

THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

THE COACHES' SOURCE FOR AMATEUR BASEBALL

www.baseballcollegian.com

Vol. 1-Issue 1 - January 1, 2025



Welcome to The Baseball Collegian!

Welcome to our new publication, as well as to our website, www.baseballcollegian.com. Starting in 2025, the mission is to celebrate college and high school baseball players and coaches and fans, through the lens of stories, long-form educational articles, top players and teams, and issues filled with information anthologized in one place. Welcome!

A Baseball Innovator How Perry Husband has changed the game

FEATURING PERRY HUSBAND
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

For over two centuries, baseball has been famous for slowly evolving. When there have been changes, they have been a form of cultural evolution led by innovators and inventors and idealists inspired by the love of the game. Beyond the rules and economics of baseball, there have been a few men who have innovated major leaps forward in the on-field quality and beauty of the game, including Branch Rickey (desegregation), Ted Williams (hitting instruction), Frank Jobe (Tommy John surgery), and Bill James (statistics).

Perry Husband is one of those innovators. A coach and former college and pro player, the California native has quietly made a profound influence on baseball with his work and studies of the pitcher-batter interaction. Instead of looking at the game only through one lens based solely on stats or technique or theories, he saw the importance of how all the variables impact each other. Through vigorous research and testing of data, he has created hitting and pitching approaches that depend immensely on the context of each other in the timing battle between hitter and pitcher. The result is a new way of seeing the game and what he calls Effective Velocity (EV). **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Perry Husband's innovations have transformed the game of baseball at all levels

The Competitors Brain Why does the Off-season matter?

BY LOREN FOX
EDITOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

Why does the off-season matter more than the in-season? It is the chance to define who you are.

If you think about the sentence, it's a simple one. How you define yourself. I am a...? Am I a baseball player? Am I a football player? What defines you?

Ted Williams, the Hall of Fame left-fielder for the Boston Red Sox, said that when he walked down the street, he wanted people to look at him and say, "There

goes Ted Williams, the greatest hitter who ever lived." He also said, "I feel in my heart that nobody in this game ever devoted more concentration in the batter's box than I did." A guy who practiced until his blisters bled, and then practiced more, and loved doing it.

Every action you take casts a vote for the type of person you wish to become. Ted Williams wanted to be the best hitter of all-time, and now a lot of people would say he probably is. His lifetime average was .344 with 521 home runs, and he's the last guy to hit .400.

The off-season is a chance to do a little a

lot, rather than a lot a little. If you do the math, 1% better a day means that over the course of a year, you'll wind up 37 times better. 1% of your day is 14 minutes, 24 seconds, and while it's not a completely accurate measure, and you should be doing more than 15 minutes a day, it's better than nothing. A question you need to ask yourself now is, "What do you do every day to get 1% better?" And "What will your process be?"

When you're thinking about your process, you have to think about your process instead of your outcome. What are you doing every day to get 1% better? Who you want to be is going to define your habits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PERRY HUSBAND'S INNOVATIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The most well-known aspect of Husband's EV work that is now commonplace in the game today is his study on the science of pitch sequencing. Pitches in different locations will essentially have different speeds from the hitter's perspective. An up-and-in 90 MPH pitch will have a "true reactionary speed" that is faster (just under 95) because the hitter's barrel has to travel further to get to the contact point. That same 90 MPH pitch thrown low-and-away will have a "true reactionary speed" that is slower (just over 85) as it is hit later with the barrel traveling less. Thus, the elevated fastball "effectively" makes the fastball faster. Elevating the fastball also helps with deception by making it more conducive to having off-speed pitches come out of the same "tunnel" that is 20-feet out of the pitcher's hand, thus disguising pitches to the hitter. The elevated fastball will stay up, the slider will break low-and-away, and the changeup will fall down-and-in, but all look like an elevated fastball long enough to make identifying the pitch very difficult. And finally, hitters' timing can be manipulated as their attention (timing) is drawn to certain speeds they see the most and depending on the sequencing of pitches, moves up and down, thus influencing whether they time up the pitch or not. For hitters, consciously anticipating speeds is paramount to maximizing being on time vs. accidentally running into pitches.

Perry Husband innovations from researching Effective Velocity:

- EvMPH or Location Adjusted Speed or True Reactionary Speed
- Ev Illusions - Rise Effect/Short Arm Effect
- Vertical Attack Angle importance
- Release Point Metrics
- Pitch Tunnels & Video Overlays
- Ev Report was the first Applied Analytics Report
- Spin Characteristics - First description of Seam Shifted Wake (*Downright Filthy Pitching*-Book 3).
- Tilt Axis as it relates to how movement works
- Movement Mechanics from physics perspective
- Arm Angle/Wrist Angle for movement changes
- Pitch Analysis Metrics from release to contact
- Ev Crossover Speeds and Accidental Contact
- Pitch Design based on the necessity to complete the arsenal for optimum sequencing ability rather than just more movement, etc...
- Pitch Attack Plans - MLB coaches and pitchers
- Game Plans for Hitters diagnosing all deception mistakes of pitchers for MLB hitters and coaches
- Pitch Sequencing Quantifying System

"Pitch Sequencing is still stuck playing beginner chess. It's really three games of chess, at a fast pace and at the highest level."

"You are either hunting, or being hunted."

Perry Husband innovations from the *Hitting is a Guess* research in 2001:

- Exit Velocity & Launch Angle were introduced as swing analysis tools
- Quality of Contact Metrics - Live BP and Tee, some not released in public yet
- Ball Flight Laws of Baseball
- Launch Angle + Exit Velocity Metric for live balls off the bat - Trajectory
- Bat Speed vs Exit Velocity Studies - Swing Efficiency Metrics such as Smash Factor
- Objective Measuring to Improve Swing Mechanics - setting baseline numbers to grow from
- Training: Plyometric Hitting Training workout/ Basketballs & Heavy Balls w/exit velocity/ Overload & Underload Bats for bat speed training/ Resistance Belt for Hitters/ Uneven CoreBoard Training
- Video Analysis Combined with Data
- Using Target to Pinpoint Launch Angle and Quality of Contact
- Ground Force work that creates the best load mechanism
- MLB Hitters should not be assumed to have perfect mechanics - TEST IT
- Creating a 'Self Leveling' Atmosphere - drills that teach the hitter without instruction

Perry Husband on his journey to making baseball a better game:

"How do we explain it when a pitcher has all the physical tools and has been trained by the top professionals in each of the previously mentioned aspects of pitching, and is still unsuccessful? For decades, the answer has been, 'Well, he just doesn't have what it takes to pitch at this level.' There is just something missing. Perhaps it is a combination of a few small things that are not exactly right or one major aspect that is off. Or, is there an aspect of pitching that we have never considered?"

Effective Velocity uncovers some hidden elements of timing and deception that shed light on why hitters and pitchers can make the same mistakes over and over and not know how to fix them. The discovery of Effective Velocity has opened doors that will change the way the game is played as well as the way it is taught.

"Effective Velocity was discovered as a result of the hitting video *Hitting is a Guess - Swing Makeover of Jay Bell* (2001). In measuring perfect contact, I realized how hard that is for hitters at any level. This spurred on timing trials and visual skill testing. The Jay Bell video was called *Hitting Is A Guess* because it proved hitters can't control contact anywhere near 100%. The testing included 14,000+ simulated at-bats to prove further what we found in the original testing.

"When I finished the Jay Bell Swing Makeover video, it was obvious that mechanics was only the beginning. I thought I could leave the mechanical world because the video showed that if you have a question about a movement or theory, TEST IT. Don't argue about the religion side of hitting philosophy, test it objectively."

Perry Husband will be a regular feature contributor to *The Baseball Collegian*. He has published a four-book series on EV called *Downright Filthy Pitching*, as well as made numerous instruction videos, been featured on the MLB Network, and been a speaker at conferences all around the country. He has worked with MLB and College World Series champion teams and players and his work, including video courses and memberships, can be found at www.effectivevelocity.com. *Downright Filthy Pitching* Books are available on amazon.com.

THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

THE COACHES' SOURCE FOR AMATEUR BASEBALL

www.baseballcollegian.com

Volume 1 - Issue 1
January 1, 2025

Publisher, Editor **Mark Woodworth**
413-531-9289
mark@baseballcollegian.com

Editor/Writer **Loren Foxx**
loren@tcbagency.com
tcbagency.com

Online
www.baseballcollegian.com

Publication
Online/Emailed monthly

Social Media
Twitter/Instagram

Podcast

The Competitor's Brain

Hosted by
Loren Foxx

We take years of experience in sports psychology, including working with greats in the business like Ken Ravizza, Brian Cain, and Dr. Rob Gilbert, and assemble the highlights into an easy-to-digest three minute podcast.



MANZOBASEBALL.NET

From the Publisher

Baseball is the best.

That is why we are starting a new publication focusing on college and high school baseball from the point of view of those at the center of it: coaches.

In the spirit of the grand 66 years of the publication *Collegiate Baseball*, and with the care and attention by its publisher Lou Pavlovich Jr., we intend to continue the grand tradition of highlighting outstanding players and coaches, not just those at the highest levels. Additionally, we will pursue the in-depth long-form educational articles on everything from how to run a pitching staff, to the latest in hitting theories, to how to coach players to be their best.

Thanks to everyone for their support as we start, and we look forward to hearing from you as we go.

Yours in baseball,

Mark A. Woodworth

Baseball Season is upon us

“You count on it, rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive.”

Bart Giamatti, *The Green Fields of the Mind*

The new year comes upon us, and the baseball world starts dreaming of the green grass ahead. While Major League Baseball has pitchers and catchers slated to start Feb. 12, 2025 and their regular season on Thursday, March 27, amateur baseball is well into it before then.

The NCAA Division I college season officially starts on Fri., Feb. 14, 2025. The other college divisions can pretty much start at any time.

High Schools start games anywhere from Jan. 27 at the earliest (Nevada), to April 17 at the latest (Maine). This doesn't include Iowa, who deem their season as a summer sport, starting on May 19. Each state has more information on their association website.

College Baseball Hall of Fame Inducts Class of 2024

The 17th induction class of the College Baseball Hall of Fame will be honored at the Night of Champions presented by Prairiefire on Feb. 13, 2025 in Overland Park, Kan., the home of the College Baseball Hall of Fame. The event will serve as the ceremonial start to the 2025 college baseball season, which begins Feb. 14, 2025.

