immediately. If the blood was left to dry on the vehicle, the police would undoubtedly be called the next morning by someone at my hotel.

For the next 45 minutes, I used a windshield sponge/squeegee near the gas pump to clean off the entire vehicle of blood, guts and fur. I don’t know how many times I dunked that sponge into a water basin to clean off the debris.

The next morning, I went to a self-serve car wash to clean the car properly.

Charred Hog Head

Prior to a 1985 College World Series’ semi-final game involving Arkansas and Texas, the Longhorns’ notorious “Wild Bunch” fans decided to hold a pig roast in the parking lot at Rosenblatt Stadium.

At the time, both schools were in the Southwest Conference and had a special rivalry.

After they were finished eating prior to the game, they put the charred head of the pig on a stick and marched across the street toward the stadium.

They yelled to anybody who would listen, “Soooo weeee, soooo weeee, poor little pig.”

It was medieval. Then they marched into Rosenblatt Stadium, and the Arkansas players looked at this strange sight.

Texas’ fans kept marching around with this pig’s head in the stadium until they arrived in front of the Arkansas’ fans.

It nearly started a riot but was



Lou and Diane Pavlovich will now enjoy a less demanding lifestyle.

stopped by stadium security.

During all the years I worked at *Collegiate Baseball*, nothing was more enjoyable than writing feature stories about coaches and players in college and high school baseball.

It was my passion. Here are a few great memories.

John Scolinos

The greatest college baseball coach in history was John Scolinos.

He led Cal Poly Pomona to three national championships (1976, 1980 and 1983) in 30 years and retired in 1991 as the winningest coach in NCAA Division II history. He passed away at the age of 91 in 2009.

Scolinos was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Century in the 1990s by *Collegiate Baseball* for not only his coaching ability but the influence he had on thousands of baseball coaches across the nation.

Prior to becoming Pomona’s head coach, he spent 14 seasons at Pepperdine University where his teams went 376-213. His all-time record in 44 years of coaching was 1,198-949.

Scolinos’ overall record is highly misleading since his teams always played the best teams in Southern California and Arizona, including all the top NCAA Division I teams.

This giant in the profession influenced more coaches than possibly any skipper has in the history of the game with the way he broke down the game during clinic sessions — often in front of standing room only crowds at American Baseball Coaches Association conventions.

Here are some of those priceless lessons coaches learned from Scolinos through the years that *Collegiate Baseball* collected.

“On days when nothing goes right, I call them ‘jock games,’ ” said Scolinos.

“That’s when all the defense does is throw their jocks out there, the hitters get faked out of their jocks, and the pitchers get their jocks knocked off.

“If a team gets in a jock contest, they don’t have a chance.”

About the type of ball players there are in the game:

“There are a lot of puppy dogs and hot dogs with a few bulldogs scattered among the group. We want the bulldogs.”

Vision Of Barry Bonds

In almost 50 years of vision testing Major League hitters, Barry Bonds had no equal, according to the late Dr. Bill Harrison who was a special friend of mine.

Bonds may have had the greatest hitting specific vision of any batter in history the way he could stop from swinging at marginal pitches and go after pitches he could drive hard the vast majority of the time.

“I have a battery of tests which I have performed on Major League players going back to the early ’70s for a number of organizations,” said Dr. Harrison.

“In testing thousands of Major League hitters, Barry Bonds tested out with the highest vision readings of any baseball player we had ever worked with.

“I first saw him in 1986 during spring training as he came out of A ball after signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates’ organization after playing for Arizona State University.

“He was not considered a legitimate Major League prospect for the Pirates at the time.

“When I tested Barry Bonds, I gathered all the information on him and left the room. Barry is the only player who had achieved 100 percent in each of those categories and subsequently received a 100 percent in terms of high level binocularity.

“I then talked to Syd Thrift, general manager of the Pirates. I told Syd that the last player I saw (Bonds) was the most visually gifted of all the players I had evaluated since 1971.

“Barry Bonds was in AAA for the Pirates’ organization that year. Around May, the Pirates’ AAA team was playing in Phoenix, and Syd Thrift asked me to watch and work with some of the players. I saw Barry in action for the first time, and he looked terrific.

“That evening, I called Syd and told him this guy really was phenomenal because he visually tracked every pitch, saw it deep and squaring the ball every time. Syd

jumped on a plane the next morning for Phoenix.

“In the middle of the contest the next day, Syd called Bonds out of the game and asked the manager to get the young ball player on a plane to Pittsburgh immediately. And the rest was history.”

Incredible Jim Brady

In the May 2, 2008 issue of *Collegiate Baseball*, I reported a landmark jury decision as University of Missouri-St. Louis Head Baseball Coach Jim Brady was awarded \$1.8 million after being subjected to age discrimination and repeated retaliation and harassment from administrators at that institution.

This chilling episode in Brady’s life took nearly 10 years to resolve and resulted in the divorce of his wife Vicki after Jim nearly lost his mind fighting vindictive administrators.

Since he wouldn’t quit, this colon cancer survivor saw his salary reduced in half with no health benefits as he barely hung on financially for four years, struggling to support his family, which included two young sons.

He cut grass and did other assorted odd jobs until he finally settled on being a truck driver to make ends meet during this difficult time.

In one instance, administrators considered moving his office into a janitor’s closet and then banished him to a basement office in an area where he was subjected to toxic chlorine vapors over a 7-year period and extreme heat.

It was so hot in his office, which more closely resembled a torture chamber, that one time the parent of a recruit passed out.

Brady, the son of a Marine drill sergeant, would never give in despite seeing his life slowly crumble before him.

He had the last laugh.

Electrocutions At Ball Parks

In October of 2008, I did an in-depth story about the dirty little secret at many baseball stadiums.

Thousands of baseball games are played every spring, summer and fall under the lights on many different levels throughout the USA.

Collegiate Baseball uncovered

a potentially deadly situation that had been lurking for years in the form of electrocutions by these light towers to fans, athletes or coaches who walk near them — especially during rain storms as water collects on the soil.

According to Mark Voigtsberger, vice president of Power Quality Testing in Everett, Wash., the only firm in the USA exclusively specializing in light pole safety testing, close to 100 electrocutions had taken place over a 20-year period due to light pole wiring issues.

The only way he was able to secure these numbers was to find stories on the internet through an electronic newspaper database. This service compiles electronic clippings from over 1,000 papers across the USA and Canada.

On Jan. 5, 2005, the New York State Public Service Commission made light pole testing mandatory. After 250,000 poles were checked across New York, one in every 337 light poles were deemed electrically unsafe.

Action Baseball Photos

One passion of mine has been taking baseball action shots, and I have taken thousands of them through the years.

The 2023 College World Series was the 50th year I took photos at that incredible venue, and I also shot the baseball portion of four Summer Olympics.

I estimate that I shot over 100,000 photos during those years which produced some dynamic action shots, celebrations and dejection shots when players were devastated after their teams were eliminated.

I will never forget one time when a photographer was decked by a player when his team was eliminated late in the College World Series. This baseball player was crying, and the photographer, using a wide angle lens, got within five feet of him and invaded his space.

The photographer deserved it. I learned that you must respect these tough moments players experience.

For many, it is the last baseball game they will ever play.

While I took many dejection shots, it was at least 50 feet back and many times further with a long lens.

There were times when coaches got tossed by umpires and naked fans jumped on the field and were tackled in the outfield by members of the grounds’ crew.

But nothing beat a championship celebration shot as players screamed for joy on a dog pile or players lit up cigars to celebrate.

One final thought.

Former ABCA Executive Director Dave Keilitz taught me that winning championships is not what baseball is all about.

It is the journey.

After the final out of many College World Series in Omaha, one team would celebrate while the other would be devastated in a silent dugout as tears flowed.

After a cooling off period, you always saw this amazing man walk on the field and immediately congratulate the *losing* team’s coaches — not the winners.

As I close, any subscribers who have paid for future issues will receive a refund in the mail.

Our website, www.baseballnews.com, will remain active until the end of the year.

If you want back issues or any e-books, you can still order those via our website or by calling us at (520) 623-4530 until Nov. 30, 2023.

Emotional Intelligence Key Driver Of Excellence

Continued From Page 2

discussing elite status.

The coaching performances over an extended period further separate and distinguish elite coaches from the norm.

Where there is true greatness in coaching, experience lurks. Possessing experience is the first non-negotiable in selecting a great head coach.

Emotional Intelligence (EI)

This is the hidden driver of excellent performance.

In coaching, it is indispensable — a must-have. Researchers Jonathan Chan and Clifford Mallett agree by stating that high-performance coaching requires more than instruction, skill and drills.

It requires ‘soft skills’ such as EI, motivation, inspiration, conflict management, and the ability to align all team members toward a common purpose.



DR. BARRY DAVIS

Lurie made it public that he wanted a coach with emotional intelligence.

People laughed.

Lurie stressed that his team needed genuine leadership.

He needed someone with an open heart.

Hiring the not-so-sexy choice of Doug Pederson was not “needle moving news.”

Pederson spent 21 years playing and coaching in the NFL and in between was a high school coach. In the NFL, Pederson worked under the guidance of some of the sport’s greatest coaches.

They included Don Shula, Mike Holmgren and Andy Reid. Pederson would lead the Eagles to a Super Bowl LII victory in only his second season. It is the Eagles’ only Super Bowl victory to date.

Currently, Pederson is transforming and rebuilding the Jacksonville Jaguars, an organization considered a cultural disaster when he took over in 2022.

A coach with a high level of EI is aware of his emotions and the emotions of others.

The great coach knows they do not coach a sport; they coach the people playing the sport. I met Oklahoma’s former women’s basketball coach Sherri Coale earlier this year.

The Hall of Famer told me, “... early in my career, I saw people as players, and later in my coaching career, I saw players as people.”

There is no mistaking we are in the people business.

As baseball coaches, we do not coach baseball; we coach people who play baseball.

It is connecting with people.

Those with a high level of EI will succeed more than those without. EI possession is the second non-negotiable in the head coach selection process.

Growth Mindset

You also may be the owner of our third non-negotiable that great coaches have – a growth mindset.

One could argue that all coaches have a growth mindset. They do not.

The great coaches do.

And like EI, a growth mindset is not immediately visible. It can be challenging to detect from a resume, a letter of recommendation or a phone call from an agent.

This third non-negotiable goes beyond learning. It is a lifestyle.

The opposite of the growth mindset is the fixed mindset. This mindset believes you cannot change. You are as bright as you will ever be.

Your physical abilities are as good as they will ever be. You are

stuck and ok with it. Coaches are not exempt from the fixed mindset either.

Coaches with a fixed mindset rarely change their routines. How they prepare, practice, plan, lead and communicate remains the same.

According to Dr. Wade Gilbert, a coaching scientist and long-time professor at Fresno State University, “There is really no excuse if you are a coach, not to be learning. Learning is part of your job.”

He stressed that great coaches are curious, always seeking a better way.

Today, we have access to almost anything to help us improve our level of knowledge.

There are books, documentaries, YouTube clips, podcasts, seminars and other coaches – your colleagues.

The great coach’s mentality is if I want more, I have to do more. More is part of their make-up. Great coaches view failures as opportunities to improve.

Thomas Edison, conceivably our country’s greatest inventor, failed thousands of times (the number varies) in his attempt to invent the lightbulb.

Edison would emphasize that failure taught him the methods that did not work. Edison used failure as an opportunity to learn.

Great coaches are like Edison. When their teams lose, they use it to their advantage.

The maxim here is there is difference between winning and losing and winning and learning. Learn from failure.

According to researchers at Cornell University, the average adult will make 35,000 decisions in a day.

Although a head coach may not make that many coaching decisions, they are not exempt from making bold decisions that will affect the team in some significant way.

Great coaches offer humility and vulnerability. So, when a difficult decision appears, they ask for help. The great coaches build what I call a personal board of directors.

Those are the people who a head

coach can consult with to assist and guide in making those gutsy but prudent decisions. Look for help.

Do this with regularity. The great coaches manage moments better than anyone.

These moments are fluid and never ending. To have a growth mindset allows for a coach to be on the plus side in managing those difficult moments. Possessing a growth mindset is the third non-negotiable.

Coaching is a true profession. Paid millions, head coaches lead professional teams, intercollegiate programs, and high-level world athletes.

Many of these coaches end up making millions not to coach. The media call it dead money.

To sidestep the dead money dilemma, we touched on three vital non-negotiables head coaches must have to sustain success at any level. The first is experience.

It is a must to coaching success. Coaches work for decades, implementing self-reflection and continuous learning to refine their craft.

Coaches improve those interpersonal relationships. They understand they are coaching people, not players. Bear in mind excellence takes time.

The second is emotional intelligence. EI is a concealed weapon that can lead to greatness. Those with EI are in tune with their emotions.

They regulate and remain motivated. They exercise empathy and social skills to tighten the bond between player, coach, coach and team.

The third non-negotiable is having a growth mindset. It is the never-ending quest to learn more about the coaching profession.

The great coaches are always in search of more, because when you know more, you get more. It is the question of how I can improve my coaching skills. Build and use your board of directors to help make difficult decisions.

And when the storms arrive (and they will!) use it as a learning

Please visit my web site DrBarryDavis.com for more about coaching, leadership, and building culture. You can also follow me on twitter @BarryDavis42, Instagram @DrBarryDavis42, and my LinkedIn account: Dr. Barry Davis. Reach me directly by emailing me at barry@drbarrydavis.com

(and they will!) use it as a learning opportunity.

Head coach selection is the most important decision of a professional team or university.

The million-dollar question is, who do we select?

Aside from the unmistakable adage that they win, take a deeper dive into the person when selecting the next head coach. Today’s coach has experience.

They create relationships. And remain a steadfast life-long learner.

References

Carnegie, D. (1981). *How to Win Friends & Influence People: The Only Book You Need to Lead You to Success*. New York: Gallery Books

Chan, J., & Mallett, C. (2011). The value of emotional intelligence for high performance coaching. *International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching*, 6(3), 315-328.

Cote, J., & Gilbert, W. (2009). An integrative definition of coaching effectiveness and expertise. *International Journal of Sport Science*, 4(3), 307-323.

Goleman, D. (2005). *Emotional intelligence: Why it can matter more than IQ*. (10th ed.) New York: Bantam Books

Mallett, C., & Lara-Bercial, S. (2016). Serial winning coaches: People, vision and environment. *Sport and Exercise Psychology Research: Theory to Practice*, 289-322.

Xiong, F., Ding, W., & Li, J. (2014). Evaluation system for college coaching legends. *The UMPA Journal*, 35(2-3), 157-180.

Willink, J. (2020). *Discipline Equals Freedom*. New York: St. Martin’s Press

Outfit Your Dugout With Major League-Style Benches, Helmet & Bat Racks



Tarps • Wall Pads • Rail Pads • Windscreen • Netting

PYT SPORTS
PRODUCTS YOU TRUST

Contact: Dave Payton
Bridgeview, Illinois
Cell Phone: (708) 846-4119
www.pytsports.net

Stealing Home With Amazing Success

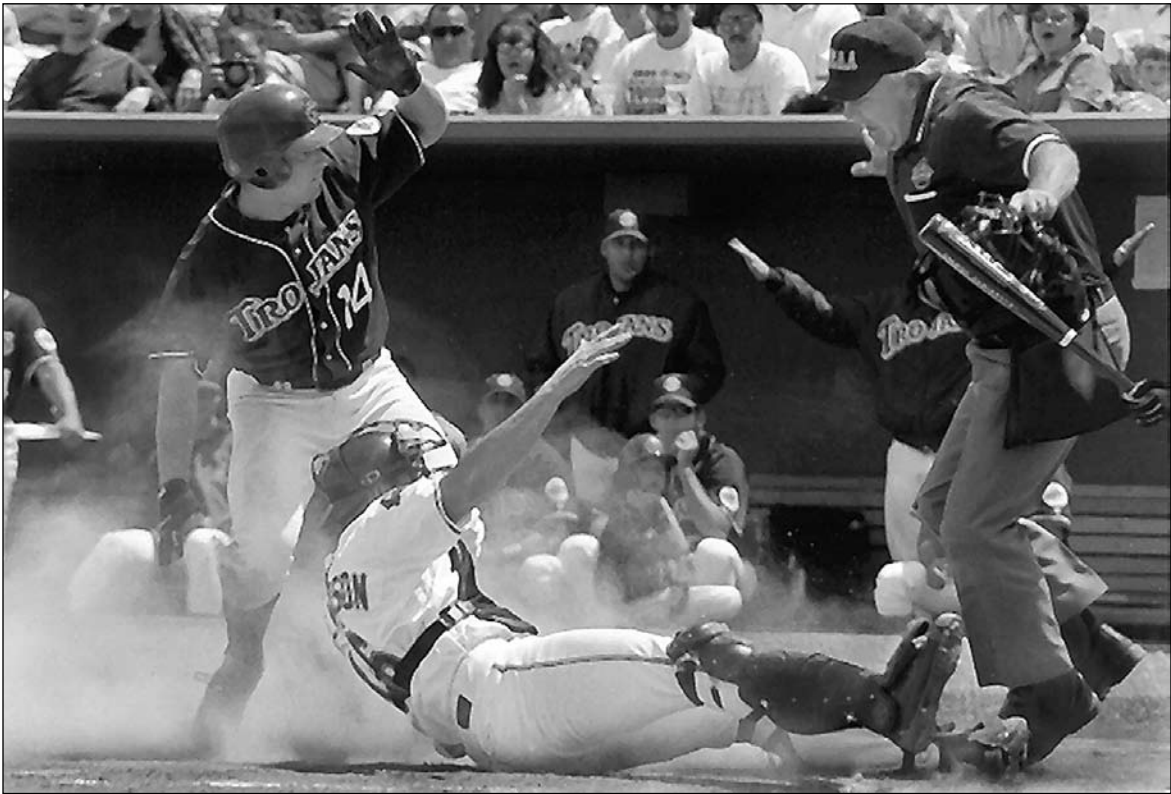


INCREDIBLE MOMENT — Mike Gillespie, the late baseball coach at Southern California, put on a steal of home during the seventh inning of the 1998 College World Series championship game. In the two photos, Morgan Ensberg (No. 14 of USC) slides into home and barely beats the tag of Arizona St. catcher Greg Halvorson. USC went on to beat ASU to win its 12th national baseball title.

Continued From Page 1

an all-out sprint to the plate. The ball was thrown with Ensberg nearly 3/4s down the line. Sun Devil catcher Greg Halvorson caught the ball and dove forward in an attempt to tag out the runner who slid feet first across home. Ensberg barely beat the tag by inches in one of the most daring base running moves in CWS history as the other two runners advanced. On the next pitch, Rachels lined a base hit to left, scoring two more runs as USC went on to win its 12th national title in baseball, 21-14 over ASU. I interviewed Gillespie several months after that dramatic steal of home, and he explained in detail his system of making the steal of home work so successfully in his career. “In all the years I have been involved in baseball, I have never done anything which has caused the stir that stealing home did in that game,” said Gillespie. “And for the obvious reason. There may not be more than two people on earth who felt that calling a steal of home at that time of the game was anything but stupid. “Virtually nobody who had any clue about baseball would simply buy into it. I don’t even try to debate it or try to quarrel with people about it. “People are kind to me about calling the play because it worked. The fact that we got a run out of it, people will smile and say we lucked out and got away with it. But under their breath I know they were saying it was the stupidest thing I have ever seen. “The steal of home at the 1998 College World Series is truly my most unforgettable memory. “If you do something that is considerably unorthodox, and it doesn’t work, then you feel pretty stupid. The fact that it worked, and the play was REALLY close at home plate, we were fortunate. I have seen it on video, and the call was made correctly that Morgan Ensberg was safe. “It was Morgan’s 20th stolen

base of the year when he swiped home in that game. He was chomping at the bit to steal home.” **Mechanics Of Stealing Home** Gillespie explains what the conditions must be for play to be called. “More often than not, the pitcher is throwing from the stretch when a runner is on third. But when we do find somebody who is throwing from the windup, we will bluff (the runner trying to steal home). When we bluff, we try to create a balk, No. 1. “What we try to do is time the bluff or fake break, and it is certainly no exact science, to coincide with just a tick ahead of when the pitcher starts his motion with the idea we might create a balk. “That seldom happens. It has happened, but very rarely. We are also going to fake break to create a moment where if we do go in the next few pitches, we become the little boy who cried wolf. “We have bluffed and bluffed and bluffed again, depending on how deep the count has gone. We create a situation in which the pitcher will say to himself that here comes another bluff. Then he will typically ignore the runner as he throws home. “As our runner at third performs these bluffs, we gauge or read what the pitcher is doing. Is he slow or not? That is a key. What kind of attention does he seem to be paying to the runner at third? “If we get far enough in the count, we may go. For us, we have only done it with two strikes on the batter. “We never have tried it with less than two strikes. Then your thought process turns to no guts, no glory.” Gillespie said you don’t necessarily have to use a fast runner on third to be successful in stealing home. “Really, it is less about the speed of the runner than it is the mechanics and actions of the pitcher. “It may also be that we are guessing an off-speed pitch will be thrown. The pitch that Wes Rachels



received on the steal of home in the Arizona State game was in fact a fastball. “Chad Pennington had thrown three consecutive curveballs. I would have done it on the 0-2 pitch, but I was guessing fastball. I figured it would be a chase fastball of some kind. “So he throws another curveball. I actually had to talk myself into calling the steal of home. In 1997, we were 3-for-3 with that play. “In 1998 going into that moment at the College World Series, we had done it twice in two attempts. In back to back years, we were 6-for-6. It was unusual that this play came up six times. “But on that specific moment, we were in the national championship game, and I had to say to myself, ‘No guts, no glory.’ It also might have been smarter to tell myself ‘Don’t get fired.’ “Once it got to 1-2, I felt we were out of chances, and we needed to go for it. We don’t do anything special with the hitter other than have him cheat to the back of the box, take the pitch and hang in there. “I had a suggestion from a fellow coach that would make the play even harder to defend. “The righthanded batter should cheat to the back of the box to move the catcher further away and also crowd the plate. Since he is taking the pitch, the batter should fake bunt and move the bat back at the last split second to make it more difficult for the catcher. “Another coach suggested that the runner from third should slide on the pitcher side of the plate and tap the front edge of the plate quickly and then bring his hand back to his body. Then the catcher would have a second to tag the runner’s hand which is extremely difficult on this play. I like both of these suggestions.” **New Players Surprised** Gillespie was asked how new players in his program react after they were told not to swing or do anything other than cheat to the back of the box on a two-strike pitch with two outs. “When you try to explain this to your new players for the first time, they are absolutely dumbfounded. They think they have to swing at a strike because the coach couldn’t possibly want the batter to be called out. “If we get a strike, we are out. That’s what will happen. Over the long haul, I have found it works. Obviously, it is safer for the runner coming down the line as well. “There usually is a little bit of a panic reaction on the part of the pitcher. At the last second, he seems to realize, ‘Oh God, he’s really going.’ “There simply is a tic of panic

which results in the pitch being a ball. I don’t think that happened in this case. Chad Pennington of ASU just stayed with his plan which was to throw a fastball up and in. I don’t know for sure. “But I didn’t see any panic at all on his part. The play was dramatically closer than I thought it would be. It was bang, bang. In this case, we were probably more lucky than good. “After the play was over, there were now runners on second and third for us. Jeremy Freitas was on third. “On the very next pitch, Freitas bluffed running home on a steal attempt. At that moment, you see ASU third baseman Andrew Beinbrink take a step or two toward third in reaction to Freitas’ bluff. “Rachel’s line drive base hit went right through the slot where Beinbrink had vacated. That’s just blind luck. Certainly there is no plan you will create something like that. But for me it is an interesting footnote to that whole situation. “Many pitchers could be rattled after giving up a run with a steal of home, especially during the seventh inning of the national championship game. “But in this case, I didn’t see panic on the part of the ASU pitcher. He handled it extremely

National Recruiting Champions

Arkansas Lands Exceptional Class To Rank No. 1 In USA

By LOU PAVLOVICH, JR.
Editor/Collegiate Baseball

TUCSON, Ariz. — For the first time in history, Arkansas has won *Collegiate Baseball's* national recruiting championship.

It is the 41st consecutive year *Collegiate Baseball* has evaluated NCAA Div. I recruiting classes.

Athletes who initially signed letters of intent with a school but then signed a pro contract after being drafted do not count in the overall evaluation.

Only athletes who came to school this fall are factored in.

1. Arkansas

The Razorbacks landed a star-studded class that features 24 newcomers, including 14 freshmen, nine 4-year transfers and one junior college transfer.

“It is the best recruiting class in the nation,” said Arkansas Recruiting Coordinator Nate Thompson.

“Our 2023 class features seven Perfect Game top 100 prospects plus two other players who were listed in MLB Pipeline’s top 250 prospects for the draft.

“That’s a new record for Perfect Game top 100 prospects to make it to campus.”

If that wasn’t enough, *Sixty-Four Analytics* ranked the Razorbacks’ transfer portal class second in the nation.

The class is led by:

- RHP Gabe Gaeckle (Aptos H.S., CA), 20th round pick by Reds.
- C Ryder Helfrick (Clayton Valley H.S., CA), *Collegiate Baseball* All-American.
- LHP Hunter Dietz (Calvary Christian H.S., FL), *Collegiate Baseball* All-American.
- LHP Adam Hachman (Timberland H.S., MO), All-American.
- INF Nolan Souza (Punahou H.S., HI), All-American.
- 1B Ty Waid (Arkansas H.S., AR), All-State.
- LHP Tucker Holland (The Burlington School, N.C.), All-State.
- RHP Tate McGuire (Liberty North H.S., MO), Gatorade Missouri Player of The Year, *Collegiate Baseball* All-American.
- LHP Colin Fisher (Noble H.S., OK), All-State.
- LHP Mason Molina (transfer from Texas Tech., All-Big 12 second team, 6-2, 3.67 ERA).
- SS Wehiwa Aloy (transfer from Sacramento St., *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-American, .376, 14 HR, 15 2B, 46 RBI).
- 1B Jack Wagner (transfer from Tarleton St., 15 HR, 56 RBI).
- C Hudson White (transfer from Texas Tech., former Big 12 Freshman of Year, hit 11 HR with 49 RBI in 2023).
- INF Jared Sprague-Lott (transfer from Richmond), All-Atlantic 10, .314, 13 HR, 13 2B, 43 RBI).
- OF Lincoln Riley (transfer from Eastern Illinois, .307, 11 2B, 4 HR, 51 runs scored).
- OF Ty Wilmsmeyer (transfer from Missouri, .311, 7 HR, 25 RBI, 21 SB).
- OF Ross Lovich (transfer from Missouri, .306, 4 HR, 20 RBI).
- Will Edmunson (transfer from Hutchinson C.C., KS, Kansas Jayhawk Community College



Arkansas Head Coach Dave Van Horn

Conference MVP after hitting .454 with 17 2B, 51 RBI, 15 SB).

2. UCLA

The Bruins brought in a superb class of 17 which features 15 freshmen and two 4-year college transfers.

“It’s as good of a class as we’ve had at UCLA in terms of position players and pitchers who have big stuff,” said UCLA Head Coach John Savage.

“It’s a combination of talent and makeup and projection that makes you believe that it’s going to be an exceptional class over the next three years.”

The class is led by:

- INF Phoenix Call (Calabasas H.S., CA, 15th round pick of Boston).
- INF Roch Cholowsky (Hamilton H.S., AZ, Arizona Gatorade Player of The Year).
- INF Roman Martin (Servite H.S., CA, No. 23 national prospect Perfect Game).
- P Cal Randall (De La Salle H.S., CA, No. 84 ranked national prospect Perfect Game).
- OF Dean West (Notre Dame H.S., Sherman Oaks, CA, No. 86 ranked national prospect Perfect Game).
- P Justin Lee (Notre Dame H.S., Sherman Oaks, CA, *L.A. Times* Pitcher of Year).
- INF Cameron Kim (Norco H.S., CA, No. 9 ranked California prospect Perfect Game).
- C Blake Balsz (Santa Margarita H.S., CA (No. 7 ranked California prospect Perfect Game).

3. Tennessee

The Volunteers landed an exceptional recruiting class of 23 newcomers, including 14 freshmen, six 4-year transfers and three junior college transfers.

“We have a strong overall class with potential instant contributors on the infield and on the mound, particularly with lefthanded pitchers,” said Tennessee Associate Head Coach Josh Elander.

Top players in the class include:

- LHP Matthew Dallas (Briarcrest Christian School, TN, No. 97 ranked).
- RHP Derek Schaefer (Cactus Shadows H.S., AZ, No. 223 ranked).
- UT Dean Curley (Northview H.S., La Verne, CA), No. 129 ranked).
- INF Ariel Antigua (Trinity

Christian Academy, FL, No. 137 ranked).

- C Stone Lawless (Huntsville H.S., AL, No. 244 ranked).
- LHP Brayden Sharp (The Woodlands, TX, No. 207 ranked).
- INF Bradke Lohry (Coll. Of Central Florida JC).
- OF Cole Eaton (Elkhorn South H.S., NE, No. 121 ranked).
- INF Billy Amick (transfer from Clemson, *Collegiate Baseball* All-American, .413, 13 HR, 17 2B, 63 RBI).
- C Cannon Peebles (transfer from N.C. State, Freshman All-American, .352, 12 HR, 50 RBI).
- C/UT Dalton Bargo (transfer from Missouri, .279, 5 HR, 6 2B, 23 RBI).
- RHP Nate Snead (transfer from Wichita St., 100 mph FB, 42 2/3 IP, 3.16 ERA, 3 SV, 53 K).
- RHP AJ Causey (transfer from Jacksonville St., Atlantic Sun second team, 5-2, 5.07 ERA).
- LHP Chris Stamos (transfer from Univ. of California, 4-4 career record in 2 years with 46 strikeouts).

4. Florida

The Gators landed an exceptional class of 22 newcomers which includes 15 freshmen, six 4-year college transfers and one junior college transfer.

“We landed one of the nation’s strongest all-around classes,” said Florida Head Coach Kevin O’Sullivan.

“It is anchored by a deep high school crop and supplemented by an experienced, high-end group of transfers highlighted by high-profile transfers INF Colby Shelton (Freshman All-American transfer from the Univ. of Alabama) and C Brody Donay (transfer from Virginia Tech, Freshman All-ACC).

“The prep class is filled with elite talent on the mound that should contribute right away and contains several potential impact position players.

“The class has talent and good makeup.”

The class includes:

- RHP Liam Peterson (Calvary Christian, FL., *Collegiate Baseball* All-American).
- INF Colby Shelton (transfer Univ. of Alabama, *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-American, .300, 25 HR, 10 2B, 51 RBI).
- RHP Christian Rodriguez (Marjory Stoneman Douglas

See **GEORGIA**, Page 12

2023 NCAA Division I Recruiting Results

Rank	Team	Recruits	HS	JC	4-Year
1.	Arkansas	24	14	1	9
2.	UCLA	17	15	0	2
3.	Tennessee	23	14	3	6
4.	Florida	22	15	1	6
5.	Louisiana St.	18	13	0	5
6.	Vanderbilt	21	17	0	4
7.	Georgia	32	14	1	17
8.	Texas A&M	31	20	1	9
9.	Texas	24	16	2	6
10.	Mississippi St.	26	17	4	5
11.	Mississippi	26	14	5	7
12.	North Carolina	25	16	3	6
13.	Texas Tech.	17	13	2	2
14.	Alabama	27	13	3	11
15.	Louisville	25	19	2	4
16.	Auburn	22	12	4	6
17.	Indiana	21	11	1	9
18.	Florida St.	27	14	4	9
19.	Georgia Tech.	27	14	0	13
20.	Oregon	27	17	4	6
21.	South Carolina	24	13	0	11
22.	Virginia	19	13	0	6
23.	Clemson	20	13	0	7
24.	N.C. State	20	14	1	5
25.	Oregon St.	21	15	3	3
26.	East Carolina	21	16	0	5
27.	Duke	22	10	0	12
28.	Miami, Fla.	17	12	3	2
29.	Stanford	13	10	0	3
30.	Southern California	24	14	5	5
31.	Michigan	30	21	1	8
32.	Wake Forest	22	12	1	9
33.	Coastal Carolina	25	13	6	6
34.	Notre Dame	22	11	0	11
35.	Texas Christian	21	11	2	8
36.	Oklahoma	25	9	9	7
37.	U.C. Santa Barbara	16	13	2	1
38.	Oklahoma St.	23	15	3	5
39.	Cal. St. Fullerton	22	16	2	4
40.	Kentucky	25	14	1	10
41.	West Virginia	25	16	1	8
42.	Wichita St.	33	18	14	1
43.	Arizona St.	32	18	4	10
44.	San Diego St.	22	20	0	2
45.	Virginia Tech.	26	16	0	10
46.	Long Beach St.	24	14	7	3
47.	Maryland	30	16	2	12
48.	Dallas Baptist	20	10	4	6
49.	Oral Roberts	19	5	8	6
50.	Grand Canyon	21	14	5	2

Other Top Recruiting Classes: Fresno St., Connecticut, Southern Mississippi, Indiana St., Louisiana-Lafayette, U.C. San Diego, Hawaii, Cal. Poly, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Winthrop, Iowa, Illinois, Central Florida, Nebraska, U.C. Irvine, Ball St., Texas St., Central Michigan, Houston, Washington, Creighton, Kent St., San Diego, Kansas, Ohio St., Georgia Southern, California Baptist, Sam Houston St., Louisiana Tech., Kansas St., Seton Hall, St. John’s, Penn State, North Dakota St., Mercer, Utah Tech., S.E. Louisiana, South Carolina-Upstate, Georgetown, Charlotte, La.-Monroe, Evansville, Toledo, Baylor, South Florida, Tulane, Boston College, Stetson, Fairfield, New Mexico, Nevada-Las Vegas, Arizona, Missouri, Samford, Wofford, East Tennessee St., South Alabama, Brigham Young, Gonzaga, Pepperdine, Maine, Minnesota, Lipscomb, George Mason, Xavier, Campbell, UNC Wilmington, Wright St., Pennsylvania, Rider, San Jose St., Central Connecticut St., Eastern Illinois, Nicholls St., Florida A&M, Stony Brook, Santa Clara, Fla. Gulf Coast, St. Joseph’s.

Source: *Collegiate Baseball*

“This screen is far beyond anything I have ever seen or used.”