Tom Jacobs, the co-founder of SP Athletics and the former commissioner of the Atlantic-10 Conference, has been tabbed as the new CEO and Executive Director. The Hall of Fame will have a physical home inside the Museum at PrairieFire in Overland Park, Kan., just 30 minutes from the Negro League Baseball Museum in downtown Kansas City. The new home is a result of a collaboration with Super Bowl champion and former Texas Tech baseball player Patrick Mahomes.

2024 Inductees

- **Mike Schmidt**, Shortstop, Ohio University, 1969-71
- **Roger Clemens**, Pitcher, San Jacinto JC, 1981/ Texas, 1982-83
- **Mark Teixeira**, Third Base, Georgia Tech, 1999-2001
- **Bill Thom**, Pitcher, USC, 1957-59
- **Jeff King**, Third Base, Arkansas, 1984-86
- **Woody Hunt**, Coach, Cumberland University, 1982-2021
- **Murray Wall**, Pitcher, Texas, 1947-50
- **Wilbert Ellis**, Coach, Grambling State, 1977-2003
- **Randy Ross**, Shortstop, North Park, 1981-84
- **Jim Paronto**, Umpire/Administrator, 1973-2023
- **Mike Fox**, Coach, NC Wesleyan, 1983-1998/ UNC, 1999-2020

HS Season Start Dates	
State	Games Begin
Alabama	Feb. 13
Alaska	March 20
Arizona	Feb. 26
Arkansas	March 3
California-South	Feb. 17
California-North	Feb. 24
Colorado	March 6
Connecticut	April 5
Delaware	Feb. 27
Florida	Feb. 18
Georgia	Feb. 10
Hawaii	Feb. 3
Idaho	March 12
Illinois	March 17
Indiana	March 31
Iowa	May 19
Kansas	March 20
Kentucky	March 17
Louisiana	March 10
Maine	April 17
Maryland	March 21
Massachusetts	March 27
Michigan	March 19
Minnesota	March 27
Mississippi	Feb. 10
Missouri	March 16
Montana	March 20
Nebraska	March 20
Nevada	Jan. 27
New Hampshire	April 14
New Jersey	March 17
New Mexico	Feb. 3
New York	March 27
North Carolina	Feb. 24
North Dakota	March 28
Ohio	March 28
Oklahoma	March 28
Oregon	March 17
Pennsylvania	March 14
Rhode Island	March 31
South Carolina	March 10
South Dakota	None
Tennessee	March 3
Texas	Feb. 17
Utah	March 3
Vermont	April 7
Virginia	March 17
Washington	March 10
West Virginia	March 19
Wisconsin	April 1
Wyoming	None

Division I Scholarship Changes

The big news this off-season was the change in scholarship allotment for NCAA Division I baseball. Previously, the maximum allowed for Division I was 11.7 per team. (How did they get that number? If everyone on a roster of 35 gets a 1/3 scholarship, then it comes out to 11.7).

Starting in the fall of 2025, each team will have a roster limit of 34 players. Each player will be allowed to have a full or partial scholarship, thus, the new scholarship maximum is 34.

This certainly does not mean every school will use this allotment. Division I scholarship totals range from 0 (the Ivy League follows this model), to the maximum. Each institution will determine how many they will offer.

The big conflict is when the roster limit is put in place. The Dec. 1 cut deadline has begged more questions than answers: If a player gets injured in January, will schools be allowed to replace him? Will a non-roster practice squad be allowed? What are red-shirt players allowed to do?

While these questions remain unanswered, ramifications have already started

College Baseball Scholarships

Division	Scholarships	Teams
NCAA Div. I	34	295
NCAA Div. II	9	245
NCAA Div. III	0	383
NAIA	12	194
JC Div. 1	24	155
JC Div. 2	24	246
JC Div. 3	0	85
JC California	0	88
JC Northwest	11	27
USCAA	N/A	43
NCCAA	N/A	28
Total Teams		1789

taking place. By reducing the COVID-inspired roster limit of 40, some committed high school players from the class of 2025 did not have roster spots anymore, so there was a flood of decommitments in the fall. Those players will still find a home somewhere, yet there will be a trickle-down effect where some players on lower-level teams will not have a spot. Divisions and teams that don't have roster limits could possibly just increase roster sizes, but regardless, the floor of college baseball skill certainly has improved with this change.



BUILD THE FUTURE OF BASEBALL
See how you can play a vital role in supporting girls & women playing high school and college baseball.
BASEBALLFORALL.COM

Why is the Off-Season Important?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That's up to you, not up to someone else. The true hang-up is thinking you need to do big things. A workout doesn't need to be three hours long, it can be 30 minutes.

In the book, *The Way of Baseball*, by Shawn Green, he talks about the All-Star shortstop Tony Fernandez who used to step into the batting cage to get one swing, just to get the feel, and if the feel was good, he got out. He didn't want to waste it. Make sure you have deliberate practice. Don't just take swings. Honestly think about your pitches, think about your swings, think about the things that need to be done correctly. You can't just go through the motions of trying to do something right. You need to make sure that you are focusing on trying to become that image you have of yourself.

John Wooden, a guy who won 10 NCAA championships at UCLA, including seven in a row, in the first practice of every season, he took the best recruits from the country, including guys like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, and what did they learn to do? They learned to tie their shoes the right way. He had reasons for it – he didn't want guys being out because they had blisters on their feet; he didn't want practices interrupted because the guy had to stop and tie his shoes. Games being interrupted, momentum being lost. So he had a reason for that.

The other reason was how you do anything is how you do everything. If you are mindful about everything that you do, it will have a very big impact on everything that you do.

Follow the Podcast!

The Competitor's Brain, a podcast hosted by Loren Foxx, takes years of experience in sports psychology, including working with greats in the business like Ken Ravizza, Brian Cain, and Dr. Rob Gilbert, and assembles the highlights into an easy-to-digest three minute daily podcast.

2025 ABCA Convention!

College & HS Coaches come to Washington, D.C.

2025 ABCA Convention Speakers

- Tony Vitello, Tennessee**
Veronica Alvarez, Oakland A's
- Billy Berry, Tennessee Wesleyan**
Ty Blankmeyer, Vanderbilt
- Steve Dintaman, Northern Kentucky**
Will Franco, Boston College
- Rudy Garbalosa, Lynn**
Mark Gjormand, James Madison (Va.)
- Jon Gordon, Bestselling Author**
Brandon Guyer, Major League Mindset
- Chris Hart, NC State**
Clint Hurdle, Colorado Rockies
- Jason Jackson, Alabama**
Conor Kortmann, Rutgers-Newark
- Tom Marker, Olentangy Orange (Ohio) HS**
Sean McGrath, Lamar
- Skylar Meade, Troy**
Jim Penders & staff; UConn
- Marty Smith, Central Florida**
Dr. Keith Smithson; Darnell Coles; Steve Lombardozi, Wash. Nationals Maximizing Visual Performance: Lessons, Tech, and Training Protocols
- Matthew Swope, Maryland**
Chuck Wolf, Human Motion Associates
- Building a Championship Program**
Everything's Perfect Until It's Not—Training Catchers in Controlled Environments
- Practice Tips & Techniques for Successful Team Training**
Infield Play: The Art of Playing Catch
- Turning Running Into Runs - Baserunning & Base Stealing**
Strength Training Essentials For Baseball: A Simplified Approach
- Outfield Development Through Daily Routines and Drills**
HS Practice Organization: Team Drills That Build Competitive Fire
- One Truth**
How to Win the Most Important Time of the Game: Time In Between Pitches
- Developing Hitters, Not Just Swingers, With the Wolfpack Approach**
A Life in Baseball
- Pitchers' Start-to-Start Routines**
Team & Individual Hitting Development: Do More With Less
- Beyond Batting Practice: Optimizing Reps in the Training Environment**
A Systematic and Evidence-Based Framework for Developing Pitchers
- The Path of Most Resistance: Handling Pitchers as the Head Coach**
How to Build a Winning and Consistent Program
- Measure and Compete to Make Player Development Fun!**
- Optimize Performance with Motor Preferences**
The Front Side Leg & Hip are Connected to the Throwing Arm UCL & Elbow

2025 ABCA Youth Coaches Speakers

- Kris Goodman, Tampa Bay Rays**
John Dowling, McLean HS (VA)
- Matt Owens, Chestnut Hill College**
Tom Winske, Cincinnati
- Chris Berset, Alexandria Aces**
Andre Butler, Graveyard Mentality
- David Klein, Menlo Park Legends**
Nunzio Signore, Rockland Peak Performance
- Jen Hammond, Thomas Jefferson HS (VA)**
John Skaggs, Prime Time Baseball (VA)
- Scott Fox, The Champion Playbook**
Rob Hahne, Northern VA Travel Baseball
- Jimmy Jackson, Maryland**
- Competing: Mastering a Process of Presence**
Baseball is Hard, Don't Make it Easy: Practice Habits that Play on Game Day
- Keeping the Routine Routine: Developing the Front Lines of Defense**
Baserunning Rules and Ideas Made Simple for All Levels
- Molding the Elite Youth Catcher**
Graveyard Mentality: Where Hits are Laid to Rest in the Outfield
- Youth Baseball Experience Innovation for the Modern Athlete**
Long-Term Athletic Development for the Youth Player
- Framing It Up: Integrating Catching Into Practice Planning**
Forgotten Components of Infield Play: First Basemen
- Training Mental Health and Sports Performance**
The Future of Youth and Travel Baseball
- Keeping Natural Talent in Our Pitchers**

ABCA Future Dates and Locations

2025	Jan. 2-5	National Harbor, Maryland
2026	Jan. 8-11	Columbus, Ohio
2027	Jan. 7-10	Chicago, Illinois
2028	Jan. 6-9	Nashville, Tenn

DISPATCHES

Guide to what to do at the Convention

Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center - National Harbor, Md.