Kirk Kelley | Head Coach | Oklahoma Wesleyan University

Quality

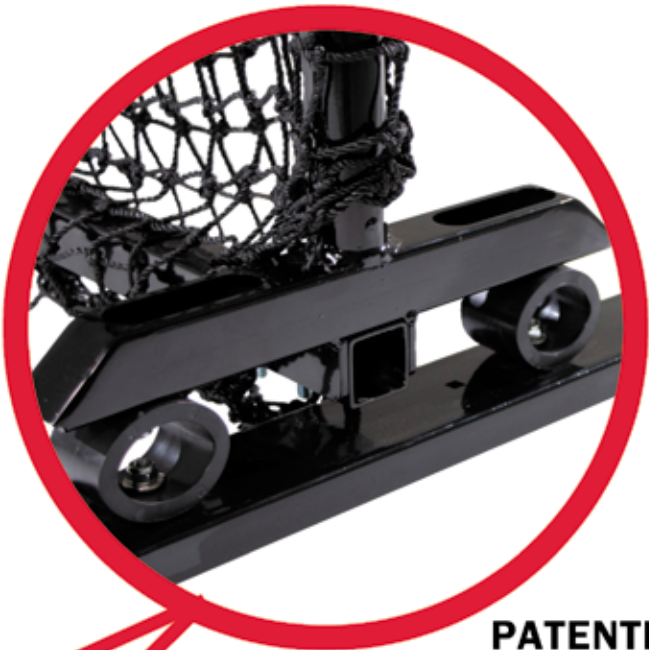
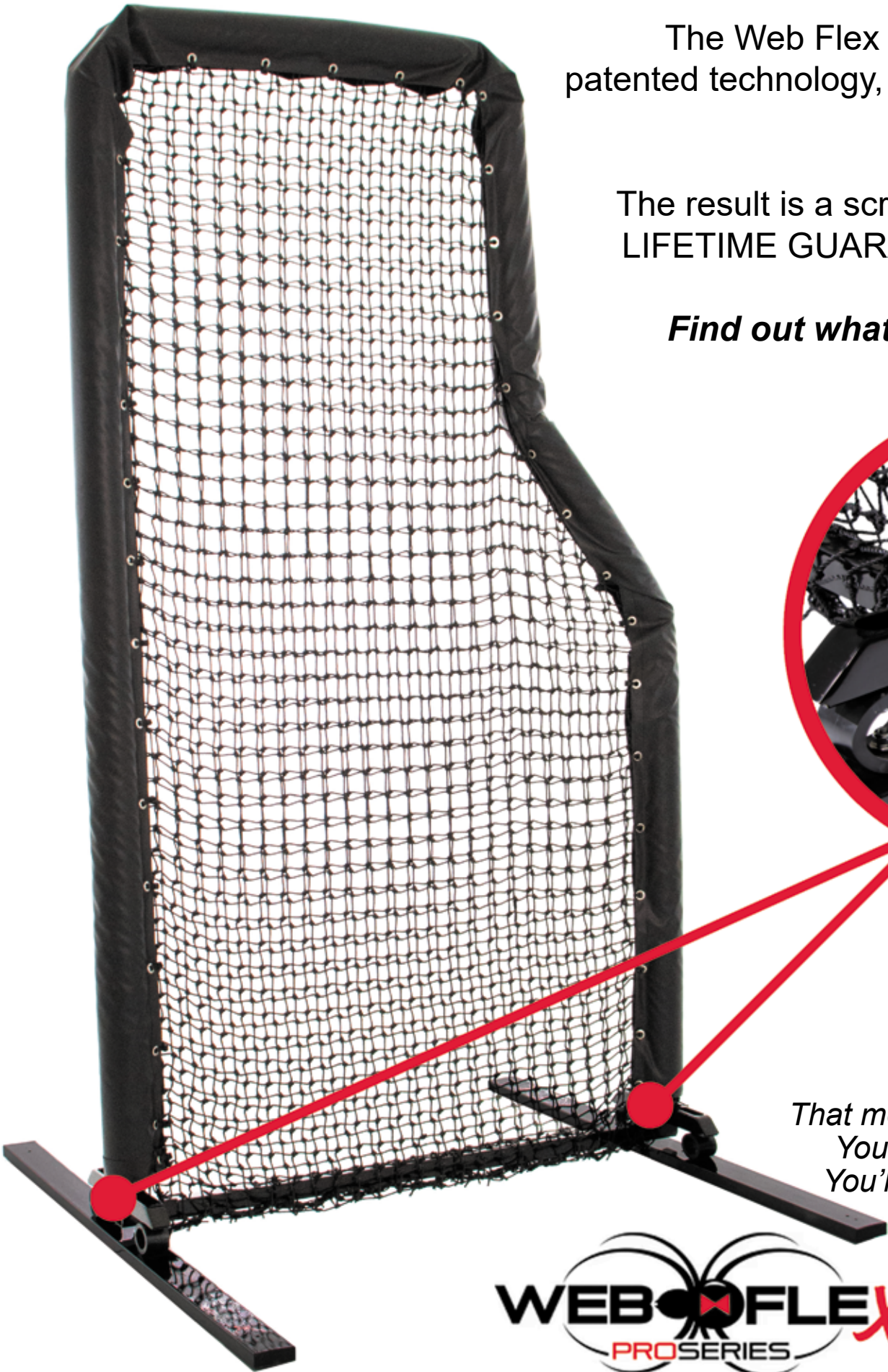
that lasts a

Lifetime

The Web Flex protective screens feature patented technology, unsurpassed construction and maximum durability.

The result is a screen so good that we put a LIFETIME GUARANTEE behind every one.

Find out what makes Web Flex better!



**PATENTED
TECPAK ISOLATORS**
*form the foundation of every
Web Flex product.*

*They absorb and distribute
the impact of every ball.*

*That means our screens last longer.
Your practice sessions are safer.
You'll even save money thanks to
less wear and tear on balls.*



Visit **THEWEBFLEX.COM** to find out more

Georgia Lands No. 1 Transfer Portal Class

Continued From Page 10

H.S., FL, National H.S. Pitcher of Year).

- C Brody Donay (transfer Virginia Tech., Freshman All-ACC).
- RHP Luke McNeille (Milton H.S., GA, All-American).
- RHP Reilly Witmer (Naples H.S., FL, All-American).
- RHP Grayson Smith (McCallie School, GA, All-American).
- LHP Frank Menendez (Doral Academy Charter, FL, All-American).

5. Louisiana St.

The Tigers landed a class of 18 which includes 13 freshmen and five 4-year college transfers.

“I really like the additions with a blend of projectable and athletic high school players and immediate impact transfers,” said LSU Assistant Coach Josh Jordan.

“We bolstered the depth of our pitching staff.”

Key players in the class include:

- LHP Cameron Johnson (IMG Academy, FL, 20th round pick by St. Louis).
- LHP Jake Brown (Sulphur H.S., LA, 16th round pick by Texas).
- OF Ashton Larson (St. Thomas Aquinas H.S., KS, 20th round pick by Minnesota).
- RHP Luke Holman (Wilson H.S., PA, 20th round pick in 2021 by Blue Jays).
- OF Mac Bingham (transfer from Univ. of Arizona).
- INF Steven Milam (Centennial H.S., NM, MLB top 150 prospect).
- LHP Kade Anderson (St. Paul’s H.S., LA, All-American).
- INF Ryan Kucherak (Hamilton H.S., AZ).
- INF Austen Roellig (Etiwanda H.S., CA, All-American).
- RHP Kade Woods (transfer Univ. of Alabama).
- SS Michael Grasmell (transfer Univ. of South Carolina, SEC All-Freshman).
- LHP Justin Loer (transfer Xavier).

6. Vanderbilt

The Commodores landed a class of 21 newcomers which includes 17 freshmen and four 4-year college transfers.

“We added really good depth with guys who can make an immediate impact,” said Vanderbilt Head Coach Tim Corbin.

“It is a good overall class that can add to the program both positionally and on the mound.”

It could have been a sensational class.

Unfortunately, three elite high school players (OF Max Clark, Franklin Community, IN, *Collegiate Baseball’s* National H.S. Player of The Year; LHP Thomas White, Phillips Academy, MA; and INF George Lombard, Gulliver Schools, FL) were selected in the first round of the 2023 MLB Draft and signed.

In addition, LHP Alex Clemmey (Bishop Hendricken H.S., R.I.) was a second round pick and signed.

The class includes:

- INF Bradeen Holcomb (Foundation Academy, FL, All-American).
- LHP Ethan McElvain (Nolensville H.S., TN, All-American).
- LHP Miller Green (Lipscomb Academy, TN), All-State).
- INF Camden Kozeal (Millard South H.S., NE, All-State).
- INF RJ Hamilton (Hoover



ELITE 4-YEAR PLAYERS — Georgia Head Coach Wes Johnson is all smiles after landing the No. 1 transfer portal class this fall, according to *Sixty-Four Analytics*. Georgia brought in 32 newcomers which includes 17 4-year college transfers.

H.S., AL, All-District).

- RHP Alex Kranzler (Northern Valley Regional, NJ, All-State).
- LHP Jakob Schulz (Memorial H.S., TX, All-Region).
- RHP Nathan Teague (Southern Alamance H.S., NC, 4A North Carolina Pitcher of The Year).

7. Georgia

The Bulldogs landed a huge class of 32 newcomers which includes 17 4-year college transfers, 14 freshman and one junior college transfer.

The transfer portal class of NCAA Div. I players was ranked No. 1 in the nation by *Sixty-Four Analytics*.

“We brought in a good transfer portal class which blends with fine high school players,” said Georgia Assistant Coach Josh Simpson.

“Our high-level transfers will have an immediate impact on this team.

“We have a lot of veteran position players who have proven success at 4-year schools. We brought in a lot of talented players and upside on the mound.”

Key players in the class include:

- OF Ryan Goldstein (transfer Florida Atlantic, All-Conference USA).
- SS Kolby Branch (transfer Baylor, Freshman All-American).
- INF Paul Tootz (transfer Purdue, All Big Ten).
- C Henry Hunter (transfer Alabama Birmingham, Conference USA All-Freshmen team).
- OF Logan Jordan (transfer Campbell University, 1st team Big South).
- RHP Daniel Padysak (transfer Charleston Southern, World Baseball Classic participant).
- INF Tre Phelps (Georgia Premier Academy, GA, All-American).
- RHP Brian Zeldin (transfer Univ. of Pennsylvania).
- RHP Tyler McLoughlin (transfer Emory University, All-American).

8. Texas A&M

The Aggies landed a big class

of 31 which includes 20 freshmen, nine 4-year transfers and one junior college transfer.

“This is by far the best high school class we have brought in during the Jim Schlossnagle era at Texas A&M and one of the tops in our league,” said Assistant Coach Nolan Cain.

“We were able to get five high draft risk players to campus. We are super excited about the high end talent, skill and physicality of this class.”

Key players include:

- OF/RHP Braden Montgomery (transfer Stanford Univ., No. 1 player in transfer portal, potential 1st pick in 2024 MLB Draft, switch hitter with power from both sides, member Team USA collegiate national team in 2023).
- RHP Isaac Morton (Spring Lake Park H.S., MN, drafted 19th round by Milwaukee).
- SS Ali Camarillo (transfer Cal. St. Northridge, All-Big West, .371, 8 HR, 16 2B, 44 RBI).
- 2B Ted Burton (transfer Univ. of Michigan, .301, 13 HR, 14 2B, 45 RBI).
- OF Hayden Schott (transfer Columbia Univ., .333, 11 HR, 16 2B, 31 RBI).
- C/OF Jackson Appel (transfer Pennsylvania, switch hitter, 13 2B, 4 HR, 41 RBI)
- RHP Tanner Jones (transfer Jacksonville St., 7-3, 4.67 ERA, 84 K).
- RHP Eldridge Armstrong (transfer San Diego St., 6-1, 2.70 ERA, 46 K).
- RHP Zane Badmaev (transfer Tarleton St., 1-2, 2.81 ERA, 46 K, 7 BB).
- RHP Brock Peery (transfer Arizona St., 3-0, 4.43 ERA, 24 K, 9 BB).
- INF/OF/C Gavin Grahovac (Villa Park H.S., CA, 18U Team USA National Team).
- INF Carl Schmidt (Marin Catholic H.S., CA, ranked 103 nationally).
- RHP Brett Antolick (Hazelton Area H.S., PA).
- RHP Weston Moss (Lake Creek H.S., TX).

Previous Division I Recruiting Champs

2022: Louisiana St.
2021: UCLA
2020: Miami, Fla.
2019: Vanderbilt
2018: Louisiana St.
2017: Vanderbilt
2016: Arizona St.
2015: Florida
2014: Louisiana St.
2013: Florida
2012: Vanderbilt
2011: South Carolina
2010: Louisiana St.
2009: Florida
2008: Arizona St.
2007: Louisiana St.
2006: South Carolina
2005: South Carolina
2004: Louisiana St.
2003: North Carolina
South Carolina
2002: Georgia Tech.
2001: Southern Calif.
2000: Cal. St. Fullerton
1999: Southern Calif.
1998: Georgia Tech.
1997: UCLA
1996: Texas A&M
1995: Arizona St.
1994: Mississippi St.
1993: Miami (Fla.)
1992: Florida St.
1991: Miami (Fla.)
1990: Arizona
1989: Florida St.
1988: Miami (Fla.)
1987: Stanford
1986: Stanford
1985: Hawaii
1984: Florida St.
1983: Arizona St.

- OF Caden Sorrell (Marcus H.S., TX, ranked 100 nationally).
- LHP Jackson Brasseux (North Lamar H.S., TX, ranked 158 nationally).
- INF/RHP Jett Johnston (Farragut H.S., TN, up to 95 MPH on mound).
- LHP Kaiden Wilson (Raymore Peculiar H.S., MO).
- INF Jack Bell (Ray H.S., TX)
- 1B Boots Landry (Friendswood H.S., TX).
- OF Brady Sullivan (Cypress Woods H.S., TX.)
- RHP Weston Moss (Lake Creek H.S., TX, ranked 182 nationally).
- RHP Jason Bodin (Orangetfield H.S., TX).
- LHP Austin Vargas (Fulshear H.S., TX).

9. Texas

The Longhorns landed a class of 24 which includes 16 freshmen, six 4-year college transfers and two junior college transfers.

“This is an outstanding and very talented recruiting class,” said Texas Assistant Coach Steve Rodriguez.

“It is a great mix of position players and pitchers. We lost one player to the draft in Travis Sykora who signed with the Nationals. He

was the first pick in the third round and received first round a first round signing bonus.

“With speed, power at the plate, great ability defensively and power arms from both sides of the mound, this has the makings of a pretty impressive class.”

The class includes:

- RHP Will Rigney (transfer from Baylor, 38th round pick by the Giants, All-American).
- OF Will Gasparino (Harvard-Westlake H.S., CA).
- INF Luke Storm (transfer Duke University).
- LHP Will Mercer (transfer Notre Dame University).
- RHP Easton Tumis (Friendswood H.S., TX).
- INF Casey Borba (Orange Lutheran H.S., CA).
- OF Casey Cummings (Chabot J.C., CA, All-State).
- INF Dondreone Kennedy (Prestonwood Christian Academy, TX, All-State).
- RHP Cole Selvig (Regis H.S., WI, All-State).
- C Nik Sanders (La Vega H.S., TX, All-State in 2021 and 2022).
- 1B MJ Sweeney (St. Augustine H.S., CA.).
- RHP George Zaharias (Menlo-Atherton H.S., CA).
- LHP Oliver Santos (transfer Duke University).
- RHP Hudson Hamilton (Grand Oaks H.S., TX).
- RHP Hayden Morris (Oak Ridge H.S., TX., All-American).

10. Mississippi St.

The Bulldogs landed a class of 26 which features 17 freshmen, five 4-year college transfers and four junior college transfers.

“We are super excited about this class as it is one of the most talented and deepest classes we have ever had,” said Assistant Coach Jake Gautreau.

“We knew Colin Houck would be a first round pick and were not expecting him to show. Aidan Smith got \$1.3 million from the Mariners in the fourth round.

“With that being said, we are very happy with all the other players who showed up. This class is loaded with athleticism, speed and power on both sides of the ball.”

Key players include:

- SS Dylan Cupp (Cedartown H.S., GA., No. 66 national rank)
- RHP Karson Ligon (transfer Univ. of Miami, Fla.).
- OF Nolan Stevens (Franklin H.S., CA, *Collegiate Baseball* first team All-American).
- RHP Khal Steven (transfer Purdue Univ., third team All-Big Ten).
- LHP Luke Dotson (Mt. Paran Christian H.S., GA, All-American).
- RHP Cam Schuelke (College of Central Florida, All-Mid Florida Conference first team).
- LHP Nate Lamb (Young Harris College, All-Region).
- 3B Logan Kohler (transfer Memphis Univ., second team American Athletic Conference).

11. Mississippi

The Rebels landed a class of 26 which includes 14 freshmen, seven 4-year college transfers and five junior college transfers.

“We feel like this is as good and deep of a class as we have ever had,” said Assistant Coach Carl Lafferty.

“It should stack up with the best around the country. We did more in the portal this year because of having an older team last year.

“There is a good balance of high



@DIAMONDSPORTSCO

Ole Miss Brings In Deep Class Of 26 Newcomers

Continued From Page 12

school, juco and transfer players.”

The class includes:

- C Campbell Smithwick (Oxford H.S., MS, All-American).
- C/INF Trenton Lyons (Memphis, TN, All-American).
- RHP Taylor Rabe (Greenville H.S., South Carolina Gatorade Player of Year, All-American).
- LHP/OF Wes Mendes (Tampa Jesuit H.S., FL, All-American, 2x 5A state Player of Year).
- LHP Ryne Rodriguez (Weatherford C.C., NJCAA Div. I All-American, National Pitcher of Year).
- 3B Andrew Fischer (transfer Duke Univ., .289, 11 HR, Freshman All-American, ACC All-Freshman).
- OF Treyson Hughes (transfer Mercer, first team Southern Conference).
- RHP Kyler Carmack (transfer Arkansas St., Freshman All-American).
- INF Jackson Ross (transfer Florida Atlantic, .345, 14 HR, 1st team Conference USA).
- OF Seth Farni (St. Stanilaus H.S., MS, All-State).
- 3B Kaden Irving (Gautier H.S., MS, All-State).
- INF Drew Markle (Thompkins H.S., TX, All-State, Area Code Games).
- SS Braden Randle (Rockwall H.S., TX, All-State honorable mention).
- RHP Gabe Smith (Father McGivney H.S., IL, All-State).
- RHP Jackson Evers (Madison-Ridgeland Academy, MS, All-State).
- RHP Hudson Calhoun (McCallie School, TN, All-State).
- RHP/INF Hudson Mattox (Kirk Academy, MS, All-State).
- LHP Pepper Heard (Madison-Ridgeland Academy, MS).
- LHP Austin Simmons (Miami Christian H.S., FL).
- LHP Corey Braun (Santa Fe C.C., FL, All-Conference).
- LHP Gunnar Dennis (Meridian C.C., MS, All-Conference).
- UT Connor Chislom (Hinds C.C., MS, All-Conference).
- C Eli Berch (Chipola C.C., MS).
- SS Luke Hill (transfer Arizona St., .316, 6 HR).
- LHP Liam Doyle (transfer Coastal Carolina, 4.12 ERA in 59 IP).
- RHP Connor Spencer (transfer Southeastern La.).