COACHES MEETINGS

Thursday, 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Thursday, 9:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am - 12:30pm
Friday, 6:30pm - 9:30pm

TRADE SHOW
Thursday, 1:00pm - 6:00pm
Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm
Friday, 4:30pm - 6:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am - 2:00pm

CLINICS

Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm
Friday, 9:30am - 4:10pm
Friday, 7:00pm - 10:45pm
Saturday, 8:30am - 4:40pm
Saturday, 9:30am - 3:10pm
Saturday, 3:30pm - 10:45pm
Sunday, 8:30am - 11:10am

HOT STOVE PANELS

Pitching: Friday - 9:00 p.m.
Outfield: Friday - 9:00 p.m.
Youth/Travel Baseball: Saturday- 3:30 p.m.
Baserunning: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Leadership: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Coaches Divisional Meetings
Rookie Coaches Mentorship Panel presented by The Marines
ABCA Diversity in Baseball Committee Workshops
ABCA Hall of Fame Banquet presented by C&H Baseball

ABCA Trade Show & Expo Theater Presentations
ABCA Trade Show & Expo Theater Presentations
Coaches Social presented by the ABCA
ABCA Trade Show & Expo Theater Presentations

Main Stage Clinics presented by ATEC and Q&A
Youth Coaches Session presented by GameChanger and Q&A
Hot Stove Panel Discussions
Main Stage Clinics presented by ATEC and Q&A
Youth Coaches Session presented by GameChanger and Q&A
Hot Stove Panel Discussions
Main Stage Clinics presented by ATEC and Q&A

Hitting: Saturday - 7:00 p.m.
Strength & Conditioning: Saturday- 7:00 p.m.
Infield Play: Saturday - 9:00 p.m.
Catching: Saturday - 9:00 p.m.

Hot Stove Panelists

Rookie Coaches Mentorship

Thursday, Jan. 2, 9:00pm
Brad Stromdahl, Georgia State
Chris Hanks, Colorado Mesa
Rachel Balkovec, Miami Marlins
Lee Banks, Tidewater Phillies (VA)
Bonnie Hoffman, DC Girls Baseball
Matt Ittner, Cox High School (VA)
Greg Mamula, Delaware
Brian O'Connor, Virginia

Outfield Hot Stove

Friday, Jan. 3, 9:00pm
Rudy Garbalosa, Lynn
Zach Casto, Sissonville HS (WV)
Billy Facticeau, Baltimore Orioles
Gabe Ortiz, Miami Marlins
Greg Sullivan, Boston College

Pitching Hot Stove

Friday, Jan. 3, 9:00pm
Pat Pinkman, Elite Sports Advising
George Capen, Georgetown
Jimmy Jackson, Maryland
Steven Osterer, Cleveland Guardians

Baseball Operations Hot Stove

Friday, Jan. 3, 7:00pm
Sam Gjormand, College of Charleston
Luke Marbach, Kansas
Hunter Roberts, Purdue
Holden Wilder, Boston College

Culture & Leadership Hot Stove

Saturday, Jan. 4, 5:00pm
Craig Gianinno, Y-D Red Sox
Brandon Guyer, MLB Mindset
Danielle Martin, True Mindsets
Justin Toole, Seattle Mariners

Youth & Travel Baseball Hot Stove

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2:45pm
Jordan Baltimore, New York Empire
Duke Baxter, Zoned Sports Acad. (NJ)
Rob Hahne, Northern Virginia Travel
Jennifer Hammond, DC Girls Baseball
Blake Hibler, Prep Baseball Report
David Klein, Menlo Park Legends (CA)
Deven Morgan, Driveline Baseball
Taylor McCollough, Perfect Game

Baserunning Hot Stove

Saturday, Jan. 4, 5:00pm
Matt Talarico, New York Yankees
Mike Roberts, Cotuit Kettleers (MA)
Patrick Anderson, St. Louis Cardinals
Charles Bolden, Baltimore Orioles
Mike Stawski, Mary Hardin-Baylor
Ryan Terrill, Georgia Gwinnett
Beth Woerner, James Madison

Hitting Hot Stove

Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:00pm
Anthony Ferro, Butte College (CA)
Ben Adams, Palomar College (CA)
Eric Crozier, Chantilly HS (VA)
Caleb Longley, Texas A&M
Jeremy Sheetinger, Georgia Gwinnett

Strength & Conditioning Hot Stove

Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:00pm
Dr. Jimmy Onate, Ohio State
Henry Bergman, Maryland
Haley Colwell, Northeast Texas CC
Tracy Tanguay, Mobility Chick
Nunzio Signore, Peak Performance

Dining/Entertainment

Old Hickory
Steakhouse - Breakfast, Lunch Dinner.

Harbor Social
Sports Bar - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Potomac Cafe & Market
Break. to Dinner, Starbucks - 6 a.m. to mid.

Belvedere Lobby Bar
Casual Lounge - Open 4 p.m. to midnight

Pose Rooftop Lounge
Bar with pool, bocce, darts - opens at 9 p.m.

Other

Pool & Splash Zone
Spa/Fitness Center
Nightly Atrium Light Show

Outside Hotel

36 different restaurants within 0.3 miles
Harbor/Ferris Wheel/Shops/Outlets

ABCA Hall of Fame Class of 2025

Rich Alday, University of New Mexico
Dave Jarvis, Belmont University (Tenn.)
Dave Johnson, Ephrata (Wash.) High School
Costa "Pop" Kittles, Florida A&M University
Charlie Migl, St. Mary's University (Texas)
Dunn Muramaru, Mid-Pacific Institute (Hawaii)
Jim Schlossnagle, University of Texas
Larry Turner, Owasso (Okla.) High School

The Myth of Batting Average by Count

By MARK WOODWORTH
EDITOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

Every year in the post-season, the TV announcers seem to bring out a similar graphic. Flashing on the screen is some version of this:

Batting Avg. Per Count					
Count	BA	Count	BA	Count	BA
0-0	.353	0-1	.355	0-2	.175
1-0	.379	1-1	.339	1-2	.179
2-0	.375	2-1	.345	2-2	.190
3-0	.361	3-1	.371	3-2	.210

Stanford Baseball - Source: Bickel & Stotz

Batting Avg. Per Count					
Count	BA	Count	BA	Count	BA
0-0	.379	0-1	.365	0-2	.167
1-0	.376	1-1	.368	1-2	.177
2-0	.382	2-1	.376	2-2	.191
3-0	.420	3-1	.394	3-2	.213

D1 Baseball - Source: 6-4-3 Charts

One look at this, and it seems pretty obvious that hitters do not want to get to two-strikes. Simple. Case closed.

This mind-set permeates the game: “Just don’t get to

two strikes, anyway. Nothing good can happen there.” (Petriello-mlb.com) Players are always saying their favorite pitch is the first pitch. Coaches and parents are extolling (yelling at) their kids to attack the first good one they see.

The premise behind all this is the abject fear of two-strike hitting, and it’s backed up by data!

“Batters are more likely to get a hit (off a pitch thrown for strike) with two strikes than other counts.”

There is one problem though.

These stats are flawed and don’t come close to telling the real story behind hitting success by count.

The Myth

Let’s start with a ground-breaking research study by J. Eric Bickel, a grad student at Stanford, and the Stanford assistant baseball coach Dean Stotz titled *Batting Average by Count and Pitch Type*. In the paper, they took four years of data and asked the question, “Why do hitters have such poor averages with two strikes?”

“The answer to this dilemma lies in the definition of batting average and the fact that it was not created to be used within a plate appearance. Batting average is the number of hits divided by the number of at-bats. There are four ways to have an at-bat with less than two strikes: hit, error, fielder’s choice, or batted out (the ball has to be put in play). However, there are five ways to have an at-bat with two strikes: hit, error, fielder’s choice, batted out, and strikeout (the ball is either put in play or the batter strikes out).”

In short, batting average data by count is skewed because if you swing and miss with 0 strikes, it does not count against your batting average by count. If you swing and miss with two strikes, it is considered an 0-for-1. The insight accrued from such misleading data gives an incorrect picture into how well hitters actually hit in different counts.

Thus, BA by count is completely flawed. To really get a sense of how hitters hit, let’s look at Hits Per Strike. Here is the data they compiled:

While BA goes significantly down with two strikes, Hits per Strike actually improves with two strikes! When a strike is thrown, hitters hit .099 with less than two strikes, but .123 with two strikes. As Bickel and Stotz put it, “Batters are more likely to get a hit (off a pitch thrown for strike) with two strikes than other counts. This is exactly the opposite relationship as suggested by BA by count.”

Hits Per Strike		
Count	BA	Hits Per Strike
0-0	.353	.08
1-0	.379	.11
2-0	.375	.10
3-0	.361	.02
0-1	.355	.11
1-1	.339	.11
2-1	.345	.12
3-1	.371	.12
0-2	.175	.11
1-2	.179	.12
2-2	.190	.12
3-2	.210	.14

There’s an additional way of looking at it. What is the average of hits when the hitter puts the ball in play (this takes out misses and fouls)? Below are the results:

Hits on Balls in Play		
Count	BA	Hits on Balls in Play
0-0	.353	.356
1-0	.379	.375
2-0	.375	.371
3-0	.361	.360
0-1	.355	.350
1-1	.339	.330
2-1	.345	.336
3-1	.371	.369
0-2	.175	.331
1-2	.179	.319
2-2	.190	.322
3-2	.210	.341

When batters put the ball in play, hitters get more hits earlier in the count as opposed to later in the count. They have a higher chance of getting a hit with less than two strikes (.353), versus putting it in play with two strikes (.326). In a way, this mirrors the decline seen in BA as counts get deeper and seems to validate BA by count.

There’s one catch though according to Bickel and Stotz: “This difference of .027 is a real effect.

Batters are less likely to get a hit if they put the ball in play with two strikes. However, it is hardly the dramatic effect suggested by BA.” Indeed, while BA by count data states that batters hit up to .200 points lower with two strikes versus no strikes, by looking at the more appropriate Hits on Balls in Play stat, they only hit max .050 points lower.

Let’s look at some more data.

Ahead - Even - Behind			
	BA	Hits Per Strike	Hits on Balls in Play
Advantage	.313	.113	.355
Batter Ahead	.285	.114	.340
Batter Behind	.218	.094	.330

The same holds true when looking at the traditional concept of ahead (1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 2-1, 3-1, 3-2), even (0-0, 1-1, 2-2) and behind the count (0-1, 0-2, 1-2). Batters hit .313 ahead in the count, .285 when even, and .218 when behind, yet while Hits Per Strike and Hits on Balls in Play both went down as the count got deeper, it only went down 19 and 25 points respectively, hardly the 95 points that BA states.

Conclusion

Batting Average by count data is a flawed stat that is incorrectly negatively impacting the approach and mindset of hitters. By using the data appropriately, it is clear that there is a myth around batting average by count.

“Batting average and slugging percentage by count are highly misleading, because they imply that batters perform poorly with two strikes or incredibly well with less than two strikes,” state Bickel and Stotz. “The low BA and SLG numbers with two strikes (less than two strikes) are simply defects of these statistics.”