12. North Carolina

The Tar Heels landed a class of 25 including 16 freshmen, six 4-year college transfers and three junior college transfers.

“It is our best recruiting class since 2016,” said Assistant Coach Bryant Gaines.

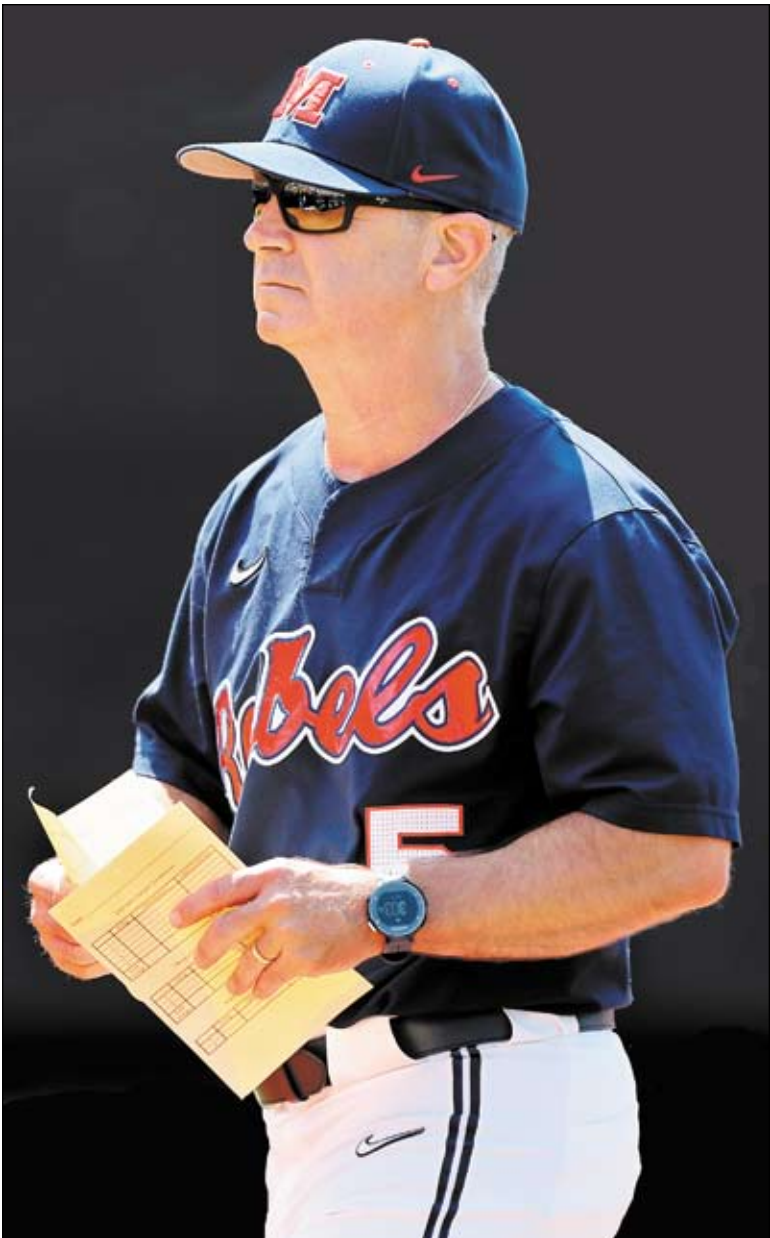
“Luke Stevenson, Olin Johnson and Jason Decaro each turned down over \$1.5 million to come to school. They were not drafted because they wouldn’t sign for under \$2 million.

“Folger Boaz, Boston Flannery and Harrison Lewis also turned down money to come to school. Boaz was the Male Athlete of The Year in North Carolina, the first we have had in a recruiting class at UNC.

“We added a senior 3B transfer from the University of Georgia in Parks Harber who led UGA offensively.

“We added Anthony Donofrio who led Quinnipiac in hitting and also led the NECBL in hitting.

“We brought in Elon transfer LHP Shea Sprague who was a 2-



Ole Miss Head Coach Mike Bianco

time All-Conference pitcher and Freshman of The Year.

“Alex Madera is an NCAA Div. 3 shortstop from Arcadia who was a two time first team NCAA Div. III All-American.

“I truly believe we landed a top five class.”

Two other players to watch include P Francesco Capocci (Denmark H.S., GA) and SS Gavin Gallagher (Pro5 Baseball Academy, N.C.). Both are top 150 players nationally.

13. Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders brought in a class of 17 which includes 13 freshmen, two 4-year college transfers and two junior college transfers.

“I’m really excited about this group,” said Texas Tech. Head Coach Tim Tadlock.

Key players include:

- RHP Jeffrey “Mac” Heuer (home schooled in Greensboro, GA), 16th round pick of Cleveland in the 2023 MLB Draft.
- INF Landon Stripling (Parkview H.S., GA).
- INF TJ Pompey (Coppell H.S., TX).
- INF Cade McGee (transfer Gonzaga Univ.).
- C Davis Rivers (Waller H.S., TX).
- INF Garett Boehm (Hutto H.S., TX)
- RHP Chandler Coe (Loomis Chaffee School, CT).
- RHP Cole Kaase (Katy H.S., TX).
- RHP Carson Priebe (Wakeland H.S., TX)

14. Alabama

The Crimson Tide brought in a big class of 27 which includes 13 freshmen, 11 4-year college transfers and three junior college athletes.

“We brought in a very solid class,” said Associate Head Coach Jason Jackson.

“We had an old team last season. So we brought in a good amount of

new players, including 11 transfer portal athletes.

“It was huge getting Zane Adams and Justin Lebron to campus. Kade Snell was the national JUCO Player of The Year and will be an impact player as a pitcher and hitter.

“We have a larger than normal freshman class and look forward to seeing who emerges.”

Key players in the class include:

- LHP Zane Adams (Porter H.S., TX, Texas Pitcher of Year, All-American).
- 1B Kade Snell (Wallace C.C., J.C. National Player of Year, All-American).
- SS Justin Lebron (Archbishop Edward McCarthy H.S., FL, All-American).
- UT Gage Miller (Bishop State C.C., PA, All-District).
- LHP Jansen Kenty (East Coweta H.S., GA, All-State).
- OF Parker Picot (Rochester Adams H.S., MI, All-State).
- OF Evan Haeger (Detroit Catholic Central H.S., MI, All-State).
- C Luke Vaughn (Elder H.S., OH, All-State).

15. Louisville

The Cardinals landed a class of 25 that features 19 freshmen, four 4-year college transfers and two junior players.

“We brought in a deep group with a lot of talent,” said Assistant Coach Eric Snider.

“We didn’t lose anyone to the MLB Draft. Several extremely talented arms could make an immediate impact.”

Key players to watch include:

- LHP Colton Hartman (Lebanon H.S., OH).
- C Zion Rose (IMG Academy, FL).
- RHP Parker Detmers (Glenwood H.S., IL).
- LHP Sebastian Gongora (transfer from Wright St.).

- INF Dylan Hoy (Marist H.S., NY).
- C Luke Napleton (transfer from Quincy University).
- RHP Jake Karaba (transfer from Lewis University).
- LHP Mitchell Dean (Western H.S., IN).
- C George Baker (Pro5 Baseball Academy, MD).
- INF Alex Alicea (St. Thomas More H.S., WI, All-State).
- RHP Noah Bush (Iowa Western C.C.).
- RHP Kyle Crow (Fenton H.S., MI, All-State).
- RHP Thomas Howard (Frederick Douglas H.S., KY, All-State).
- C Max Humphrey (Mount Pleasant H.S., MI, All-State).
- RHP Josh Klug (Traverse City Central H.S., MI, All-State).
- LHP Jared Lessman (Iowa Western C.C.).
- OF Lucas Moore (Badin H.S., OH, All-State).
- LHP TJ Schlageter (Joliet Catholic Academy, IL, All-State).
- LHP Ty Starke (Saint Xavier H.S., KY, All-State)
- LHP Braxton Stewart (East Forsyth H.S., NC)
- OF Trey Swiderski (Joliet Catholic Academy, IL, All-State).
- C Tagger Tyson (Oceanside Collegiate Academy, SC, South Carolina 2A Player of The Year).

16. Auburn

The Tigers brought in a superb class of 22 which includes 12 freshmen, six 4-year college transfers and four junior college players.

“We brought in a good mix of high school and 4-year and junior college transfers,” said Head Coach Butch Thompson.

“We also have a good balance of left and righthanded pitchers (6/5).

“In addition, we had a considerable amount of players who turned down MLB Draft (money) to come to campus.”

Key players in the class include:

- C Kaleb Freeman (St. John’s River St. JC, FL, NJCAA All-American).
- RHP Conner McBride (St. John’s River St. J.C., FL, NJCAA All-American).
- RHP Dylan Watts (Tacoma C.C., WA, All-Region).
- INF Cooper Weiss (transfer Univ. of Miami, OH, MAC Defensive Player of Year).
- INF Javon Hernandez (transfer Jacksonville St., All-Atlantic Sun).
- OF Mason Maners (transfer Jacksonville St., All-Atlantic Sun).
- INF Cole Edwards (Spain Park H.S., AL, All-State).
- OF Cade Belyeu (Auburn H.S., AL, All-State).
- C Cale Stricklin (North Oconee H.S., GA, All-Region).
- LHP Konner Keplinger (Mortimer Jordan H.S., AL, All-State).
- RHP Cam Tilly (Castle H.S., IN, All-State).
- LHP Griffin Graves (Trinity Christian Academy, TN, All-State).
- INF Christian Hall (transfer Alabama Birmingham, All-Conference USA).
- RHP Alex Petrovic (Concordia Lutheran H.S., TX, All-State).
- INF Eric Guevara (Georgia Premiere Academy, GA).

17. Indiana

The Hoosiers brought in a class of 21 which features 11 freshmen,

nine 4-year college transfers and one junior college player.

“Our 2023 class is the best to ever step foot on campus,” said Recruiting Coordinator Derek Simmons.

“Perfect Game ranks this class 19th in the country. Combined with our transfer portal class, which was ranked 18th in the country by Sixty-Four Analytics, this is a banner recruiting class for the Hoosiers.

“Our high school class is headlined by three *Collegiate Baseball* All-Americans in Andrew Wiggins, Jasen Oliver and Ryan Rushing.

“There are also seven different players who were named Conference or League Player of The Year.

“Eight of the 11 high school recruits turned down MLB Draft money and came to campus, including Andrew Wiggins who is the highest rated player ever to come to Indiana.”

Key players in the class include:

- OF Andrew Wiggins (Heritage Christian H.S., IN, *Collegiate Baseball* first team All-American).
- SS Jasen Oliver (St. Mary’s Prep, MI, *Collegiate Baseball* first team All-American).
- LHP Ryan Rushing (IMG Academy H.S., FL, *Collegiate Baseball* second team All-American).
- OF Brayden Bakes (Huntley H.S., IL, third team All-American).
- INF Cal Sefcik (Marist H.S., IL, Prep Baseball Report Super 60).
- RHP Seth Benes (Liberty-Wentzville H.S., MO).
- RHP Eli Shaw (Warren Central H.S., IN, Marion County Player of Year).
- SS Hayden Carlson (Capistrano Valley Christian H.S., CA, second team All-American).
- C TJ Schuyler (Antioch Community H.S., IL, Conference Player of Year).
- RHP Evan O’Neill (Blessed Trinity H.S., GA, 3-time 6A All-Georgia).
- LHP Blaine Albright (Bath H.S., OH, All-State).
- Of Nick Mitchell (Western Illinois, All-Summit League).
- RHP Julian Tonghini (transfer from Boston College).
- RHP Ben Grable (transfer from Northwestern Univ.).
- LHP Matthew Bonhert (transfer from Lipscomb Univ., 83 strikeouts).
- RHP Brandon Keyster (John A. Logan J.C., IL).
- RHP Jack Moffitt (transfer from Gonzaga).
- RHP Drew Buhr (transfer from Bellarmine).
- INF Brandon Burckel (transfer from Univ. of Houston).
- RHP Ty Rybarchyk (transfer from Univ. of Illinois).
- C Jake Stadler (transfer from Purdue, All Big Ten).

18. Florida St.

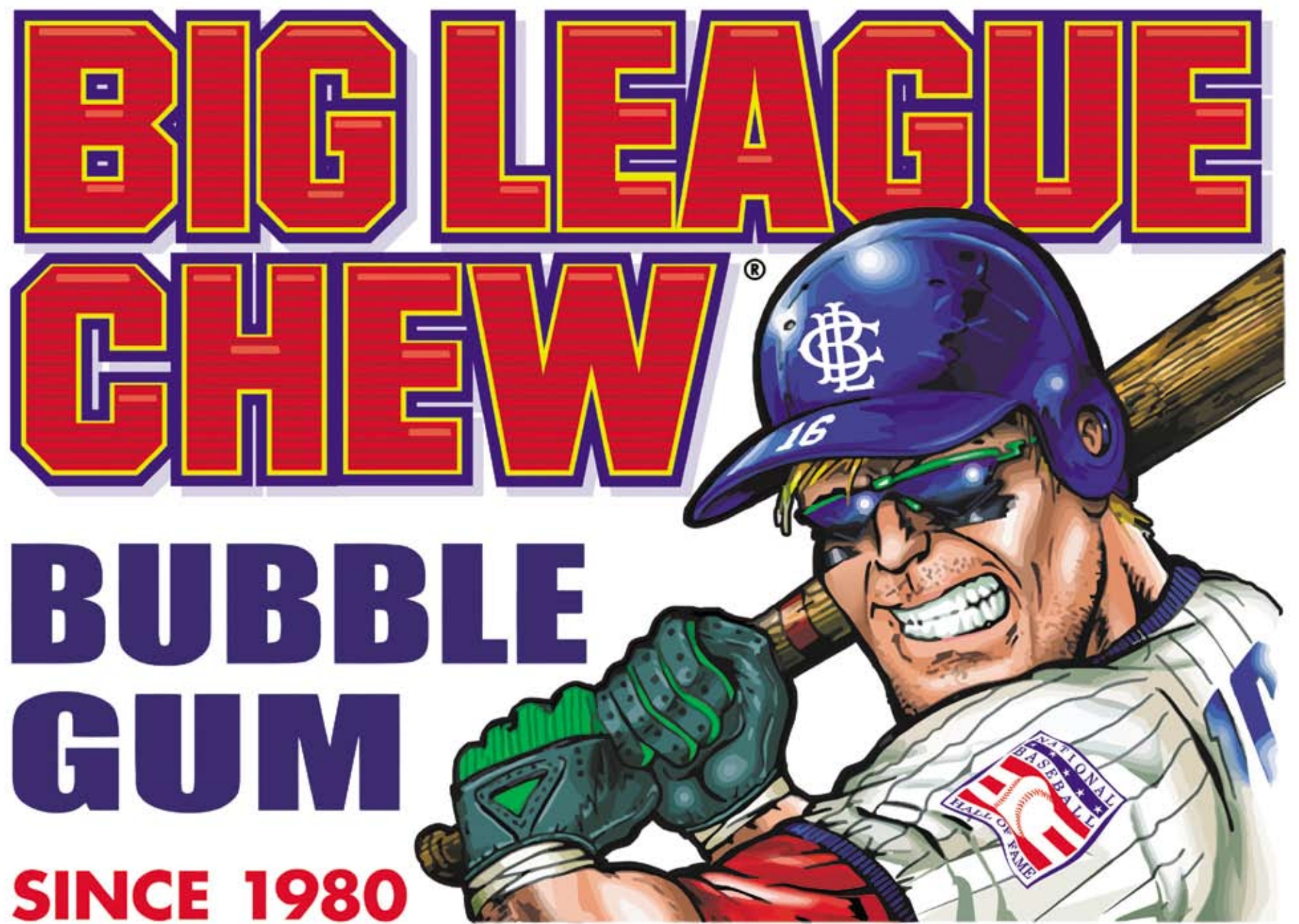
The Seminoles landed a class of 27 which includes 14 freshmen, nine 4-year college transfers and four junior college players.

“The 2023 recruiting class is a large group that fills the current needs of the program,” said Assistant Coach Ty Megahee.

“We are excited about the potential impact of this class and what they will bring to the future of Florida St.”

Key players include:

- RHP Gavin Adams (Indian



Big League Chew was invented by Rob Nelson, a former Cornell University lefthander who was pitching in Oregon in 1977 for the fabled Portland Mavericks when he came up with the idea for a new type of bubble gum.

Rob was literally sitting in the Portland bullpen, watching his teammates chewing other less salubrious stuff, when he thought that shredded bubble gum would be a much more fun option.

Rob shared the idea with Mav teammate Jim Bouton who liked the concept so much he spent the next two years searching for a gum company to manufacture and distribute Big League Chew. He succeeded, and BLC quickly became the must-have bubble gum for ballplayers in the littlest leagues to the Big Leagues.

Today, over 40 years later, Big League Chew is the #1-selling shredded bubble gum in the world — with over 1 billion pouches sold. It is manufactured in the USA by Ford Gum of Akron, New York.

BIG LEAGUE CHEW® AMERICA'S BUBBLE GUM™

Coaches Discount now available at bigleaguechew.com

Oregon Lands Exceptional Class With 27 Newcomers

Continued From Page 14

River St. College).

- LHP Carson Dorsey (Gulf Coast C.C., 2x All-Panhandle Conference).
- INF Cal Fisher (Deerfield H.S., WI).
- OF Andrew Duncan (A3 Academy, FL).
- INF Spencer Butt (American Heritage H.S., FL)
- OF Justin Best (Combine Academy, N.C.)
- LHP Brady Louck (Plainfield East H.S., IL).
- RHP Matt Sauser (University H.S., IL).

19. Georgia Tech.

The Yellow Jackets brought in a class of 27 which includes 14 freshmen and 13 4-year college transfers.

“It is a great class,” said Assistant Coach Zeke Pinkham.

“We had three players who were drafted and signed. But we still feel like we have a strong class headlined by Drew Burress.

“We have some older, experienced transfers who will be able to contribute right away.”

Key newcomers include:

- OF Drew Burress (Houston County H.S., GA, All-American).
- OF Bobby Zmarzlak (transfer Univ. of Maryland, former 40th round draft pick in 2019 by Orioles).
- UT Cam Jones (transfer from Georgia St., 1st team Sun Belt).
- C Matthew Ellis (transfer from Indiana Univ., 3rd team Big Ten).
- INF Mike Becchetti (transfer from Fairfield Univ., 1st team MAAC).
- P Tate McKee (Mount Paran Christian H.S., GA, All-State)
- INF Carson Kerce (Pope H.S., GA, All Cobb County Player of Year).
- INF Ryan Jaros (Cranford H.S., NJ, All-State).

20. Oregon

The Ducks brought in a class 27 which includes 17 freshmen, six 4-year college transfers and four junior college players.

“It is a great class,” said Oregon Head Coach Mark Wasikowski.

“We brought in quality front line arms with great athletes all over the field.

“The position versatility is a strength with multiple 2-way players.

“The transfers have impact experience at multiple levels with untapped upside.”

Key players in the class include:

- OF Mason Neville (transfer Univ. of Arkansas, former 18th round pick in 2022 by Cincinnati).
- RHP Cole Stokes (Redondo Union H.S., CA, ranked 67th nationally by PG).
- LHP Toby Twist (Bakersfield Christian H.S., CA, ranked No. 1 in California by PG).
- RHP Collin Clarke (Santa Margarita Catholic H.S., CA, ranked 105 nationally).
- LHP Sammy Cova (Santa Margarita Catholic H.S., CA, No. 5 ranked LHP in California).
- SS Ryan Cooney (Jesuit H.S., OR, All-State).
- LHP Tommy Meluskey (West Valley H.S., WA).
- INF Cooper Sheff (Basic H.S., NV, ranked 10th in Nevada).
- INF Maddox Molony (Thurston H.S., OR, 2x Oregon Player of The Year).
- RHP Ryan Featherston (Stockdale H.S., CA, No. 55 ranked player in California).
- RHP Finn Chapman (Vacaville H.S., CA).



Oregon Head Coach Mark Wasikowski

- RHP Jaxon Jordan (Moorpark College, CA).
- LHP Bradley Mullan (transfer Gonzaga Univ.)
- RHP Kevin Seitter (transfer from Quinnipiac Univ.).

21. South Carolina

The Gamecocks brought in a class of 24 which includes 13 freshmen and 11 4-year college transfers.

“This is a strong class,” said South Carolina Head Coach Mark Kingston.

“On the freshman side, it is headlined by C Ryan Bakes, INF Lee Ellis and pitchers Eddie Copper and Jake McCoy and Tyler Pitzer.

“Bakes is an ultra-athletic catcher who hit .342 with 6 homers and 13 extra base hits in 76 at bats in the Prospect League last summer.

“Ellis is an elite defender at shortstop who has a chance to step in and start as a freshman. McCoy is a LHP who was up to 94 mph in the Appalachian League last summer and put up a 3.07 ERA.

“Cooper and Pitzer are both RHPs who have been up to the mid-90s and have a chance to impact our team right away.

“On the transfer side, the class is headlined by OF Austin Brinling, OF Kennedy Jones, RHP Ty Good and INF Parker Noland.

“Brinling was a first team Atlantic Sun selection after hitting .386 with 18 doubles and 20 stolen bases.

“Jones was a first team All-Southern Conference pick after hitting .355 with 14 homers last spring.

“Good was the Colonial Athletic Association Pitcher of The Year after striking out 93 batters in 82 1/3 innings last spring.

“Noland has been a 4-year starter at Vanderbilt and is coming off the best offensive season of his career in 2023 as he hit .277 with 12 doubles and 9 HR.”

Another player to watch in the class is OF Thomas Powell (River Bluff H.S., SC, All-State).

22. Virginia

The Cavaliers landed a class of

19 which includes 13 freshmen and six 4-year college transfers.

“I think we were able to do a nice job supplementing our 2023 class with some transfers to fill some immediate needs,” said Virginia Head Coach Brian O’Connor.

“Our focus will always be the development of the high school player, and I am excited about who we have brought in from the prep level.

“This is a very talented and athletic class that has the ability to impact our ball club right away.”

Key players in the class include:

- LHP Tommy Roldan (Georgetown Prep, MD, first team All-Met).
- INF Henry Ford (Baylor School, TN, first team *Collegiate Baseball* All-American).
- INF Antonio Perrotta (Georgetown Prep, MD, 3x state champion).
- SS Eric Becker (Don Bosco Prep, NJ, All-State).
- RHP Bryson Moore (Gonzaga College H.S., VA, Washington D.C. Gatorade Player of The Year).
- LHP Freddy Beruvides, Jr. (The Benjamin School, FL).
- OF Walker Buchanan (The Benjamin School, FL).
- RHP Nathan Bassett (Patriot H.S., VA).
- RHP Charlie OSchell (Malvern Prep, PA).
- RHP Matt Augustin (Bishop Eustace Prep, NJ).
- C Mark Gialluisi (St. Joseph H.S., NJ).
- INF Tristan Head (The Benjamin School, FL).
- LHP Patric Menk (The Bolles School, FL).
- RHP Ryan Osinski (transfer from Bucknell).
- OF Bobby Whalen (transfer from Univ. of Indiana).
- LHP Owen Coady (transfer from Univ. of Pennsylvania).
- RHP Joe Savino (transfer from Elon).
- C Jacob Ference (transfer from Salisbury).
- LHP Blake Barker (transfer from Seton Hill).

23. Clemson

The Tigers brought in a class of 20 which features 13 freshmen and seven 4-year college transfers.

“We are very excited about our 2023 class,” said Assistant Coach Nick Schnabel.

“We have high end depth both on the mound and positionally with high school players and transfers.

“Clemson landed five top 500 prospects in the high school class along with 2022 draft pick Alden Mathes.

“Two high school pitchers turned down north of seven figures along with two high school position players turning down north of \$650,000.”

Key players in the class include:

- OF Alden Mathes (transfer Univ. of Richmond, former 19th round pick in 2022 by Orioles).
- SS Jacob Hiderleider (transfer from Davidson, All-Conference).
- RHP Lucas Mahlstedt (transfer from Wofford, All-Conference).
- RHP Matt Marchel (transfer from Wofford, All-Conference).
- C/INF Jimmy Obertop (transfer from Univ. of Michigan, 2022 All-Big Ten).
- INF Andrew Ciuffo (transfer from Georgetown, 2022 All-Conference).
- INF Jarren Purify (Liggitt H.S., MI, All-State).
- RHP Aiden Knaak (Bishop Verot H.S., FL, All-State).
- LHP Justin Legurnic (Half Hollow Hills H.S., NY, All-State).

24. N.C. State

The Wolfpack landed a class of 20 which includes 14 freshmen, five 4-year college transfers and one junior college transfer.

“It is great,” said Assistant Coach Chris Hart.

“On paper, it is as good as we’ve signed since 2011 which had the class of Carlos Rodon, Trea Turner, Brett Austin, etc.”

Key players in the class include:

- LHP Ryan Marohn (Freedom H.S., VA, 20th round draft pick of Cleveland, All-State).
- RHP Chance Mako (East Rowan H.S., NC, All-American).
- C Alex Sosa (Viera H.S., FL, All-American).
- 1B Brandon Crabtree (Grace Christian H.S., NC, All-American).
- SS Luke Nixon (New Hanover H.S., NC, All-State).
- RHP Jaxon Lucas, Garner H.S., NC, All-State).
- RHP Heath Andrews (James River H.S., VA, All-State).
- SS Peyton Young (Saint Stephens H.S., NC, All-State).

25. Oregon St.

The Beavers landed a class of 21 which includes 15 freshmen, three 4-year college transfers and three junior college transfers.

“Our class is deep with talent both on the offensive side and on the mound,” said Oregon St. Head Coach Mitch Canham.

“We have an experienced group returning from last year. But there is little doubt that many of our newcomers will make a strong showing this upcoming season.

“This year’s class is highlighted by student athletes of high character and athletic gifts who should impress all who watch the Beavers compete.”

Key players in the class include:

- RHP Laif Palmer (Golden H.S., CO, 20th round pick by Texas).
- C Evan Gustafson (Altoona H.S., WI, Conference Player of The Year).
- RHP Eric Segura (Soledad H.S., All-State)
- INF Trent Caraway (JSerra Catholic H.S., CA, State Player of The Year).
- RHP Stephen Montgomery (Iowa Western J.C.).
- RHP Bridger Holmes (Feather River J.C., CA, All-Conference).
- INF Levi Jones (Jesuit H.S., OR, All-State).

All Players Must Be Held Accountable For Actions

By CHARLIE GREENE
Special To Collegiate Baseball

MIAMI, Fla. — In a National League game that I saw last season, a fly-ball was mishandled because an infielder was not wearing his sun glasses.

This incident turned out to be the focal point of a closely contested game. Needless to say, the manager was very upset and emphasized that players have to be responsible for their game preparation.

“Baby sitters should not be required.”

I can recall an incident when Charlie Jr. was beginning his professional career in the Arizona Rookie League and had difficulty in one of his first games in trying to catch a pop fly.

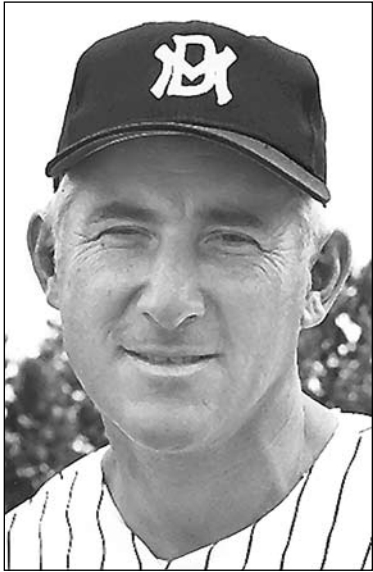
Just prior to the start of a game, he was informed by his manager, Ken Berry, former major league outfielder, that he was needed to play first base, a position he had never played or practiced.

He had been a catcher from the time he started to walk.

Obviously, he was surprised by the request, but hustled to his position in the first inning.

Early in the game an opposing batter hit a pop fly in Charlie’s direction, and battling the Arizona “high sky,” he failed to catch it.

However, he was not wearing



CHARLIE GREENE

sun glasses and had a ready excuse for not making the play.

Manager Ken Berry fined him \$25 for not wearing the “shades.”

Neither, Charlie nor I said a word, and he paid the fine without a whimper. Lesson learned.

Every player should be held accountable for his actions or forgetfulness.

This was the most valuable \$25 he ever spent. In this day and age, we are not holding people accountable for their responsibilities.

Excuses are a dime a dozen.

Learn from your mistakes, but don’t play the blame game.

What Allows Coaches To Be Elite? Chew On This

By LOU PAVLOVICH, JR.
Editor/Collegiate Baseball

ORLANDO, Fla. — What techniques allow certain coaches to be the greatest in sports?

Do the best skippers coach by fear and intimidation with a generous supply of profanity laced tirades?

Or are the best coaches those who teach in a caring, patient manner but also instill great discipline?

The choice is easy for Pat Williams, a man who has written 48 books with thousands of interviews about why certain coaches and players excel in different sports.

The clear winner is the coach who teaches with a caring mind set toward his athletes.

This type of coach becomes an important father figure to those players as relationships are cemented for life.

The former senior Vice President of the National Basketball Association's Orlando Magic has never been a paid coach, but he has had a burning desire to learn all he can about why the elite of the coaching profession raise the performance level of their athletes.

Williams and his wife Ruth are the parents of 19 children, including 14 adopted.

"I prefer the servant/leader type of coach," said Williams.

And the epitome of that type of coach is former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, according to Williams.

Wooden led the Bruins to seven national titles in a row from 1966-1973 and 10 NCAA crowns in 12



JOHN WOODEN

years from 1964-1975. From 1971-1974, the Bruins won 88 games without a loss.

One of Williams' most important books is called *How To Be Like Coach Wooden*, a remarkable insight into why the Hall of Fame coach was so successful as Williams interviewed over 800 people to craft this inspiring biography.

"That doesn't mean these types of coaches have to be pushovers. As I talked to Coach John Wooden's former players, they feared him.

"But there was a certain sense of values that he had. He was a gracious, sweet, loving man. But that didn't mean he was a lamb chop as a coach.

"You don't have to be a screamer who is vile and profane and out of control.

"There is a balance. And by the way, that was coach Wooden's favorite word — balance.

"It's not just balance as an athlete but balance in your life. Coach Wooden had a long marriage that was a classic with wife Nell, and he raised his children well. I talked to all of his grandchildren and all of his great grandchildren. They absolutely revered him and adored him.

"Coaches like John Wooden truly care about their athletes as human beings. If we could talk to Dean Smith today in Chapel Hill, N.C., he would know what every one of his former players was doing now.

"He would know about their wives and children in addition to all the players' grandchildren. He would know about the elderly parents of those players who he got to know as he recruited their sons.

"Then we have crying Dick Vermeil (former coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Rams and Kansas City Chiefs).

"The press got the biggest kick out of him because he would break down and cry at the drop of a hat. When he finally retired, the Kansas City media tells us that he cried seven times in one press conference.

"When I was with the Philadelphia 76ers, his office was right around the corner at Vet Stadium, and I knew him well. At the end of the day, Dick Vermeil truly, truly cared about his players.

"Ron Jaworski, his quarterback at Philadelphia, told me not long ago, 'If you ever played for Dick Vermeil, you better get ready for

a phone call 10 years after you've retired around supper time. It's coach calling to check in on you.

"Then Bill Bergey, the great linebacker who played for Philadelphia in the 1980s, told me that he still gets a phone call every Christmas day from Dick Vermeil.

"It made me wonder if he calls every one of his former players on Christmas. Man, what a phone bill!

"Randy Cross, who played for Dick in the mid-1970s at UCLA, told me that his mother still gets a Christmas card every year from Dick and Carol Vermeil. Randy said to me, 'I hope Coach doesn't feel that he has to recruit me any more. My eligibility is up.'

"These coaches care about people. Tommy Lasorda made a living from remembering people's names and involving himself in the lives of people.

"All of his players' children called him Uncle Tommy.

"One of his former players who was upset at him one time was asked why he didn't rip Tommy in the papers.

"His response was, 'How can I rip him when my kids call him Uncle Tommy?'

Williams was asked what coaches are missing in life who drive a barrier between themselves and their athletes which prevents either one of them from getting close to each other.

"At the end of the day, they miss the human element of it. At the end of the day, it's all about people. To be a great leader, you must have people skills.

"You have to care about people

and have a heart for people. You have to be interested in other people.

"The day of the servant leader/coach is upon us.

"Rick Warren who wrote the best selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, sold over 30 million copies. It's a motivational, self-help book. The first sentence says, 'It's not about you.'

"That's how great coaches think. It's not about you. It's always about your athletes."

Williams said that Coach Wooden can touch all of us either in or out of coaching.

"Whether you are a pastor or a high school principal or business executive, the lessons of Coach Wooden are universal," said Williams

Williams said Wooden demonstrated 10 important traits during and after his coaching career, including:

1. Always try to do the right thing.
2. Coach measures his words carefully.
3. Coach is a man of absolute integrity.
4. Coach strives to be a man of humility.
5. Coach has his priorities straight.
6. Coach never judges anyone by superficial characteristics such as the color of their skin.
7. Coach tries to live by the Golden Rule.
8. Coach has an attitude of service.
9. Coach is a hard worker.
10. Coach pays attention to the small details.

Last Chance For Issues!



Back issues of *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper dated from 1990-2023 can be purchased until November 30, 2023. After that date, they will no longer be available.

Copies of our current or past editions can be purchased for \$4 each which includes postage and handling charges.

Orders can be placed on our website at:
<http://baseballnews.com/subscribe-to-collegiate-baseball/rates-order-form/>

Scroll down to **Single Issue Orders** to place the order. Please include the dates of the issues you want or call (520) 623-4530 with your order.

Also, all of our e-books are available. Please see the ad in this issue for more information.



Exciting Products Worth Taking A Close Look At

TUCSON, Ariz. — The fall practice season has begun, and it’s time for coaches to assess all the equipment and items needed for the upcoming baseball season.

Many sporting goods companies are offering new products along with many of the old favorites.

Please take a few moments to check out the ads in this issue for some great offers from our advertisers.

Readers also can visit our website at www.baseballnews.com and find a list of quick links to our advertisers on the front page.

You can click on any company name and go directly to their websites to place orders or contact the company for more information.

Web Flex Screens

Are you tired of replacing protective screens?