Actionable Summary:

This information is incredibly powerful for hitters to be aware and utilize in their game. Despite all the rhetoric and common teachings, if you only swing at strikes, you actually hit better with two strikes. And when you put the ball in play, you hit a little better with less than two strikes, but not much.

There are many reasons that would seem to validate why this is true:

- Hitters have no basis for distinction on speed of pitches when they first get in the box. As the at-bat continues, they “learn” the speeds and are able to time-up pitches better.
- When hitters first get in the box, the footing can be off, the background and lighting can be off, the pitchers motion can be different.
- Also, hitters tend to be less focused and committed early in the count, as the penalty for swings and misses are less.

This is really a conversation about hitting with less fear. With this knowledge, hitters can be less afraid of two strikes, as well as more selective with less than two strikes. If hitters really know the strike zone with two strikes, they’ll hit well and don’t have to be defensive.

In turn, hitters can trust themselves and not be afraid of hitting with two strikes!

For more data, see the article *Batting Average by Count and Pitch Type*, by J. Eric Bickel and Dean Stotz, originally published in the *Baseball Research Journal*.

THE TEAM

The Coaching Legend of Gordie Gillespie

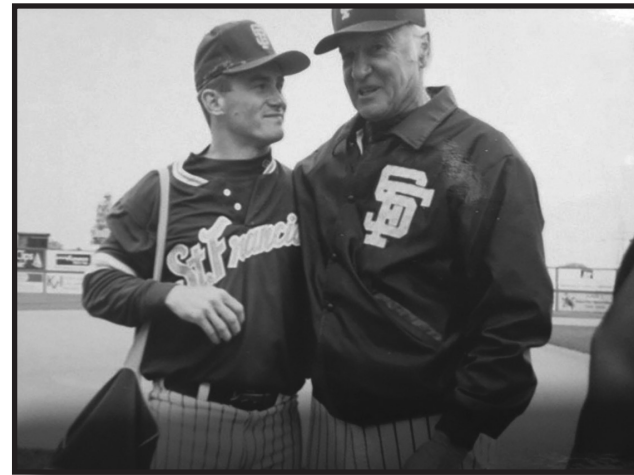
By PAUL BABCOCK
AUTHOR OF THE BOOK, *THE TEAM*

Paul Babcock played for coach Gordie Gillespie at St. Francis and was on the team that won a national championship in 1993. Below is an excerpt from his book, *The Team*, about the experience and playing for Coach Gillespie.

A few weeks later, I worked out a much-anticipated return visit to Joliet. I remember being a little scared, but that all melted away when I walked into Coach Gordie's office. He shook my hand with a huge smile as he greeted my parents. We sat and talked for a little while, and in that short time, I knew I was where I was supposed to be. My instincts as a young man were spot-on: there is no one I would rather play for because of the way he made me feel. Two specific questions really created a special interaction.

After discussing various topics, he asked me about my batting average. As soon as I responded, he repeated my answer in a disbelieving voice and said to Coach Del, "Can you believe how lucky we are to get this kid?" This was more than likely a typical routine, but I fell for it hook, line, and sinker. Now I did not want to disappoint him either. I wanted to prove that I was the player that I said I was. My parents often told me, "When all is said and done, more is said than done." I did not want to be one of those people who talked a good game but could not back it up.

"Can you believe how lucky we are to get this kid?" This was more than likely a typical routine, but I fell for it hook, line, and sinker.



Coaching legend Gordie Gillespie with the author, Paul Babcock.

I also remember him asking what my favorite movie was. Without hesitation, I let him know that it was *Rocky*. Coach Gillespie then went on to name all the things about that movie he loved. He talked about the indomitable spirit of man, believing in yourself when no one else does, never giving up, giving it everything that you have, your heart is not something that can be measured, to name a few. I felt like we were kindred spirits when he said his favorite line was actually from *Rocky II*. He asked if I remembered when Apollo wanted a rematch and he asked his trainer Duke what he was afraid of: "I saw you beat that man like I've never seen no man get beat before and he kept coming after you." It was like we shared the same brain. Did Gordie know that I wanted to be *Rocky* because of everything he represented? I couldn't wait to show him my spirit.

I was oblivious to what a remarkable coach he was because he never used his accomplishments to "sell" the school. I focused on how he made me and everyone else around him feel. I was later educated on his incredible win/loss record and long list of awards. I learned that he was a successful coach in basketball, football, and baseball. He had even been inducted to several Hall of Fames in both football and baseball on the state and national level. He even played college basketball for the legendary Ray Meyer at DePaul. My dad admired the way Coach Meyer coached and knew without a doubt that Gordie picked up some valuable lessons from him. It was remarkable to me that he did not feel the need to brag about any of those incredible honors.

I was oblivious to what a remarkable coach he was because he never used his accomplishments to "sell" the school.

I became even more enamored by his humility. It was no surprise to me that graduates would often stop in just to spend a little time with him. The more people knew Coach, the more time they wanted to spend with him.

Players were shocked when they were in an airport with Coach Gillespie and a booming voice yelled out, "Hey, Gordie!" The man came over and gave Gordie a huge hug. As he pulled away, the players discovered that it was the one and only Ted Williams. Obviously, Gordie never felt the need to brag about the famous people with whom he was friends.



On Deck For '92

COLLEGE OF ST. FRANCIS

1992 Baseball Media Guide \$2.00

Near the end of my senior year, I drove to Joliet again. I wasn't able to see Coach Gillespie because his team was playing in the NAIA College World Series. The athletic office had just received word that the team had finished second. I knew that Coach had won three national championships at Lewis University but had been stopped shy of this goal at St. Francis. I now set my sights on a new goal: I wanted to be on a team that would bring Gordie his first national championship at the College of St. Francis.

To learn more about the story of Paul Babcock's experience with Gordie Gillespie, email him at babcockpaul711@gmail.com.

NCAA Rules Changes & Points of Emphasis for 2025

Experimental Rule - Technology

Any institution interested in experimenting must submit the request in writing. Conferences granted permission to experiment are required to collect data and submit it to the rules committee at the end of the season. The experimental rules are approved for the 2025 season during conference play only. The experimental rules will not be used during the NCAA postseason.

- Use of bat sensor technology for in-game data collection:

Permit use of metric sensors or data collection devices on or within bats.

Live access to the swing data will remain prohibited.

- Use of in-game data/technology in the dugout during a game:

Permit the use of electronic equipment (tablets) to access scouting and analytics information during the game in the dugout.

Access to pitch location [i.e., balls/strikes] must be restricted during the game.

Double First Base – 1-7-b

- Previous rules already allowed use only during regular-season competition.
- Now Baseball Committees at any level of NCAA play have the option to approve use during the NCAA Championships.
- Added guidelines for the use of the Double First Base to the rule book.

Bat Testing – 1-12-e,g & Appendix G

- For Division I, bat testing is required prior to the start of play for each day of competition.
- For Divisions II and III, required before each regular season series or single date of competition.
- No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle.
- Prohibits other substances other than just those that would discolor the ball such as pine tar.
- The bat testing sticker from each team that is being used for that day’s competition shall be placed on the lineup card given to the umpire prior to the game.

Dugout Protective Fencing or Netting – 1-16

- Facilities for collegiate baseball shall have protective fencing or netting on the field side of the dugout at a height not less than 3 feet from field level.
- Now required effective for all divisions as of January 1, 2025.

Ejection of Relief Pitcher – 2-26-e

- Penalty now distinguishes whether the player ejected was a starting pitcher or a relief pitcher during that game.
- Starting pitcher – remains as a four (4) game suspension
- Relief pitcher – two (2) game suspension – This applies whether the ejection occurs while the player is the current game pitcher or after having been removed as pitcher and their last listed position was that of a starting or relief pitcher.
- If a player is removed as pitcher but remains in the game in another capacity (DH or position player) and is then ejected, the penalty for a first-time offense is one additional game suspension.

Use of Electronic Communication – 5-16

- “An exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout, a coaches’ box, or a position player on the field (such as the catcher) for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call is permitted. The use of direct, live audio communication shall be limited to an in-ear device for the defensive position of catcher.”
- Also allows a pre-recorded message or number code to be transmitted one-way from a specifically designed device to the pitcher or other players.
- Reminder – no information from external sources may be transmitted to the playing field, dugout, or to team personnel during the game. Updated penalty – The violator and the head coach shall be ejected from the game.

Leaving Position– 5-15

- Team personnel (other than coaches) shall not leave their position to go to the area of a confrontational situation.
- Personnel in the immediate vicinity of the dugout or bullpen area are considered to have remained in their area.
- Personnel already on the field in the vicinity of the situation who do not participate in, escalate, or incite the potential altercation will not be penalized.
- Video review may be used to identify violators.

Batter’s Box Rule – 7-1

- Previous Batter’s Box Rule is eliminated.
- Batter’s actions are regulated by the 20-Second Action Clock time limit.
- Batter should remain in the vicinity of the batter’s box between pitches but must be in the box, alert to the pitcher, and ready to hit with 8 or more seconds remaining in the time limit.

Catcher’s Interference – 8-2-e-Exception and 8-3-p

- If R3 is trying to score on a squeeze play or a steal of home, the catcher steps on or in front of any part of home plate without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or their bat, the pitcher is charged with a balk, the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference, and the ball is dead.
- “In front of any part of home plate” is defined as a step toward the pitcher and any part of the catcher’s foot on the ground beyond the back point of home plate.

Force-Play-Slide Rule – 8-4-Penalty

- Delayed dead ball until the play is completed.
- Point at the violation when it occurs but leave the ball alive and let the play continue as this is a reviewable play.
- If this play is reviewed and overturned, this allows the play at first base on the batter-runner to stand.

Windup Position – 9-1-a

- Rule remains that a pitcher may not take a second step toward home plate with the free foot.
- Change eliminates the words “backward or sideward”.
- New language – “...in the actual delivery of the ball to the batter, the pitcher may take one step without gaining ground toward home plate with the free foot”
- Allows an adjustment step slightly toward the front of the pitcher’s body when turning for the delivery.

Pitcher Drops Ball – 9-2-b-Penalty

- Simplifies the penalty when pitcher drops the ball either intentionally or unintentionally while in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
- With no one on base, it is a ball; With runner(s) on base, it is a balk.
- Ball is dead and each runner advances one base.

Foreign Substance – 9-2-e-Penalty

- Rule remains the same. Penalty is amended to eject both the pitcher and the head coach for violation of this rule.

Warmup Pitches – 9-2-i, Appendix F

- Allow pitcher to throw unlimited number of warmup pitches within the time limit.
- 150 seconds Starting pitchers at the beginning of their first inning.
Any relief pitcher at beginning or during an inning.
- 120 seconds Any continuing game pitcher between innings.

Replacing Pitcher – 9-4-b-Note 2

- After an injury or ejection of current pitcher, the substitute pitcher may warm up from the bullpen or game mound.
- If some warmup pitches are taken from the bullpen and the pitcher moves to the game mound to complete their warmup, the relief pitcher timing protocol shall be followed (150 seconds).

20-Second Action Clock – Appendix F

- Batter must be in the batter’s box, alert to the pitcher, and ready to hit with 8 or more seconds remaining in the time limit.
- Allows the batter extra time to be ready to hit and shortens the time that a pitcher would be able to “freeze” the batter.

20-Second Action Clock – Appendix F

- If pitcher starts a preliminary motion to deliver a pitch or come set before the batter is alert and ready to hit, the umpire will call “time” and issue a warning the first time it happens. Only one warning per pitcher.
- With no runner on base, any further violations after the initial warning will result in a ball.
- With any runners on base, the initial warning is also the reset for that at-bat. Any further violations by that pitcher will result in a ball.

Optional Timing Rules – Appendix F

The following 30-second time limits are permissible by conference policy or mutual agreement:

- Between Batters – Timer starts when ball is in possession of the pitcher near the pitcher’s mound. If batter-runner ends an at-bat on base, the timer starts when they hand protective gear to a base coach.
- Mound Visit – Timer starts when coach crosses a foul line or player leaves position to visit the mound.
- Offensive Charged Conference

Timing Devices/Action Clock – Appendix F

- The use of visible clocks allows the consistent administration of the pace of play time limits between pitches and between innings. Allows all participants to see how much time remains during each time limit, leading to less violations and more consistent enforcement.
- Effective January 1, 2025 for Divisions I and II, one or more visible clocks will be required during all times of the game to enforce all timing rules effectively.
- For Division III, the use of visible clocks is recommended, but not required. All time limits are expected to be enforced consistently.

NEW COLLEGE HEAD COACHES

2025

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Division I

Alcorn State
Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Arkansas State
Cal St.-Bakersfield
Campbell
Charleston Southern
Coastal Carolina
Dayton
Delaware State
Eastern Kentucky
Houston Christian
Indiana State
Liberty
Long Beach State
Longwood
Manhattan
Minnesota
Missouri State
Morehead State
Niagara
Nicholls State
Oakland
Ohio State
Pacific
Pepperdine
South Carolina
South Carolina-Upstate
South Florida
Southern Indiana
Stephen F. Austin
Texas
Texas A&M
The Citadel
UT-Arlington
Utah Valley
VCU
Washington
West Virginia
William and Mary
Winthrop
Youngstown State

New Coach

Carlton Hardy
Logan Stout
Mike Silva
Jordon Banfield
Chris Marx
Karl Kuhn
Kevin Schnall
Scott Loiseau
Pedro Swann
Walt Jones
Clay Vanderlaan
Tracy Archuleta
Bradley LeCroy
T.J. Bruce
Ray Noe
Steven Rosen (int)
Ty McDevitt
Joey Hawkins
Brady Ward
Matt Spatafora
Brent Haring
Brian Nelson (int)
Justin Haire
Reed Peters
Tyler LaTorre
Paul Mainieri
Kane Sweeney
Mitch Hannahs
Chris Ramirez
Matt Vanderburg
Jim Schlossnagle
Michael Earley
Russell Triplett
Mike Trapasso
Nate Rasmussen
Sean Thompson
Eddie Smith
Steve Sabins
Rob McCoy
Mike McGuire
Trevor Charpie



Jacob Garsez - Sonoma State

Division II

Barry
Bluefield State College
Christian Brothers
Clarion
Clark Atlanta
Colorado Christian
Concord University
Embry-Riddle
Flagler-St Augustine
Florida Southern
Francis Marion
King College
Lane College
Lenoir-Rhyne
Newberry
Northwest Missouri St.
Saint Leo
Saint Thomas Aquinas
Savannah State
Shepherd
Sonoma State
SW Oklahoma State
Sul Ross State
Texas A&M International
UT Permian Basin
Valdosta State
West Texas A&M
Westmont

New Coach

DJ Price
Scott Considine
Zach Ullrich
John Poss
Trennis Grant
Andrew Liberty
Drew Bailey
Dave Therneau
Greg Williams
Rick O'Dette
Jeff Jefferson
Brad Hill
Jeffery De La Concha
Adam Skonieczki
Jay Snyder
Tony Jandron
Josh Keim
John-Michael Guarino
Tino Burgos
Andrew Kowalo
Jacob Garsez
JR Head
Caleb Abney
Ruben Rodriguez
Justin Phillips
Jan Weisberg
Cory Hall
Paul Svagdis

Division III

Albion
Calvin
DePaw
Ferrum
Hampden-Sydney
Hardin-Simmons
Hood
Hope
Illinois Wesleyan
Keuka
Lawrence
Maranatha Baptist
Mount St. Vincent
Norwich
Pacific
Roanoke
Southern Maine
St. Joseph's-Brooklyn
SUNY-Canton
Thomas
Trine
Tufts
Waynesburg
Wells

New Coach

Matt Rix (interim)
Joel Schipper
Jordan Niespodziany
Eric Owens
Michael Mulvey
Mitch Wilson
Andrew Tressa
Ryan Dorow
Michael Kellar
Matt Michalski
Trent Whitcomb (int.)
Jodi Faithfull
Matthew Rienzi
Billy Whaley
Jacob Upwood
Brett Kaminski
Scott Heath
Rich Pecoraro III
Ryan Stevens
Rob Dippner
Brett Ratcliffe
Bryan Stark
Michael Impellittere
Ryan Stevens



Michael Kellar - Illinois Wesleyan

Junior Colleges National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

D1

Abraham Baldwin
Andrew College
Central Arizona
Cleveland State CC
Dodge City CC
Dyersburg State
Odessa College
San Jacinto CC
Tyler JC

New Coach

Blake Williams
Adam Biss
Sean Cashman
Aaron Bryant
JM Kelly
George White
David Wood
Eric Weaver
Brett Doe

D2

Black Hawk
Carl Sandburg College
Chandler/Gilbert CC
East Central
Lake Region State
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
Moraine Valley CC
Redlands CC
U. of Arkansas CC
Wake Tech CC

Drake Robison
Brandon Porter
Jimmy Turk
Luke Miller
Steven Anderson
Zach Allen
Tyler Zunkel
Trent Troxell
Peyton Traywick
DJ Russ

D3

Bergen CC
College of DuPage
North Arkansas College
Waubonsee CC

Nick Grasso
Karsten Leigvold
Jon Herbig
Alex Hales

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics NAIA

Brescia
Bushnell
Eastern Oregon
Evangel
Florida Memorial
Graceland-Lamoni
Hastings
Madonna
Oklahoma Panhandle
Olivet Nazarene
Oregon Tech
Providence Christian
Southeastern
Warner
Xavier-Louisiana
Casey Hamilton
Jamie Womack (int.)
Brian Valentine
Sam Jones
Wilberto Ramos
Brad Payne
Steve Maddock
Drew Huard
Jared Mayeda
Colton Panches
Ricky Walker
Eric Fuller
Gabe Grinder
Rich Benjamin
Dave Yamane

United States Collegiate Athletic Association USCAA

Penn State DuBois
Garrett Brown

National Christian College Athletic Association NCCAA

Ecclesia College
Griff Smith

California Community College Athletic Association CCCCAA

San Joaquin Delta College
Bob Kittle (interim)

2024 College Baseball National Champions

Four-Year Schools

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Division I
Division II
Division III

Tennessee
Tampa
Misericordia
Hope International (Calif.)
UC Clermont
Southwestern Christian

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA)

National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA)

Junior Colleges

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

D1
D2
D3

Blinn
LSU-Eunice
Gloucester (NJ)
Saddleback
Linn-Benton

California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA)

Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC)

2024 ABCA/RAWLINGS HONORS PACIFIC DIVISION JC

Northern California JC - First Team

C Niko Lombardi Fr. Ohlone
 1B Drew Reynolds So. Lassen
 IF JP Acosta Fr. Fresno City
 IF Louis Zulaica So. Gavilan
 IF Connor Ross So. Solano
 IF Jayce Dobie So. West Valley
 OF Max Ross Fr. Cañada
 OF Brody Rasmussen So. Lassen
 OF Dominic Rodriguez Fr. San Joaquin Delta
 OF Jackson Berry So. Taft
 DH Nico Azpilcueta So. Ohlone
 UT Max Debiec So. Folsom Lake
 P Devon Daniel Fr. Fresno City
 P Ray Hernandez So. Ohlone
 P Hekili Robello So. Santa Rosa
 P Caden Hunter So. Sierra
 RP Jeremy Maldonado Fr. Marin

Southern California JC - First Team

C Makana Olaso So. Palomar
 1B Kyle Phin Fr. Barstow
 IF Noah Lazuka So. Palomar
 IF JC Allen So. Saddleback
 IF Isaiah Gomez So. San Diego Mesa
 IF Daniel Ghiorso So. Santa Barbara
 OF Cody Turner Fr. Antelope Valley
 OF Jack Clothier So. Cuesta
 OF Jack Salmon So. Golden West
 OF Royce Clayton, Jr. So. LA Valley
 DH Ryder Young Fr. Chaffey
 UT Trevor Stowe Fr. C of the Desert
 P Derek Valdez Fr. Cerritos
 P Franky Lopez Fr. Cerritos
 P Alex Ramos So. Golden West
 P Jake Villar So. Santa Barbara
 RP Calix Armijo So. Cerritos

Pacific Northwest JC - First Team

C Corbin Sanchez So. Treasure Valley
 1B Logan Shepherd Fr. Tacoma
 IF Jonah Shull So. Everett
 IF Langan Naylor Fr. Lower Columbia
 IF Jeramiah Crain So. Tacoma
 IF River Smith So. Wenatchee Val.
 OF Davis Mauzy So. Blue Mountain
 OF Logan Blank So. Edmonds
 OF Aidan Dougherty So. Linn-Benton
 OF Cayden Wotipka So. Lower Columbia
 DH Zion Williams So. Tacoma
 UT Nicho Crowley Fr. Olympic
 P Sheldon Egger So. Edmonds
 P Ethan Hubbell So. Everett
 P Gabe Brabec Fr. Linn-Benton
 P Ethan Kleinschmit Fr. Linn-Benton
 RP Simon Lemke Fr. Columbia Basin