Web Flex has developed a new type of screen that is guaranteed to last for years with proper usage and storage.

The protective screens use a patented rubber isolator that helps the screen “flex” when struck and can withstand repeated punishment without failure.

The frame is able to absorb the energy of a ball from a direct hit, bending but never breaking, thanks to the proprietary rubber elastomers that allow the frame to float.

The rubber isolator is made from TecsPak® that is 10 times more durable than rubber, 20 times more durable than urethane and 100 times more durable than steel coil springs, according to the company.

It is UV protected and will not dry rot, crack or fall apart.

It is impervious to most chemicals, greases and oils and can withstand temperatures from -40 degrees F to 120 degrees F, according to the company.

Web Flex makes a variety of L-screens, a field screen, a pitching target and a dolly to easily cart the screens around the field.

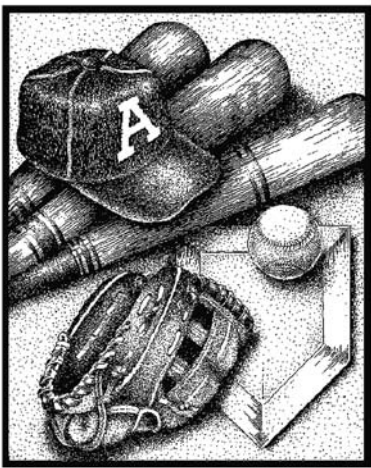
For pricing and more information, visit www.thewebflex.com or call (844) 864-0888.

Tucson Invitational Games

Tucson Arizona has been one of the destination spots for collegiate spring training.

The mild, sunny weather and great major league quality facilities at Kino Sports Complex have made a great combination for the Tucson Invitational Games spring training.

The organization will offer training facilities to NCAA Div.



II, III, NAIA and junior colleges from February 26 to March 31, 2024. TIG also can set up a number of early season games for visiting teams as well.

A complete package that offers teams accommodating schedules, full concession stands, 8 professionally manicured fields, batting cages, practice mounds, free parking and shaded bleachers. Discounted hotel rooms and transportation rentals also are available.

A registration fee of \$250 (non-refundable) is required by Nov. 1, 2023 for the upcoming spring session. Game fees cost \$200 each.

For more information, visit www.tigsports.com or call (520) 777-7680.

Big League Chew

In 2017 Big League Chew was named the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s bubble gum.

The product has been sold for over 40 years and recently hit 1 billion pouches sold.

The gum is produced by Ford Gum in Akron, NY.

It is sold across the nation at various stores and snack bars, but also can be ordered directly through www.bigleaguechew.com

It was invented by Rob Nelson, a former Cornell University lefthander, who also pitched for the Portland Mavericks.

After watching his teammates chewing tobacco, he decided to come up with a healthier version and created, along with teammate Jim Bouton, a shredded bubble gum.

Diamond Sports

Diamond Sports offers high quality baseballs for all levels of the game from youth to collegiate leagues, including game balls and pitching machine balls.

The company also offers a wide variety of baseball equipment,

including ball buckets, catching gear, various mitts, travel bags, coaches’ accessories and more.

Just about everything to outfit a baseball team is available. Check out the offerings at www.diamond-sports.com

Diamond Pro

Diamond Pro offers a complete line of professional groundskeeping products for baseball fields.

The company offers its brand of Red Infield, Gray Infield, professional Vitrified Infield and Double Play Infield conditioners.

They also sell calcined clay, sand mixes, mound and home plate clay and clay bricks as well as field marking dust.

Their products are used by professional sports turf managers, parks and recreation directors and coaches nationwide.

For more information, visit www.diamondpro.com

PYT Sports

PYT Sports is the maker of custom-made wood products for dugouts and locker rooms as well as providing many items for stadiums and fields.

Because of the innovation and quality of these products, several have earned Best of Show awards at ABCA Conventions.

They produce hand-made dugout benches, various designs of helmet and bat racks, storage racks, water cooler racks and bulletin or chalkboards.

The items can be finished in various ways, including using school colors and logos.

For more information and photos of the various designs available, visit www.pytsports.net

Beam Clay/Partac Peat

For many years, Partac Peat Corporation in New Jersey has produced Beam Clay, dirt for the diamond, pitcher’s mound and home plate.

It’s been a popular mix for professional fields to Little League diamonds across the country.

Beam Clay contains ratios of red clay and orange sand for firmness, drainage and softness on the baseball diamond.

There are different mixes for the various areas of the field.

Teams can choose colors from gray, brown, red or orange.

Red is the most popular choice.

The company also sells a wide variety of groundskeeping equipment and items to dress up stadiums, fences and many other aspects of the baseball field.

They offer a one-stop shopping

experience for all groundskeeping needs.

For more information, visit www.beamclay.com

Own The Zone Sports

Own The Zone is the original pick-proof sign software that has been used by NCAA national champions and over 500-plus college baseball and softball teams.

Players wear wristbands just like a quarterback would do with codes for various pitches, offense and defense situations.

Coaches will call out the codes they want or give hand signals.

The codes can be set up from any computer, tablet or mobile device with an internet connection and are changed from game to game. Therefore, no one can figure out your next move.

The product was a 2016 ABCA Best of Show award winner.

Visit www.ownthezonesports.com for more information.

Glover’s Scorebooks

For over 50 years, Glover’s Scorebooks has been providing the baseball and softball community, as well as many other sports, with proper scorebooks, lineup cards, scouting charts and accessories.

The products are sold through E.D. Frazier & Associates in Waco, TX.

To find the right products for your team, visit www.glovers-scorebooks.com or call (254) 776-3605.

Cosby & Co. Sports Bags

Gerry Cosby has been known for decades as a provider of customized sports’ accessories for many different sports throughout the country.

From its manufacturing plant in Sheffield, MA, the company produces bags for bats, bullpen balls, batting practice, catcher’s equipment and umpire’s baseball bags.

Cosby bags are made of VAT-dyed heavy #8 canvas, which is mildew treated and water repellent.

Bags have 1 to 1 ½ inch handles covered with color canvas and double-snap canvas locking device to lock handles for easy carrying to games or practices.

Additionally, they are riveted and backed with nylon washers at points of strain, and the bottoms have four brass buttons attached to the strap to prevent wear.

The bags can be customized with your team’s colors and logos.

For more information, visit www.cosbysports.com

Cheapbats.com

Cheapbats.com has over 20,000 baseball and softball bats in stock and ready to ship.

The company carries bats from youth to high school to pro levels and has all the top brands from Rawlings, Easton, DeMarini, Louisville Slugger, Marucci and more.

They offer both aluminum and wood bats. For more information, visit www.cheapbats.com

ABCA Videos

The American Baseball Coaches Association has a library of coaching videos that features over 500 clinics available on-demand to all ABCA members.

The videos range from talks presented at the annual convention to Barnstormer regional clinics and ABCA Partner Webinars that have already been presented.

This is a great reason to join the organization as coaches can view all sorts of great presentations by some of the top coaches in the country without having to actually travel to an individual event.

Also, it’s a great way to revisit a past presentation you saw from an ABCA convention or event.

There are many new ideas and thoughts about coaching baseball, and this is one great way to stay on top of the newest trends.

For more information, contact www.abca.org

Collegiate Baseball E-Books

Collegiate Baseball newspaper has produced a series of 8 e-books that cover various aspects of coaching baseball.

Each of the e-books focuses on a specific topic such as base stealing, pitching, hitting, infield play, outfield play, lethal pickoffs and submarine pitching, great coaches and the greatest trick plays.

The information contains the secrets of many of the greatest coaches in the game and what they teach their players on these various aspects of the game.

Each e-book costs \$5 or you can get all 8 e-books for the low price of \$30. The e-books are sent to your email address in a pdf form that’s easy to read on your computer or you can print a copy for yourself.

All e-books will be on sale until November 30, 2023.

To order, visit www.baseballnews.com/e-book-offer-from-collegiate-baseball/

Back issues starting from 1990 to the present also are available for \$4 each which includes postage. Call (520) 623-4530 to order.

Situational Hitting Drills Can Improve Many Areas All At Once

By JACK DUNN
Special To Collegiate Baseball

PORTLAND, Ore. — An excellent way to develop a team’s base running skills, team defense, and hitting strategy, under near game like conditions, is through the use of situation hitting drills.

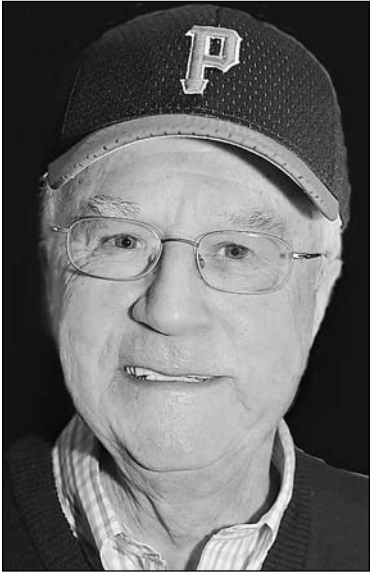
Situation hitting drills are designed to:

A. Emphasize base running mechanics and strategy.

B. Emphasize team defense. (i.e. alignments, cut-offs, relays, pitchers backing up the correct base, etc.).

C. Build offensive strategy by having the hitter execute whatever play the coach wishes to employ.

D. Build the running game by having the base runners run the bases correctly, according to the situation, and to be able to implement whatever strategy the



JACK DUNN

coach wishes to employ.

E. Teach the defensive team players to communicate with each other (i.e. pop flies, alignments,

cut-offs, relays, etc.).

F. Teach the players, both offensively and defensively, to respond to game situations automatically.

G. Teach the team’s signal system, both offensively and defensively.

H. Teach team offense and team defense under simulated game pressure.

Before using any of the situation hitting drills, it is advisable that the base running defensive and hitting skills and strategies necessary for a particular drill have been taught in advance. Teaching in advance maximizes the effectiveness of the drill.

Procedure:

A. Put a defensive team in the field.

B. Outfielders in each position.

C. Infielders in their positions.

D. Catchers in full gear (optional,

drill can be run without catchers).

E. Pitchers work from behind the batting practice pitcher or pitching machine (one at a time) and backup the appropriate base. Other pitchers form a single line in foul territory between home plate and first base.

1. Middle infielders (SS & 2B) play at medium depth (halfway between deep position and the baseline) first baseman and the third baseman play even with base.

2. Hard Hit Ball – Go for double play via second base.

3. Slow Hit Ball – Throw runner out at home plate.

Base Running Base:

A. Drill begins with base runners at first and third bases and a hitter at home plate.

B. If possible, there should be extra base runners (waiting in foul territory) at both first and third bases. This will speed-up the drill.

C. Regardless of how far they may have advanced during the course of the play, each player must return to the next station (i.e. runner on first base becomes runner at third base, runner at third base goes to hitting station, and hitter becomes runner at first base).

D. Runner at First Base – Areas of emphasis and concentration for both runner and coach.

1. Primary and secondary leads.

2. Read the ball off the bat – watch the ball from the pitcher’s hand (pitching machine) to the Impact Zone.

a. Line Drive – runner freezes!

b. Ground Ball – runner goes!

3. As far as you know, you can get back safely.

This is the rule for all fly balls... shallow or deep...on a deep fly ball

Marazzi Delves Into 4 Fascinating Plays Of Interest

ANSONIA, Conn. — In this installment, I am covering four plays of interest. Unless noted, all three playing codes are in agreement.

Play No. 1
Runner Can’t Return to Touch a Missed Base After a Following Runner has Scored

The Padres and Braves met on April 8th. In the top of the fourth inning, San Diego had Ha-Seong Kim on second base and Rougned Odor on third and one out when Trent Grisham hit a ground ball to Matt Olson at first base.

Olson’s throw to the plate skipped past catcher Travis d’Arnaud. In the process, Odor collided with d’Arnaud and never touched the plate. As a result of the collision, d’Arnaud suffered a concussion.

Plate umpire Chad Fairchild properly made no call because there was no touch of the plate by Odor and no tag of the runner by d’Arnaud.

Odor attempted to return and touch the plate, but Kim, who started the play on second base, raced home and touched the plate before Odor did.

When play resumed, the Braves appealed that Odor missed the plate. He was called out, but Kim was allowed to score because there were less than two outs.

Pro rule 5.09 (d) reads, “Unless two are out, the status of the following runner (Kim), is not affected by a preceding runner’s (Odor) failure to touch or retouch a base. If, upon appeal, the preceding runner (Odor) is the third out, no runners following him should score. If such third out is the result of a force play, neither preceding (Odor) or following runners (Kim) shall score.”

You can view the play by going on Google and searching: **Kim scores after errant throw | 04/08/2023**

Ruleball Comments

1. I have been tracking plays for over 50 years and have never seen this rule come alive.

2. The Braves made a wise appeal.

3. Fairchild made no signal because the runner (Odor) never touched the plate, and the catcher (d’Arnaud) never tagged the runner.

4. One of the broadcasters unaware of the rule said, “Two runners are going to score.” You can’t fault him for not knowing a rule that emerges as often as Halley’s Comet.

5. Originally two runs were put on the board for the Padres, but it was later corrected. Only Kim’s run scored.

Play No. 2
Plate Umpire Interference: Rule 6.01 (f)

Another rule that seldom occurs involves plate umpire interference.

There are only two umpires that can be called for interference—the field umpire when he is positioned on the infield side in front of second base in front of the infielders and is struck by a batted ball, and the plate umpire when he impedes a catcher’s throw to a base, or a return throw from the catcher to the pitcher.

When the field umpire interferes with the play, the ball is dead. The batter-runner is given first base and any runner on base advances one base, only if forced.

When the plate umpire interferes with the catcher’s throw to a base, if the direct throw retires the runner, (there’s no subsequent rundown or play), the interference is nullified. If the runner is not put out, all runners return to the base they occupied at the time the pitch was delivered.

This happened in the bottom of the fourth inning of the Tigers-Blue Jays game in Toronto on April 12th.

The Jays had Daulton Varsho on second and Whit Merrifield on first with two outs. Santiago Espinal was batting facing Eduardo Rodriguez when the Jays attempted a double steal. Tigers’ catcher Eric Haase made an unsuccessful throw to

third base.

But the runners were sent back to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch because Haase made contact with plate umpire Ryan Wills when he fired to third. If you are able to open the link, you will see that Haase’s lower back makes contact with Wills’ left hand and left knee. Because the umpire accidentally impeded the throw and Varsho was not retired, both Varsho and Merrifield were returned to their previous bases.

Look at the link: <https://sporty-clips.mlb.com/1371f4d2-9819-4c24-8920-50f56bb7c925.mp4>

Play No. 3
Umpires Change Foul Ball Call to Fair Ball

The Mets and Brewers met in Milwaukee on April 5th when Alan Porter’s crew changed an errant foul ball call by first base umpire Sean Barber to a fair ball off the bat of New York’s Omar Narváez with one out and the bases empty in the top of the fourth.

Plate umpire Mike Muchlinski, from his position at home plate had a fairly decent angle to see the line drive hit past first base and down the right field line where it was fielded by Brian Anderson.

The crew huddled following the play, leading to the reversal. Narváez was given first base on the play.

You can view the play by viewing the following links: <https://sporty-clips.mlb.com/de5390ed-1de6-4da8-8980-f5f295b0e2aa.mp4>

The overhead below shows Narváez running hard out of the box but slowing up into his turn at first. Anderson in rightfield takes the wrong route for the carom but slows up. Go to this link: <https://sporty-clips.mlb.com/e91d8959-2de2-433f-bc16-cb81b9f13147.mp4>

Ruleball Comments

1. Official Baseball Rule 8.02(c) allows umpires to change earlier calls and place the runner(s) in their judgment to the base they would have reached had the original call been correct.

2. The umpires considered the batted ball’s path caroming off the outfield wall and in proximity to Brewers’ right fielder Brian Anderson, combined with Narváez’s below average running speed, suggesting the likely outcome of this play had the initial call been

“fair” was a single for Narváez. So they placed him at first base.

3. Such plays are treated like spectator interference meaning the umpires can arbitrarily place the runner/s to the base they would have made had there been no interference.

4. The field umpires or the Replay Official in the Major Leagues, do not consider the reaction of the players to the improper call. They must make their ruling, including base replacement, based in their judgment, what might have occurred if the initial play was correctly called.

5. Playing under NCAA rules, umpires can change a foul ball to fair, but only if it first touches the ground past a fielder. Appendix E “Getting the Call Right” Section 1 (without video review), paragraph 8 reads, “Changing a call of “foul” to “fair” Note: Umpires may conference after a batted ball that first touches the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman and has been ruled “foul.” After consultation with the entire umpire crew, the Crew Chief will place the base runners where the crew believes they would have advanced had the ball been first ruled fair. The Crew Chief and crew should be conservative on their placement of base runners.”

Play No. 4
Catcher’s Interference: All Runners Advanced on the Play

In the April 15th contest between the Angels and Red Sox at Fenway Park, Angels’ catcher Matt Thaiss was twice called for catcher’s interference in the eighth inning when the Red Sox scored three runs to erase a 7-6 deficit.

Raimel Tapia and Reese McGuire both were awarded first base via catcher’s interference calls during the inning and both scored that frame as the Sox rallied for three runs to win the game 9-7.

Then in the April 18th game between the Twins and Red Sox, McGuire again was the recipient of the catcher’s interference rule.

McGuire was batting in the bottom of the eighth with one out and Kiké Hernández on first base when his bat made contact with catcher Christian Vázquez’s mitt despite putting the ball in play.

Plate umpire Jordan Baker

properly kept the ball alive.

McGuire tapped a ground ball to third baseman Jose Miranda who tossed to Donovan Solano at first base.

When Hernández saw that third base was not defended, he sprinted to the base. This apparently distracted Solano who never tagged first base.

The Red Sox now had runners on first and third and one out. Hernández eventually scored on a fielder’s choice tying the game, 2-2.

The Sox would win the game in extra innings, 5-4, adding more importance to the catcher’s interference play.

You can view the play by going on Google and searching: **McGuire reaches on interference | 04/18/2023**

Ruleball Comments

1. It’s a myth that when catcher’s interference is called, the ball is dead. As long as all runners, including the batter-runner, advance one base on the play, the interference is nullified and the defense should play it like any other ball that is put in play. Credit Baker for signaling the interference but keeping the ball alive.

2. Solano should have tagged first base. If McGuire was thrown out, Baker would have put McGuire on first base and Hernandez on second base with one out because runners advance only if forced or unless they are advancing to the next base when the pitch is delivered such as an attempted steal. Instead, Boston had runners on first and third and one out.

3. McGuire appeared to be under the impression that the ball was dead. He pointed to Vázquez (a common reaction) as he jogged with bat in hand toward first base.

4. As the Red Sox broadcaster said, “It’s catcher’s interference again, we’ve had a ton of them.”

5. In both of the above situations, the interference occurred in the eighth inning. In my opinion, catchers should not be overly aggressive as to where they set in late game pressure situations with runners on base.

6. There will be many more catcher’s interference calls this season. I hope your team isn’t victimized by the rule in the future.

Improve Many Areas All At Once With Situational Hitting Drills

Continued From Page 18

if the runner passes second base and the ball is caught “Be sure to retouch second base” on return to first base...if in doubt play all fly balls as if they are fair.

4. On a ground ball that is hit in the baseline between first and second base.

“Never allow the second baseman to tag you out and throw to first base for an easy double play!” Get hung up!

This is your best chance to avoid the double play and allow the runner on third base to score.

E. Advancing first to third base on an outfield hit.

1. Philosophy – No outs = no chances, one out = 50/50 chance – *go for it!*

2. Factors—outfielders throwing ability, playing field conditions (*wet?*), depth of outfielders, how hard the ball is hit, outfielder is going away from third base.

F. Hitters at home plate, each bats one at a time.

After hitting a fair ball, the hitter reacts to the play, as do the base

runners, as they would in an actual game situation.

G. To allow the maximum offensive and defensive opportunities, use one of the pitching machines or have a coach throw batting practice.

H. After a pre-determined number of outs, plays, or time switch your offensive and defensive players.

I. Place base runners on the base you choose to create the situations you wish to practice.

J. Use first and third base coaches to help with base running fundamentals and strategy as players increase their knowledge. Eliminate the base coaches thus forcing base runners to rely upon their own knowledge.

K. All plays and/or situations must be played to their completion.

L. Regardless of how far the base runners or batter advance during the drill, each must return to next station when drill is completed.

M. Coaches should stop play whenever appropriate to make necessary corrections.

Drills:
Runners on First and Third Bases:

This is the best of the situation hitting drills. It will create base running and defensive situations that occur the most often during a game, while also providing excellent batting practice opportunities under game conditions.

Procedure – this drill is run as one out situation.

A. Defense: Infield Positioning

1. Double-Play Depth – Play the infield deep and attempt to complete the double play thus preventing the run from scoring.

2. Play the infield in double play depth during most of the drill.

B. Half-Way Position:

1. Routine fly ball to left field with runner on third base and a play at home plate, tag up and break for second base when outfielder releases the ball. (*Read White!* That is, see the ball leave the outfielder’s hand before advancing.)

2. Tag up and be ready to advance on all foul fly balls!

Runner at Third Base – Areas

of concentration for both runner and coach.

A. Proper lead off and return to third base.

1. Lead off as far as the third baseman plays from the base.

2. Down in foul territory back in fair.

B. Read the ball off the bat! – Watch the ball from the pitcher’s hand to the impact zone and be ready to react!

C. Anticipate!

1. High pitch = fly ball

2. Low pitch = ground ball.

D. Runner does one of two things when ball is hit...and nothing else!

1. Tags up – any ball hit in the air.

a. Tag with left foot on all fair fly balls.

b. Tag with right foot on foul fly balls down left field line

2. Go – any ball hit on the ground.

E. Runner on third base advances on ground ball with a runner on first base to:

1. Score a run if the defense goes for the double play and fails.

2. Prevent a double play by forcing the defense to play on the runner attempting to score from third base.

3. Get hung up! If the runner from third base is obviously out he should get in a rundown to allow the runner from first base to advance to third base.

Hitter – Areas of concentration for hitter and coach.

A. Initial step out of batter’s box – Always with rear foot and directly toward first base.

B. Crossing first base – “Nod the base”...step on first base and simultaneously bend at the waist. This is comparable to a track man “breaking the tape.” It may get you a safe call on a close play at first.

C. Breakdown – After crossing first base breakdown...that is change from stride steps (speed) to chop steps (lateral control). This allows for a quick change of direction if ball is overthrown at first base.

D. Look Right – After crossing first base and bringing body under control (chop steps), “*Look Right*” to see if ball has been overthrown.

Important Evaluation

Test Reveals Important Mental Abilities Of Recruits, Current Players

By DR. TOM HANSON
Special To Collegiate Baseball

TAMPA, Fla. — The single biggest variable in determining how many games you win in 2024 is how good your players are.

But physical talent alone isn’t sufficient to win.

In my first year as hitting coach at the University of Virginia back in the early 1990’s, we had so-so talent but great leadership and team chemistry.

We had a really good season and made a nice run in the ACC tournament.

We over performed our talent level.

The next year, we had better talent and expected an even better season. But our leadership and chemistry were lacking, and we under performed our talent level.

In fact, it was one of those seasons that couldn’t end soon enough.

Neither physical talent nor the intangibles, such as leadership and team chemistry, are sufficient to win big. Championships are won by teams with both talent *and* the intangibles.

You’re a good judge of physical talent, but how do you recruit great leaders and team chemistry guys? Until now, it’s been luck or intuition in the recruiting process – even at the pro level.

When I worked for the New York Yankees, I was told, “We’re great at assessing the five physical tools, but we’re weak at assessing a player’s make-up.”

In pro ball, physical tools can get you to AA, but you need a Big League make-up to play in the Big Leagues.

Getting players to AA doesn’t pay the bills.

Likewise, college and high school teams don’t go to their World Series or state tourney on talent alone.

I led a break out discussion at the American Baseball Coaches Association Convention in Anaheim several years ago, and the burning question of the night was: “How can I assess the mental toughness of the players I’m recruiting?”

Some excellent answers include noticing:

- How a player carries himself.
- How teammates respond to him.
- What his coach says about him.
- How he responds to adversity.

Most smart coaches say they want to see a player fail so they can see how he responds.

Anyone can be mentally tough when they’re playing well.

But if he’s a stud player, you may have to go see him several times before he fails.

And since he knows you’re looking at him, he’s apt to be on his best behavior.

As a result, you can’t get a good look at what really drives his behavior — his unconscious belief system.

On top of that, the one time you see him face adversity may be an aberration. It may not be how he normally responds.

So although make-up is a vital ingredient to your success (and enjoyment of your job), assessing make-up:

1. Is totally subjective.
2. Costs a lot of time and travel money.

Competency	Score
1. Understanding What It Takes To Win:	7.6
2. Controls Emotions During The Game:	7.1
3. Understands Teammates And Coaches:	7.2
4. Team Harmony Attitude:	Under-Valued
5. Team Conflict Attitude:	Under-Valued
6. Understands Tactics And Techniques:	8.8
7. Team Success Attitude:	Over-Valued
8. Team Breakdown Attitude:	Under-Valued
9. Understands Discipline, Rules & Strategy:	6.8
10. Compliance Attitude:	Over-Valued
11. Defiance Attitude:	Over-Valued
12. Freedom To Play:	7.2
13. Personal Self Control:	6.7
14. Baseball Self-Worth:	7.0
15. Inner Drive:	Under-Valued
16. Personal Problems:	Under-Valued
17. “All In” With Team And Role:	8.0
18. Playing Big:	Neutral
19. Performance Problems:	Under-Valued
20. Confidence In Future Success:	6.6
21. Persistence/Mental Toughness:	Over-Valued
22. Attitude Toward Personal Setbacks:	Over-Valued
23. Decision-Making Ability:	7.4
24. Intuition:	7.2
25. Concentration:	7.6
26. Stress - Tension Indicator:	LOW
27. Stress - Resistance:	HIGH

Inside The Numbers

1. Understanding What It Takes To Win:

How well do you grasp the “outside of you” elements that determine success in baseball?

Your Score Is: High

7.6

This is the first of two hugely important scores to your baseball career. This is the “Outside of You” score - a sum of all the elements presented in Part 1 of this report. It tells you how well you understand what is needed for you to succeed in baseball. It is a general measure of your ability to see what is happening on the field and identify and accurately judge what’s really important. This score reveals how well you understand what the game of baseball is actually all about.

High scores

 indicate a clear and definite understanding of baseball and knowing what it takes to win. You pick up the “little details” that make a big difference in the outcome of the game. This gives you a big advantage over most players. You see things they don’t see, and you pay attention to the things that actually are the most valuable!

2. Controls Emotions During The Game:

How well do you maintain emotional control under stress during a baseball game?

Your score is: High

7.1

When the pressure is on and the game is on the line, can you keep your head clear and make good decisions, or do you get rattled and experience the game “speeding up” on you? The higher your score, the more “clutch” you are.

High Scores

 indicate you generally stay calm, cool and collected when the heat is on. You’re likely seen as a “clutch” player your team wants to have hitting or pitching when the game is on the line. One note of caution: Your score also suggests you may not consistently or appropriately vent your feelings, preferring instead to keep them inside. Be on the lookout for that. Perhaps do some journaling about your feelings to see for yourself what’s going on inside you.

3. Understands Teammates And Coaches:

How well do you understand the roles and importance of teammates, umpires and coaches?

10 Year Quest For Answers
I have tried to solve this problem for 10 years.
I tested many profiles with the Yankees and even flew in some experts to demonstrate their profiles.
The profile I deemed best, based on the depth of the knowledge gained from the profile and the players’ and coaches’ reaction to them, was called the Hartman Values Profile.
The Hartman has been shown to match or beat even the most powerful profiles used in formal psychology.
But the items on the profile had nothing to do with baseball. The report you got was hard to interpret and had nothing to do with baseball.
When the expert we brought in

to discuss the findings said what they meant, the power of the profile was jaw-dropping. It even correctly predicted one player’s chronic injury problem!
But because we needed the expert to get the real benefits of the profile, and the items on it were weird for baseball players to work with, we shelved it.
For the past 10 years, I’ve kept my eye on the Hartman, looking for opportunities to create a baseball-specific, baseball-friendly version of it.
Several years ago, I had the opportunity to team up with Hartman guru’s Dr. Dave and Vera Mefford. They provided the mathematical horsepower, and I provided the baseball expertise and language. The result is the most exciting breakthrough for baseball

scouting and recruiting since the introduction of the radar gun.
How Play Big Profile Works
The profile is taken online in about 20 minutes. Players simply drag and drop items to rank order a randomly presented list of 18 items two separate times. The items themselves aren’t random, and each has specific properties.
Items are familiar baseball language like “a foul ball,” “a solid base hit,” “a well-respected coach,” and “a bad call against your team.”
The task for the player is simple. The math behind the analysis of his responses is staggeringly complex. I didn’t make this up. Scientific research has validated the profile over four decades.
The profile measures what a player values.

TOM HANSON

From moment to moment, we each pay attention to what we value most.

In rank ordering the items, the player reveals to us what he values, what he pays attention to in both the “external game” (what’s visibly happening on the field) and the “internal game” (what’s happening inside of him).

Your Operating System

My new iPhone runs much faster and can do many things my previous iPhone couldn’t do. Why? It has a superior operating system.

The Play Big Profile measures a player’s operating system.

Virtually any other profile you’ll come across measures what “program” the player is running. That’s important to know but not nearly as important as knowing the power of his operating system. A powerful operating system can run many programs, and those programs can be easily changed.

It’s much harder to change operating systems.

A program you’re running on your computer determines what appears on your monitor screen right now. The operating system determines what could appear on that screen.

You can’t run *Call of Duty 3* on PlayStation 1 (ask a player).

When you buy a smart phone or a computer, the critical question isn’t what programs does it have? The critical question is what operating system does it run?

Will it run the programs I need it to run? How fast will it run them? How reliable and stable is it?

When you recruit a player you need to ask: Can this recruit run my “program” on his operating system? Does he have the capacity to contribute to an “Omaha-level” (or your equivalent) program?

Let me break this down into more familiar, manageable terms.

Questions You Should Ask

The mental game is divided into two worlds — the External Mental Game and the Internal Mental Game.

Here are questions you may have about a player’s operating system – which literally is his belief system that the Play Big Profile report gives you mathematically derived, statistically validated answers to.

External Mental Questions

- What’s his Baseball IQ? How good is his understanding of what it takes to win a baseball game?
- How well does he control his emotions during a game?
- Will he be a plus or minus team chemistry guy?

See **IN-DEPTH**, Page 21

2024 ABCA Convention Speakers Are Special

DALLAS — It’s an honor to serve as the Clinic Chairman of the 80th annual American Baseball Coaches Association Convention in Dallas, Tex.

Assisting me with the clinicians has been ABCA third Vice President John McCormack of Florida Atlantic University.

This event is annually the world’s largest baseball convention with an all-star cast of clinicians.

The 2023 ABCA Convention in Nashville was the largest in history with nearly 8,000 coaches in attendance.

This time it is slated for Jan. 4-7, 2024 at the Gaylord Resort Resort & Convention Center, the seventh time that the convention will be held in Dallas.

Registration is now open for the convention. See the ABCA full page ad in this issue on page 28 for more details and how to sign up.

The ABCA is expecting thousands of baseball coaches along with more than 250 exhibitors.

We will have 50+ instructional clinics (including main stage, Youth Coaches Session and Expo Theater) on tap with speakers covering a variety of topics over the course of the convention.

The leadoff clinician on Friday, Jan 5 will be Louisiana St. Head Coach Jay Johnson who led the Tigers to their seventh national baseball title last June at the College World Series.

It’s a tradition for the NCAA Div. I champion head coach to lead off the clinics.

The Tigers won four elimination games at the College World Series and captured 11 of 13 games during the 2023 NCAA Tournament, sweeping Regional and Super Regional opponents before winning the national championship in Omaha.

LSU (54-17) was ranked No. 1 by *Collegiate Baseball* in its pre-season poll compiled last December and was ranked No. 1 by *Collegiate Baseball* 13 times in 2023.

LSU’s seven national championships are the second-most in NCAA history, and the Tigers trail only Southern California with 12 national titles.

At press time, the speakers and topics include:

Main Speakers

Jay Johnson, Louisiana State (Building a Championship Program)

Brian Bannister, San Francisco Giants (Valuing Absolute vs. Relative Attributes of Pitchers)

Blake Beemer, Butler (Covering Ground: Outfield Play from the Northeast to the Southwest)

T.J. Bruce, Texas Christian (What I’ve Learned: TCU Infield Play)

Mike Curran, Ohlone College (Creative Strategies to Induce Chaos and Improve Offensive Run Production)

Nick Derba, Univ. of Maine (A Tool Kit to Build and Enhance Your Catchers)

Dave Esquer, Stanford (Coaching Culture – The Locker Room and Coach’s Room of Today)

Darin Everson, New York Mets (A Systematic Approach to Develop Hitters’ In-Game Performance)

Todd Fitz-Gerald, Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S., FL (Practice the Douglas Way: A Championship



BOB WHALEN

ABCA Clinic Chairman
2024 Dallas Convention

Formula)

Mike Gambino, Penn State (Indoor Practice Planning)

Bob Kendrick, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (Diversity in Baseball)

Dr. Joseph LaPlaca, Ares Elite Sports Vision (Seeing Is Winning, But Who’s Looking? The Fatal Mistake of Ignoring Vision)

Bill Mosiello, Ohio State (Old School vs. New School Hitting - Adapt or Die)

H.R. Powell, Univ. of Miami (Power Development in Baseball: A Simplistic Approach to Adding MPH and Increasing Exit Velocities)

John Savage, UCLA (Pitching to Win: Essentials of a High-Level Pitcher)

Jeff Sherman, Flower Mound Marcus H.S., TX (Three Offensive Principles That Transfer to REAL In-Game Results)

Ron Siers, Salisbury University (Leadership 4.0: Empowering Student-Athletes to Lead for Extraordinary Outcomes While Modeling Exemplary Teammate Characteristics)

Zach Sorenson, Atlanta Braves (The Hard 90: How to Prepare, Compete, and Progress in the Mental Game)

Andy Stankiewicz, Southern California (Twin Killing: Double Play Feeds and Pivots)

Matt Talarico, New York Yankees (Lessons From Developing Today’s Base Stealer)

Jerry Weinstein, Colorado Rockies (Catching Nuggets from 60+ Years of Coaching Catchers)

Nathan Whitaker, Bestselling Author (I Am Who My Record Says I Am – And Other Lies I’ve Loved)

Youth Coaches Session Speakers

Jordan Baltimore, New York Empire Baseball (Long-Term Athlete Development)

Drew Briese, Centre College (Practice Planning)

Austin Byler, Major League University (Mental Health)

Jason Corley, Capitol Hill H.S., OK (Outfield Play)

Zach Dillon, Baylor, TX (Hitting)

RJ Farrell, Orange Lutheran H.S., CA (Practice Planning)

Connor Gandossy, Creighton (Catching)

Anthony Gilich, Arizona St. (Leadership)

Tracy Hayes, Amplified Movement (Mobility)

Tyler Kincaid, Blue Valley Southwest H.S., KS (Pitching)

Bucky Mieras, West Metro Baseball (Culture &

Relationship Building)

Alan Orgain, LSU Eunice (Youth Throwing Programs)

Logan Stout, Dallas Patriots (Running an Organization)

Beth Woerner, Lebanon Valley College (Infield Play)

The 2024 ABCA Convention will kick off on Thursday, Jan. 4 with the opening of the ABCA Trade Show and start of Expo Theater presentations.