NAIA ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

All-America - First Team

C Charlie Muniz Jr. Cumberlands
 C Tyler Horner Jr. Oregon Tech
 1B Miguel Oropeza Jr. Talladega
 2B JJ Cruz Sr. Hope Intern.
 3B Jaidan Quinn Jr. Concordia
 SS Drew Barragan Sr. Embry-Riddle
 IF Drew Fleming Sr. Concordia
 OF Cayden Nicoletto Jr. Columbia Col.
 OF Evan St. Claire Sr. Cumberlands
 OF Blaze O'Saben Sr. Georgia Gwinnett
 OF Ajay Szczepkowski Sr. Georgia Gwinnett
 DH Arderrius Townsend Jr. Blue Mt. Christian
 P Cesar Avila Jr. Cumberlands
 P Isaac Rohde Jr. LSU Shreveport
 P Darien Smith Sr. Southeastern
 P Blayne Huter Jr. Webber Intern.
 RP Chad Pike Gr. Oklahoma City

All-America - Second Team

C Logan Grant Jr. Bellevue
 C Indy Stanley Sr. Columbia Col.
 1B Cole Robinson Jr. Missouri Baptist
 2B Braxton Meguiar Jr. Georgia Gwinnett
 3B Bryson Lofton So. Bryan
 SS Jarrett Gable Sr. Kansas Wesleyan
 IF Isaac Santana Sr. Point Park
 OF Carlos Negron Jr. Central Methodist
 OF Joey Grabanski Sr. Concordia
 OF Mason White Sr. Indiana SE
 OF Dylan Lewis Sr. Reinhardt
 DH Henry Daniels Jr. Georgia Gwinnett
 P Aaron Forrest Sr. Doane
 P Ben Harris Jr. Georgia Gwinnett
 P Andrew Herbert Jr. Reinhardt
 P Blake Peyton Sr. Tenn. Wesleyan
 RP John Snyder Sr. William Carey

All-America - Third Team

C Tanner Sears Jr. Central Methodist
 C Tyler Favretto Jr. Kansas Wesleyan
 1B Max Harper Gr. Cumberlands
 2B Vantrel Reed Jr. LSU Shreveport
 2B Tyler Mata Lloyd Sr. Tabor
 3B Victor Sanchez Jr. Okla. Wesleyan
 3B Kekoa Ogawa Jr. Roosevelt
 3B Mason David Jr. Taylor
 SS Brycen Sherwood Sr. MidAmerica Naz
 SS Alex Adams Gr. Missouri Baptist
 IF Nash Crowell Jr. Reinhardt
 OF Marques Titalii Sr. Ariz. Christian
 OF Francesco Barbieri Sr. Ave Maria
 OF Bobby Nichols Sr. Central Methodist
 OF Travis Strickler Sr. Embry-Riddle
 OF Joshua Duarte Sr. Georgetown Col
 OF Trey Furrey Sr. Jessup
 DH Noah Castillo Jr. MidAmerica Naz
 P Luke Schafer Sr. Indiana SE
 P Isaac Baez Sr. Mid-America Christ.
 P Brian Ereu So. Science and Arts
 P Ryan Daly Jr. St. Francis
 RP Chipper Korbacher Gr. Cumberlands

JC Division 3 - Third Team

C Augusto Mungarrieta Fr. Rochester
 IF Jan Chambers So. Surry
 IF Jaden Nestor-Fox So. Lorain County
 IF Robert Furino So. Northampton
 IF Ernesto Polanco So. RCSJ Gloucester
 OF Mitch Thomas So. Joliet
 OF Gavin Degnan Fr. RCSJ Gloucester
 OF Hayden Carpenter Fr. Dallas-Cedar Val
 DH Seth Tierney Fr. Century
 P Adrian Quezada So. Monroe-Bronx
 P Danny Kerr So. RCSJ Gloucester
 P Jack Otis So. Joliet

2024 ABCA/RAWLINGS GOLD GLOVE WINNERS

Gold Glove - NCAA Division 1

C Ariel Armas Jr. San Diego
 1B Edgar Alvarez Sr. Nicholls State
 2B Nick Gooden Gr. Morehead State
 3B Wyatt Peifer So. James Madison
 SS Griff O'Ferrall Jr. Virginia
 OF Bryce Boettcher Sr. Oregon
 OF Vance Honeycutt Jr. North Carolina
 OF Ryley Johnson Jr. East Carolina
 P Derek Clark Sr. West Virginia

Gold Glove - NAIA

C Tevis Payne Jr. Vanguard
 1B Brayden McGinnis Jr. Columbia Col.
 2B Ty Nekoliczak Jr. Concordia
 3B Nick Grade Jr. Bellevue
 SS Buster Hardman Gr. Friends
 LF Brendan DeFlorio Sr. Rochester Christ
 CF Bryce Hayman Sr. Roosevelt
 RF Rody Garcia Jr. Texas Wesleyan
 P Blake Kimball So. Indiana-Kokomo

Gold Glove - NCAA Division 2

C Calvin Alexander Jr. Georgia SW
 1B Braeden Smith Fr. Georgia College
 2B Emilio Barrera Jr. CS-Dominguez Hills
 3B Mikey Kocen Jr. Lewis
 SS Henry Kusiak Sr. Miss. Southern
 OF El'Rico Riley Sr. Florida Southern
 OF Shawn Dougherty Sr. Lynn
 OF Dylan Driver Jr. Catawba
 P Skylar Gonzalez Sr. Tampa

Gold Glove - Junior College Division 1

C Nate Voss So. Iowa Western
 1B Wally Diaz Fr. Connors State
 2B Nicky Garritano So. Southern Nevada
 3B Bruce Jellison So. Wabash Valley
 SS Gehrig Goldbeck So. Kansas City
 OF Robby Bolin So. Barton
 OF Maddox Mueller So. Andrew
 OF Luke Boone Fr. South Georgia
 P Grayson Murry So. Tyler

Gold Glove - NCAA Division 3

C Chris Reeder Gr. TCNJ
 1B Noah Leib Sr. Denison
 2B Ryan Doubek Gr. Benedictine
 3B James Murphy Sr. St. John Fisher
 SS Grayson Bush Sr. Randolph-Macon
 OF Luke Tanner Gr. Babson

Gold Glove - Junior College Division 2

C Andrew Lee So. LSU Eunice
 1B Jack Kerno Fr. Elgin

2B Truman Bodenhausen Fr. N. Central Miss.
 3B Jake Alwine So. Piedmont
 SS Dawson Willis So. LSU Eunice
 OF Cole Smith So. Southeastern
 OF Cade Greer So. NW Mississippi
 OF Shawn Cameron So. Brunswick
 P Blake Lobell So. LSU Eunice

Gold Glove - Junior College Division 3

C Filip Milatovic So. DuPage
 1B Jake DePalma So. Onondaga
 2B Alex Gaudet So. Cayuga
 3B Kevin Dolan Fr. Cayuga
 SS Chris Bear So. Northern Essex
 OF Bryant Quezada So. Monroe-Bronx
 OF Layton Rivas So. Minn. N.-Itasca
 OF Luke Schwartz So. Camp
 P Andrew Damiani So. SUNY Niagara

Gold Glove - Pacific Junior Colleges

C Makana Olaso So. Palomar
 1B Drew Reynolds So. Lassen
 2B Daniel Behrmann Fr. Chabot
 3B Evan McGuire Fr. Clark
 SS James Bose So. West Valley
 OF Paul Contreras Fr. Modesto
 OF Jacob Schlesselman So. Gavilan
 OF Raine Yoshida So. SW Oregon
 P Andrew Moberly Fr. Pierce

JC Division 1 - First Team

C Elliott Peterson So. Southeast
 IF Victor Figueroa So. Florida SW
 IF Barrett Eldridge So. GA Highlands
 IF Dagen Brewer So. Johnson County
 IF Caden Powell So. Seminole State
 OF Ryan Wideman So. GA Highlands
 OF Jaden Anderson So. Southern Union
 OF Richard Bonomolo So. Wabash Valley
 DH Kyle Hvidsten So. Iowa Western
 P Brandon Stone Fr. Johnson County
 P Robert Fortenberry So. Weatherford
 P Brian Panneton So. Wharton County

JUNIOR COLLEGE ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

P J.T. Drake So. Pima
 P Luke Meyers So. Central Arizona
 P Gavin Micklinghoff So. McHenry

JC Division 2 - First Team

C Blaise Priestster So. Meridian
 IF Colby Thorndyke Fr. Brunswick
 IF Aaron Piasecki So. Kellogg
 IF Landen Johnson So. N. Okla.-Tonkawa
 IF Hollis Porter Fr. Pearl River
 OF Easton Bryant So. Chandler-Gilbert
 OF Kyle Koehler So. Cuyahoga
 OF Harrison Bowman Fr. Iowa Central
 DH Chris Arroyo So. Pasco-Hernando
 P Cesar Morales So. Frederick
 P Blake Lobell So. LSU Eunice
 P Michael Carpenter So. Madison

JC Division 2 - Second Team

C Grant Pohlman So. Lincoln Land
 IF Cooper Nicholson Fr. Iowa Central
 IF Brady Thomas So. Jones
 IF Coleman Parry Fr. Miles
 IF Miguel Cantu So. Morton
 OF TJ Williams So. Heartland
 OF Julio Guerrero Fr. N. Central Miss.
 OF Bryce Fowler So. Pearl River
 DH Thomas Marsala So. Hinds
 P Michael Savarese Fr. Pasco-Hernando
 P Griffin Smith So. Rock Valley
 P Reign Jordan So. Wallace-Dothan

JC Division 2 - Third Team

C Blade Carver Fr. N. Okla.-Tonkawa
 IF Dawson Willis So. LSU Eunice
 IF Jackson Lindquist So. Rock Valley
 IF Andrew Holub So. Wake Tech

IF Tommy Poggi So. Westchester
 OF Mo Little So. East Central
 OF Corey Boyette So. Heartland
 OF Derek Cerda So. Western Okla.
 DH Jake Radosevich So. Lewis & Clark
 P Chance Key So. Des Moines
 P Luke Cooley So. East Central
 P Porter Conn So. Lincoln Land

JC Division 3 - First Team

C Matthew Connolly Fr. Surry
 IF Rocko Brzezniak So. Brookdale
 IF Chris Bear So. Northern Essex
 IF Caden Dulin So. RCSJ Gloucester
 IF Andrew Stillinger So. SUNY Niagara
 OF Nick Hockemeyer Fr. Dallas-Richland
 OF Nick LoVarco So. Brookdale
 OF Max D'Alessandro So. RCSJ Gloucester
 DH Trey Smith Fr. Dallas-Richland
 P Jack Turner So. Suffolk County
 P Jayden Voelker So. Northern Essex
 P Austin Beard So. Northampton

JC Division 3 - Second Team

C Filip Milatovic So. DuPage
 IF Dominic LaFroschia So. Suffolk County
 IF Sam Holthaus So. St. Cloud Tech
 IF Payton Poole So. Dallas-Eastfield
 IF Andrew Arditto So. Kingsborough
 OF Gavyn Boyle Fr. SUNY Niagara
 OF Levi Lampert So. Alexandria Tech
 OF Max Lalime So. Northern Essex
 DH Dioscar Cuello So. Suffolk County
 P Marcus Peters So. Dallas-Eastfield
 P Andrew Johnson So. SUNY Niagara
 P Jake Burt Fr. Brookdale

2024 ABCA/Rawlings National Players of the Year

POSITION PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Organization	Name	School	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	OB% SB
NCAA Div. I	Jac Caglianone	Florida	.419	248	83	104	8	0	35	72	58	26	.544 4
NCAA Div. II	Hayden Jatczak	Saginaw Valley State	.468	231	90	108	27	4	16	82	43	26	.551 8
NCAA Div. III	Connor Maryniak	Misericordia	.345	206	52	71	10	5	13	70	24	30	.419 17
NAIA	Blaze O'Saben	Georgia Gwinnett	.443	246	116	109	18	13	14	83	37	33	.533 50
NJCAA Div. I	Caden Powell	Seminole State	.502	217	83	109	17	7	32	104	29	28	.561 16
NJCAA Div. II	Colby Thorndyke	Brunswick	.420	201	77	86	21	1	15	73	35	21	.532 21
NJCAA Div. III	Rocko Brzezniak	Brookdale	.568	199	89	113	23	6	12	82	27	15	.636 39
Pacific-JC	Max Debiec	Folsom Lake	.449	187	48	84	17	4	12	77	16	22	.500 2

PITCHERS OF THE YEAR

Organization	Name	School	ERA	W-L	IP	H	ER	BB	SO
NCAA Div. I	Hagen Smith	Arkansas	2.04	9-2	84.0	41	19	34	161
NCAA Div. II	Jac Caglianone	Florida	4.76	5-2	73.2	62	39	50	83
NCAA Div. III	Skylar Gonzalez	Tampa	2.46	16-0	102.1	87	28	23	67
NCAA Div. III	Hayden Jatczak	Saginaw Valley State	3.54	6-0	56.0	43	22	37	50
NCAA Div. III	Sayers Collins	East Texas Baptist	1.23	12-1	88.0	50	12	26	92
NCAA Div. III	Connor Maryniak	Misericordia	2.44	11-3	84.2	84	23	19	76
NAIA	Darien Smith	Southeastern	1.87	12-0	96.1	60	20	21	130
NJCAA Div. I	Robert Fortenberry	Weatherford	2.19	13-0	74.0	56	18	30	75
NJCAA Div. II	Blake Lobell	LSU Eunice	2.04	14-0	101.2	85	22	21	73
NJCAA Div. III	Jayden Voelker	Northern Essex	1.48	8-2	61.0	28	10	34	126
Pacific-JC	Ethan Kleinschmit	Linn-Benton	1.03	6-1	78.1	39	9	16	120

Is the Routine Play Routine?

A look at how to coach defenders

By MARK WOODWORTH
EDITOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

In the baseball world, grounders to third, short and second base are called routine plays. Announcers say it, coaches say it, parents say it. They look pretty simple, don't they? A ball is hit at average speed, the fielder is only 90-110 feet from the batter. The throw across is anywhere from 50 to 130 feet away. These should be outs!

The irony though is that these are the exact opposite of routine plays. These are the hardest plays in baseball. We ascribe the term hard plays to divers and long sprints – certainly these are hard plays too, but in the documentation of baseball, these are not considered errors. The official definition of an error is a play that should be made with ordinary effort. Diving plays and balls on the run are inherently extraordinary effort, thus, while exciting and nice, they are not errors.

Ordinary plays are where all the errors are. These are the plays that define teams – “make the plays you're supposed to make.” And so, the player feels the pressure the most on these – despite them being the most difficult. The pressure a player feels on these plays certainly inhibits performance. Additionally, players (and coaches) don't practice these “hard plays” enough to be commensurate with the need to work on them.

Think about it: For a grounder, the fielder has to read the speed, read the hop, charge and break-down correctly, catch the ball while moving towards first, shuffle and make a balanced throw of 50-130 feet to a target about 7 feet by 7 – and do it quickly to beat a runner. Oh, and the first baseman has to catch the ball with his foot on the bag, and sometimes off-line or in the dirt. This is hard.

Other hard plays consist of picking balls in the dirt at all kinds of bases, fielding bunts in thick grass while contorting your body to make a good throw, as well as plays that factor in the wind, the sun, the dust, the spin of balls. These are hard (see the graph above).

EASY PLAYS			
Throws	Grounders	Fly Balls	Catches
1B flips to P	To 1B	IB/IF Popups	Catchers K Receiving
2B throws	To IF - 1 hop	OF Fly Balls	On-Target catches
SS flips to 2B	To OF		Flips
OF throws			Line Drives
P throws			

HARD PLAYS			
Throws	Grounders	Fly Balls	Catches
C to bases	To 2B	C Popups	Bad Throws
1B to bases	To SS	Foul Popups	Picks
SS to first	To 3B	Semi-Divers	
3B to first	Bunts	Wind/Sun	
3B to second		On the Run	

In a study of 1,851 defensive plays, here are most of the situations broken down into easy vs. hard plays.

Good defensive teams look to the statistic of fielding percentage to define their defense. Certainly this is a limiting stat, as it doesn't factor in range factor and probability of making plays. However, this is still a useful stat to help your team improve their fielding.

In looking at the percentages of easy plays vs. hard plays, we learn that even the worst team will probably make 77% of the plays with minimal effort for a .770 fielding percentage. These plays are easy and made all the time. Hard plays consist of the other 23% of the plays. An excellent

The irony though is that these are the exact opposite of routine plays. These are the hardest plays in baseball.

college defense will field at .970, while .960 is good. We can say a .940 defense or lower is bad. Thus, a .970 fielding team makes 100% of the easy plays (77-for-77 on

easy plays), and 87% of hard plays (20-out-of-23). A .960 team makes 83% of the hard plays (19-out-of-23). A bad defense makes 74% of hard plays (16-out-of-23).

Thus, if you really look at only the hard plays, great defenses make about 9-out-of-10 of the hard plays (app. 90%), good defenses make 8-out-of-10 (app. 80%), while bad defenses make about 7-out-of-10 plays (app. 70%). They all make 77% of the plays, but what are they doing on the “hard plays”? And thus, the difference between bad and great defensive teams are these hard plays, which ironically we call “routine plays.”

Percentages of Plays by Position

All Plays	C	1B	IF	OF	P	All
Catches	95%	62%	11%	4%	17%	25%
Grounders	0%	26%	42%	38%	39%	33%
Popups/Flies	2%	4%	7%	19%	5%	88%
Throws	3%	8%	40%	39%	39%	11%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Here are the percentages of plays that each position has to make. For example, 62% of plays a first basemen makes are catches, 26% are grounders, 4% are popups, and 8% are throws.

So what can we learn from this?

Plays, like routine grounders, bunts, and throws in the dirt, are actually very hard, and the difference between good and bad defensive teams. The margins are small, but they make all the difference. It's not the highlight-reel plays, but the ordinary plays. The time spent in practice and philosophically should reflect the quantity of occurrence in games, and in turn, can help players cultivate the skills of being truly great at A) catching grounders, B) throws, and C) throwing to a target. That's it. This simplifies the focus of what to work on, and hopefully can improve defensive play.

Percentages of Plays made by Type - Easy vs. Hard

Easy Plays	C	1B	2B/SS/3B	OF	P	All
Catches	100%	90%	90%	90%	90%	94%
Grounders	0%	74%	9%	97%	25%	63%
Popups/Flies	0%	81%	88%	88%	100%	88%
Throws	25%	70%	35%	100%	76%	73%
	60%	84%	34%	96%	69%	77%

Hard Plays	C	1B	2B/SS/3B	OF	P	All
Catches	0%	10%	10%	10%	10%	6%
Grounders	0%	26%	91%	3%	75%	37%
Popups/Flies	100%	19%	12%	12%	0%	12%
Throws	75%	30%	65%	0%	24%	27%
	40%	16%	66%	4%	40%	23%

Where all the hard plays?

This chart shows percentage of plays made by type. For example, only 9% of all grounders are easy plays by infielders, 100% by outfielders. Thus, infielders need to practice grounders way more than outfielders (why do outfielders get the same amount of grounders in infield/outfield as infielders??).

You can also see the most demanding positions: Infielders have the most hard plays (66%), followed by catchers (40%), then first baseman (16%), then outfielders (4%).

THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN PITCHING PROJECT



A Non-Partisan Resource on Pitching

THE INTENT OF THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN PITCHING PROJECT is to inform coaches and players and parents of some of the many theories on being a successful pitcher.

Most every concept has advocates with very strong opinions on either side of the argument. Too often, a theory is chosen based on popularity, conventional wisdom, or because someone famous does it that way, as opposed to one's own analysis. With so many contradicting theories, it is essential to have an understanding of all of the possible options, before deciding which one to commit to.

These pitching theories are presented without judgment, without confirmation bias, with no preconceptions, and without dogma or commercialism. In turn, the strong hope is that people are inspired to do the work to make up their own mind based on as much information as possible – and in turn, do what makes most sense to them.

This week, the discussion turns to arm injuries.