The ABCA Trade Show will run Jan. 4-6 and feature over 250 companies displaying state-of-the-art baseball equipment, technology and services.

Many of the exhibiting companies will be unveiling new products for the first time at the show and offering special sales offers for coaches at the Trade Show!

The Expo Theater will feature product demos and other presentations from exhibiting companies throughout the three-day Trade Show.

The General Session clinics will get underway on Friday, Jan. 5 and will run through the morning of Sunday, Jan. 7.

The Youth Coaches Session will take place on Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7. The Youth Coaches Session will have 14 presentations tailored specifically for coaches of youth-level teams up to age 14.

Following each of the presentation in both the General Session and Youth Coaches Session, the clinic speaker will host a Question and Answer breakout discussion with attendees.

Other activities during the 2024 ABCA Convention will include the ABCA Hall of Fame Banquet to honor the Lefty Gomez Award recipient and induct the newest ABCA Hall of Fame Class.

There will be Divisional Coaches Meetings & Rookie Coaches Mentorship on Thursday evening, the ABCA Coaches Social in the Trade Show on Friday evening, eight position-specific Hot Stove Panel Discussions on Friday and Saturday evenings, and the Diversity in Baseball Committee Workshops on Saturday morning.

For those members unable to attend the Convention in Dallas, the ABCA will once again offer a Clinic Live Video Stream of the General Session, General Session Q&A and Youth Coaches Session.

All coaches who register for the 2024 ABCA Convention or Clinic Live Video Stream will receive the entire set of on-demand clinic videos from the event, which includes the General Session, Youth Coaches Session and Expo Theater presentations, in their ABCA account by Feb. 1, 2024.

All other ABCA members will receive access to the on-demand video set as part of their membership benefits in late May.

The 2023 ABCA Convention had record attendance with 7,785 coaches. In order to ensure the best experience for all attendees, the 2024 ABCA Convention in Dallas will once again have a registration limit.

We once again expect the event to sell out in 2024! Registrations are accepted first come, first served so you are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible!

In-Depth Evaluation Can Determine Mental Makeup Of Future Recruits

Continued From Page 20

➤ How well does he understand the tactics and mechanics of winning

Statement Of Ownership, Management, And Circulation

1. Publication Title: Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.
2. Publication Number: 122160. 3. Filing date: 09-18-2023.
4. Issue Frequency: Semi-monthly - January-May; Monthly - June, July, September & October.
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 14.
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$28.00.
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (not printer) (Street, city, county, state and Zip+4®): 2515 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona 85705-4530. Contact Person: Lou Pavlovich. Telephone: (520) 623-4530.
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (not printer): 2515 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, 85705-4530.
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Publisher: Louis F. Pavlovich Jr., 2770 W. Calle de Dalias, Tucson, AZ 85745; Editor: Louis F. Pavlovich Jr., 2770 W. Calle de Dalias, Tucson, AZ 85745; Managing Editor: None.
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners.
If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.): Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Inc., 2515 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ

baseball (what to do when)?

➤ How will he relate to my authority? Will he be compliant or defiant?

85705; Louis F. Pavlovich Jr., 2770 W. Calle de Dalias, Tucson, AZ 85745.
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Not Applicable.
13. Publication Title: Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09-01-2023.
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: A. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 3,071; 2,500. B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies, and exchange copies): 1,118; 1,074.
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies, and exchange copies): 5; 4.
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: 0,0.
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®): 74; 18. C. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b, (1), (2), (3), and (4): 1,197; 1,096. D. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 70; 71; (2) Free or

Internal Mental Questions

➤ How free is he to play? Will the physical skills I see in practice show up in games?

Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 1; 1; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 11; 3. (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 550; 400. E. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4): 632; 475. F. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 1,829; 1,571. G. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3): 1,242; 929. H. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 3,071; 2,500. I. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): 65.45 %, 69.76 %.
16. Electronic Copy Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date.
A. Paid Electronic Copies: 2,224; 461. B. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 3,421; 1,557. C. Total Print Distribution (line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 4,053; 2,032. D. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Coies) (16b divided by 16c x100): 84.41%; 76.62%. I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/01/2023 issue of this publication.
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Lou Pavlovich, Jr, Publisher/Editor, 09-18-2023.
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/ or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

➤ Does he keep his composure when adversity hits him personally?

➤ How good does he feel about himself as a person? Will he ride the Results Roller Coaster or is he Jeter-solid in his sense of self-worth, independent of his stats?

➤ How strong is his inner drive? How bad does he want it?

➤ Does he have any personal problems he’s dealing with right now?

➤ Is he “all in” with his current team and role on that team?

➤ Is he “playing big” now or does he have some performance problems?

➤ How confident is he about succeeding in the future?

➤ How mentally tough is he? Will he persist in the face of failure?

Additional Questions Play Big Profile Report Answers

➤ How good a decision maker is he?

➤ How powerful is his intuition?

➤ How well can he concentrate?

➤ How good will he be under pressure? What’s his stress tolerance?

➤ Can he lead?

NOTE: Players can’t fake responses and get away with it. They have to rank a wide range of items, and it isn’t intuitively obvious which ones should come first. They can’t avoid revealing their belief systems.

The Future

These are the critical variables I’m tracking now. I’m excited because we can now reliably measure a player’s mental game capacities in a comparable way to how we measure his physical game capacities.

In addition to recruiting advantages, the profile gives us specific targets for player development.

Instead of saying “he needs a better mental game,” we can specifically target the source of his constraints.

Mental Game 2.0 is focused on identifying the underlying belief/operating system constraints keeping a player from playing with freedom.


Tom Hanson is the author of *Play Big: Mental Toughness Secrets That Take Baseball Players to the Next Level* and the co-author of *Heads-Up Baseball 2.0* with the late Ken Ravizza.

Now Available By Popular Demand


8 Amazing E-Books For Sale!

Secrets Revealed In Each Of These Important Areas

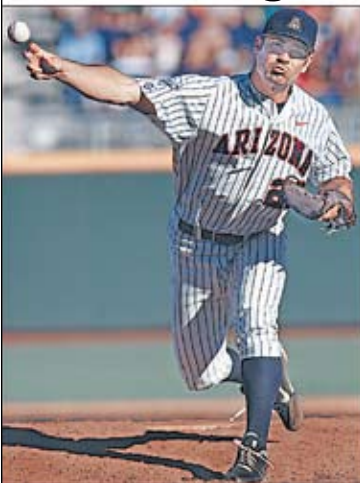
Secrets Of Lethal Pickoffs & Submarine Pitching



Secrets Of Base Stealing



Secrets Of Pitching




Secrets Of Great Hitters

1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1,000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

By Collegiate Baseball

Secrets Of Infield Play With T.J. Bruce



(1) **SECRETS OF LETHAL PICKOFFS & SUBMARINE PITCHING (NEW!)**: Learn the greatest pickoff moves ever devised for lefthanded AND righthanded pitchers from elite pitching coach Mike Maack. Plus, learn how to teach pitchers submarine mechanics from former Pittsburgh Pirate lock down closer Kent Tekulve. Read about Seton Hall pitching coach Pat Pinkman's gunslinger move and Jerry Weinstein's 6-cleat action with lead leg to home for quick movement. As a bonus, read Oklahoma State pitching coach Rob Walton's multi-faceted plan to prevent opponents from scoring which includes his thoughts on a modified pitchout with back pick.


(2) **SECRETS OF BASE STEALING**: Seven elite coaches explain how to have a high octane offense which allows teams to score more runs. They include Tim Corbin (Vanderbilt), Dan McDonnell (Louisville), Gary Gilmore (Coastal Carolina), Matt Talarico (Wright St.), Selwyn Young (Benedict College), Mike Gillespie (former U.C. Irvine coach) and Mike Knight (former Nicholls St. coach).

(3) **SECRETS OF PITCHING**: Loads of information on pitching, including mastering command with Orel Hershisier, why sniper focus is crucial in pitching, the future of pitching with Butch Thompson, why resilience is a must with Ken Ravizza, velocity improvement strategies with Ron Wolforth, secrets of deception with Perry Husband, video analysis and a look at the late Tony Robichaux's remarkable system when he coached at Louisiana-Lafayette.

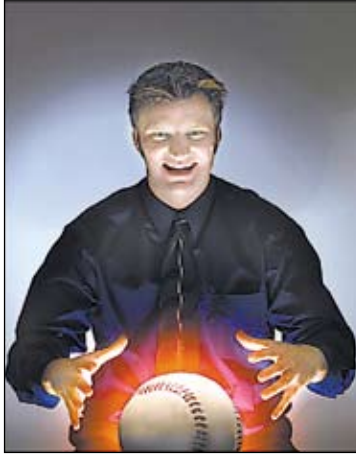
(4) **SECRETS OF GREAT HITTERS**: Anaheim Angels' Hitting Coach John Mallee taps into wealth of data which vividly shows how hitters are most efficient in launch angles for production. Hitting Coach Pete Lauritson utilizes unique program that produces 18 mph exit speed gains. Tulane skipper Travis Jewett delves into his system which has produced many great hitters over the years as they are prepared for anything pitchers can throw.

(5) **SECRETS OF AMAZING INFIELD PLAY**: This is the system Coach T.J. Bruce used for 5 years as an assistant at UCLA as he helped the Bruins to the 2013 national title. Now the head coach at the University of Nevada, he explains how your infielders can be outstanding with his precision teaching system.

Secrets Of Playing The Outfield



Greatest Trick Plays



(6) SECRETS OF PLAYING THE OUTFIELD

In-depth teaching system utilized by the best outfield coach in history, Sam Suplizio. He worked in pro baseball for nearly 50 years, and his thoughts on teaching outfield play were second to none.


(7) SECRETS OF GREAT COACHES

TCU's Jim Schlossnagle delves into extreme hustle and why it is vital. Jerry Stitt explains highly successful coaching techniques used by master coaches. Former Lewis-Clark St. Hall of Fame Coach Ed Cheff discusses team chemistry and how to achieve it, plus three more in-depth stories on coaching.

(8) BASEBALL'S GREATEST TRICK PLAYS

Trick plays have been part of baseball since the game's birth. Read how diabolical coaches over the years have dreamed up wild plays that have frustrated opponents.

Secrets Of Great Coaches



Produced by *Collegiate Baseball*, each of these e-books is available for only \$5. If you purchase six (\$30), you will receive two for free and will get all eight! You must provide an e-mail address to receive these special e-books.

Order Immediately: www.baseballnews.com

Once there, look on the right side of the page and scroll down until you see the 8 Amazing E-Books offer. Click on the ad. Then decide what you want.

Or Call at (520) 623-4530 to place your order.

Brent Mayne Explains How To Be An Elite Catcher

By **LOU PAVLOVICH, JR.**
Editor/Collegiate Baseball

LOS ANGELES — Great catching is the backbone of every good baseball team.

With a mediocre catcher, many problems develop such as:

- Receiving pitches too far from home plate which results in fewer strikes.
- Not being able to block pitches in the dirt to keep runners at bay.
- Keeping opposing runners from stealing bases.
- Giving great targets to pitchers.
- Catching balls in the strike zone with poor mechanics that allow the glove to be pushed outside the strike zone.
- Having a great relationship with pitchers so they excel under

Q&A

your leadership.

- Being on the same wave length with pitchers when you call pitches.
- And on and on it goes.

Consider for a moment that the catcher handles every pitch of every game, and that amounts to approximately 7,500 pitches in a season if a team plays 50 9-inning games.

In order to find out what it takes to be a great catcher, *Collegiate Baseball* interviewed one of the top catchers of our generation in Brent Mayne who caught in the Major Leagues for 15 years (1989-2004).

Most of his career was spent in Kansas City, but he also played for the Mets, A's, Giants, Rockies, Diamondbacks and Dodgers.

He knew every trick in the book and is sharing that information with *Collegiate Baseball* readers in this special question and answer session.

Collegiate Baseball: Many pitchers have favorite catchers to throw to because of many reasons, including how they receive pitches and call games just to scratch the surface. Catchers must be master psychologists during games and know how to treat pitchers in the quest for getting them to perform. This special relationship is rarely talked about, but it is extremely important. How valuable is the pitcher-catcher relationship?

Brent Mayne: With good catchers, there is definitely some degree of being an amateur psychologist. You must deal with your coaches and what their expectations are of the situation. Then you must deal with the home plate umpire and what his temperament might be in trying to communicate and getting the most out of him. But first and foremost, you are working with your pitching staff and trying to get the most out of them. There is a certain amount of tact that must be used in this relationship. There are some pitchers on the staff who might need to be kicked in the rear end. Then there are others who might need to be patted on the back. If you kick the pitcher in the rear end who should have been patted on the back, he might really sink into a bad place mentally at that point which could cause a bad situation on the mound. You just have to know how to get the most out of

your pitchers. And that comes with time and studying each pitcher on the staff. It's kind of like a jockey riding a horse. You have to know when to use the riding crop and when not to. Those are some of the intangible things. Then it goes into calling a game. Unfortunately, in today's amateur game, 99 percent of coaches call games. I don't know when that started.

Somewhere from 1989 to 2004, everything shifted. Prior to me signing a pro contract in 1989, very few coaches called pitches. From my perspective, the very best pitch a pitcher can throw is one that he can throw with conviction and really believes in. There is really only one person who knows that. That is the pitcher himself.

CB: Great catchers can make pitchers better by having a good target. How do you define a good target?

Mayne: I was taught and teach the following sequence. It is sign, target, stance. You put the sign down and give a target immediately — something to focus on right away. And then move into your stance after that. Whether pitchers know it or not, once they get their sign, they visualize in their mind



BRENT MAYNE

the path of the ball to the target. Then they go into their windup and throw. By giving the pitcher a target right away, you are bringing their focus from a big, soft focus into a very fine focus and helps the pitcher out.

CB: How do you develop soft hands as a catcher?

Mayne: A lot of it has to do with how you set up with the position of your glove hand when you give

the target. I am a big believer in receiving pitches with your left elbow below the glove if at all possible. Once the elbow starts to become even with the glove or above the glove, then you are in a chicken winging situation which is not strong. You can't stop the ball from moving the glove with such a weak position. You don't want the ball to drag you around the strike zone. You don't need framing. You don't need to push the ball or bring it into the zone. You just catch the ball and make it stop.

CB: Many high school and college catchers are much further back from the plate than they should be.

Mayne: That's a big problem with catchers. It's natural for catchers to be too far back. It just doesn't feel right for a catcher to be tucked under the batter's arms. When catchers are too far back, they take strikes away from the pitcher because it makes everything look lower from the eyes of the umpire.

It also pushes the umpire back so he doesn't get a closer view of pitches as they go across the plate. For some reason, and I don't know why, catchers seem to get more

foul ball nicks and bruises off their bodies when they are too far back. When I received 3-4 of those foul balls in a row, I always knew that I had drifted too far back. So I got closer to the plate, and the problem would invariably go away.

CB: How do you help a pitcher regain his composure during a game when he has lost his control?

Mayne: It really depends. The catcher is becoming a psychologist. There are some pitchers who really respond to mechanical fixes for control problems. You can tell one pitcher that he is flying open, and his arm is dragging as he responds very well to the advice. Other guys are missing because they are too tense or the pressure is getting to them. And they need to have some sort of release.

So you need to go out and talk to them about taking a deep breath or look at that beautiful girl in the stands or whatever it takes to relax that guy. Then there are other pitchers who respond when you say something like, "Hey, let's go!" You really jump all over them and jump in their face and make them snap back out of it. It depends on the person and what he needs. And that's different for everybody.

DIAMOND PRO®

PROFESSIONAL GROUNDSKEEPING PRODUCTS

RED INFIELD CONDITIONER

BULK DELIVERY 10, 15 AND 24 TONS

AVAILABLE IN BULK NATIONWIDE

800.228.2987

diamondpro.com

ABCA Membership:

Which option is best for your coaching experience?

ABCA Membership + ABCA Convention

Enjoy all of the benefits of being an ABCA Member PLUS attend the World's Largest Baseball Convention in Dallas! The four-day event features the world-renowned clinics, the ABCA Trade Show, Expo Theater, Youth Coaches Breakout Session, Hot Stove Panel Discussions, networking socials, award celebrations, rules meetings and more. Over, 8,000 coaches participated in the event last year!

Sign up for Membership + 2024 ABCA Convention at www.ABCAconvention.org!



ABCA Membership + ABCA Clinics Live Stream

Enjoy all of the benefits of being an ABCA Member PLUS have access to watching the ABCA Convention Clinics online in realtime! The Clinics Live Video Stream features a live video feed of nearly 60 coaching clinic presentations—watch all of the ABCA Convention General Session and Youth Coaches Session Clinics and also participate in the Question & Answer Sessions!

Sign up for Membership + ABCA Clinics Live Stream at www.ABCAconvention.org!



ABCA Membership Only

ABCA membership gives you access to a wide-variety of benefits that will expand your coaching knowledge and enhance your coaching experience, including, the ABCA Video Library with over 500 on-demand coaching clinic videos, Inside Pitch Magazine subscription, \$1 million Personal Liability Insurance coverage, Weekly E-Newsletter, Free/Priority Registration for Events, and lots more!

Sign up for your ABCA Membership at www.ABCA.org/apply!



2024 ABCA Convention



January 4-7, 2024 • Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center



ABCA Trade Show



World-Class Coaching Clinics



Workshops, Q&A Sessions & More!

Join the American Baseball Coaches Association today by visiting our website at www.ABCA.org/apply!