HEALTH

Q. Why are there more injuries than ever?

General Belief:

• High pitch counts

Dr. James Andrews — “Pitching too much in one game, one week or one season is a very high risk factor,” he said. “The problem is the injuries don’t always show up when they pitch too many pitches at age 15. When you see a pitcher at age 22 start developing a problem, you go look at their history and most times you find out they threw too much as a teen.” (espn.com)

Other Philosophies:

• Long Toss

Dr. Glenn Fleisig — “While long-toss thrown on a line seems biomechanically sound for rehabilitation and training, the use of long-toss throws for maximum distance may be more harmful than beneficial. This advice against maximum-distance throwing is based upon the high magnitudes of elbow varus torque, shoulder internal rotation torque, and upper trunk tilt, and low magnitude of forward trunk tilt.” (jospt.org)

• Ligaments & Tendons

Dr. James Andrews — “Ligaments and tendons can’t withstand the high forces caused by the strength gains of modern athletes throwing max effort with high velocity.” (andrewssportsmedicine.com)

• Arm Fitness

Kyle Boddy — “Training to throw harder with no regard for arm fitness is a great way to increase your injury risk. You are layering stress on top of dysfunction.” (drivelinebaseball.com)

THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN



PITCHING PROJECT

• Innings

Ron Wolforth — “The key thing to remember, in our opinion, is that pitches-per-inning is more important than total pitches. We like to see pitchers average 15-18 pitches per inning.” (texasbaseballranch.com)

• Training

Alan Jaeger — “The pitch count became necessary to compensate for the lack of training,” Jaeger says. “Once the 120 program came into being, guys were undertrained and the pitch count became a necessary evil.” (espn.com)

• Low Pitch Counts

Nolan Ryan — “I’m not a doctor and I’m not a scientist. All I am is a guy who threw over 5,000 innings,” he said. “I know what pitchers go through and I know what it takes to do that and I really believe we don’t condition our pitchers for what they are asked to do. And because of that, I think we increase our chances of injury on them.

“I believe when an organization puts those kind of random restrictions on their pitching staff, they don’t take advantage and utilize the talent that they have. I think everybody has a pitch limit, but I think also you can tell when a guy’s reached his pitch limit by watching him. That’s what pitching coaches used to do. Now they look at the number of pitches and at around 100, they get somebody up and that pitcher comes out of the game no matter whether he’s having an exceptionally good game or if he struggled. Obviously, they put pitch limits to try to protect people, but I think it’s worked just the opposite.” (newsday.com)

• Overuse

American Sports Medicine Institute — “With the rise in elbow and shoulder injuries in adolescent baseball pitchers, the adult community needs to take steps to prevent these injuries. Research points to overuse as the principle risk factor. Poor pitching mechanics also contribute to injury risk. Another suggested risk factor is poor physical fitness.” (asmi.org)

• Radar Gun

Dr. James Andrews — “I think they should outlaw the radar gun,” he said. “Young pitchers, coaches, scouts and parents put so much emphasis now on throwing hard that these kids are hurting their elbows and their shoulders because they’re trying to throw 90 mph.” (espn.com)

• Year-Round Baseball

Dr. James Andrews — “Young pitchers now are throwing hard all year and that is not a good thing,” he said. “There is no rest period. Baseball is a development sport and the ligaments in the elbow need rest to develop.” (espn.com)

• Showcases

Dr. James Andrews — “A lot of the times they go to these events not in shape or tired because they maybe pitched the night before,” he said. “They throw them off the mound as hard as they can and damage their arm by doing so.” (espn.com)

• Youth Baseball

JJ Conrad — “Youth and travel baseball is where it’s needed. You see more injuries with kids between the ages 13-18, but it’s not coming from high school baseball. Kids are being abused at younger ages and most travel coaches are only concerned with winning games. By the time they get to high school, a lot of them already probably have micro-tears and other issues.” (northjersey.com)



• **Weighted Baseballs**

Mike Reinold — “Scientifically, this gain in external rotation is not from a muscle stretching or the bone adapting. It wouldn’t happen that fast. What is likely happening is that the static stabilizers that are supposed to prevent excessive external rotation are being damaged. This could be the capsule, labrum, or even rotator cuff. These are not injuries that you want. Plus, as layback increases, so does stress on the Tommy John ligament.

This is why many people do not get hurt during a weighted ball program, but end up getting hurt down the road. They’ve pushed past their normal anatomy to increase pitching velocity.

So weighted ball programs have two potential concerns:

1. Overweight balls may be causing damage to the tissue of the shoulder to allow more layback. This gain in layback may also increase the strain on the Tommy John ligament.
2. Underweight balls increase the amount of peak strain on the arm.

We still don’t know how safe these programs are and, more importantly, what the effective “dose” should be to increase pitching velocity. What I mean by this is, how heavy, how light, how many throws, how often per week, and how much during the year among other questions. Selecting the right dose is important, and it should start with the minimum viable dose to achieve a training effect.

Let me be clear and get this out of the way. I am a believer of performing weighted baseball and long toss programs. I incorporate them into my programs and think you should too. (No one will remember those last two sentences, by the way). It’s not the program that is the problem, it’s how these programs are being implemented. It all comes down to ‘dosage.’” (mikereinold.com)

• **Specialization**

Eric Cressey — “Not surprisingly, the rise in specialization (as evidenced by the growth in popularity of fall ball teams, showcases, and opportunities to play for multiple teams during the ‘normal’ baseball season) has paralleled the rise in velocity and injuries.” (ericcressey.com)

• **Getting Injured previously**

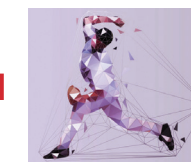
Russell Carleton — “...previous DL trip makes a pitcher about eight times more likely to land on the DL this season. But even at that, the rate at which previous disabled list visitors go back on is lower than 50 percent. A pitcher with an injury history is not a certainty to get injured, just a much higher risk.

The take-home message is one that is probably not very shocking to anyone. An injured body part is more likely to get hurt again. A pitcher who has thrown a lot of pitches is more likely to have a lot of wear and tear on that arm. It’s not rocket science, although I do wonder if people understand the magnitude of the effect size.

According to the Verducci Effect, teams needed only to avoid extending their young pitchers to maximize their odds of staying healthy. My model doesn’t offer as much comfort. Once a pitcher is damaged, he’s damaged goods. And it’s not like you can tell a pitcher not to throw another pitch; that’s what pitchers do. And sometimes they get hurt. That’s life.” (baseballprospectus.com)

• **Mechanics**

Don Cooper — “There is no doubt in my mind that the majority of arm injuries, shoulder injuries, come from having poor mechanics.” (dailyherald.com)



• **Biomechanical Efficiency**

Tom House — “Biomechanical efficiency is a function of three things (in order of importance): timing, kinematic sequencing, and the mechanical variables pitching coaches have been trying to teach for a hundred years. He continues, “I think most of the issues that take place with mechanics are because they are not timed properly.” (sportingnews.com)

• **Elbow above the Shoulder line/Inverted W**

Chris O’Leary — “In the Inverted W the pitcher..

1. Lifts their elbows to the point where they are at, or even above, the level of their shoulders.
2. While, and more importantly, their forearms are flat or, worse yet, pointing downwards.
3. Into, or in the worst case at, Foot Plant and/or the start of shoulder rotation.

The Inverted W isn’t (necessarily) a problem in and of itself. Rather, the Inverted W contributes to injuries in pitchers by creating a timing problem, and timing problems are what tend to hurt pitchers’ arms.

The Inverted W increases the likelihood that a pitcher’s arm will not be in the proper position when their front foot plants and their shoulders start to rotate. That will increase the load on the elbow and the shoulder, providing a short-term velocity boost but, in the long run, significantly increasing the risk of injury to the pitching arm.” (chrisoleary.com)

• **Inverted W/Arm Action**

Brad Mills — “Elbow lifting, along with poor lower and upper body timing, causes the elbow to lift up above the throwing shoulder. Then upon landing with the elbow above the shoulder, the elbow must quickly snap into a position to begin arm acceleration. This is very, very stressful and is the cause of many elbow and shoulder injuries in pitchers.

One of the reasons that some pitchers are being taught to ‘elbow lift’ is because of what has been referred to as ‘scapula loading’ which is emphasizing the pinching of the shoulder blades as a way to improve velocity. This is wrong and will only produce more arm injuries.” (pitching.com)

• **Excessive Horizontal Adduction**

Brent Pourciau — “Casting the arm or throwing with poor hip to shoulder separation puts the elbow out in front of the face during external rotation which puts a significant amount of stress on the elbow. This along with increased speeds of horizontal abduction to adduction is the number one cause of UCL tears.

Fleisig (1994) found the maximum horizontal adduction range displayed to be proportional to the maximum elbow medial force during arm cocking phase at a rate of 2.4 N/°. Since the total amount of elbow medial force during the arm cocking phase was 270N in Fleisig’s study, an increase of 7° horizontal adduction would be associated with an 18N or 7% increase in this force.” (topvelocity.net)

• **Not Striding Straight**

Guy Hansen — “Once a pitcher lands two shoe-sizes width closed, he is dealing in the ‘red zone,’ where I think lousy, harmful stuff happens. It takes additional torque to work across the body and get the same finish on your pitches, especially on breaking balls for three-quarter delivery pitchers – which most pitchers are. These pitchers just don’t have the built-in angle of “correct side” pitchers who throw in a direct line home. I haven’t seen the injuries attributed to this, but I’m convinced it plays an impact. There is just no question this leads to pitchers throwing all arm with a misdirected stride. That’s a recipe for trouble.” (A Baseball Guy)

PLAY THE BEST GAME OF YOUR LIFE

By Dr. John J. Carroll, PsyD
Author of the book, *How to Play the Best Game of Your Life*

Sports Psychologist Josh Carroll was a baseball/football standout at Amherst College and graduated as the career leader in home runs. Here is an excerpt from his book, *How to Play the Best Game of Your Life*.

There was an interview with the great baseball player Manny Ramirez in 2007. It was done by the *Boston Globe* during spring training, and they were asking Ramirez what his goals were for the upcoming season. His response was fascinating, and at first glance, mystifying. He stated, "I'd like to hit .280, 25 home runs and knock in 80 RBIs." .280? What? 25 home runs? What? 80 RBIs? What? I said to myself, Manny, you just hit .340 with 50 home runs and 140 RBIs last season. What are you talking about? Are you thinking of retiring? Are you injured? Is there something wrong?

At the time I was baffled. I couldn't understand why one of the best hitters in the game was setting goals LOWER than the accomplishments he had achieved the previous year. Not only lower, they sounded like numbers for an above average player, nothing like the numbers for one of the best hitters in the game. Little did I realize that Manny Ramirez was actually onto something, an idea that has been proven through research. Whether Ramirez did this intuitively or not, I don't know. But he hit on a concept and an approach to goal setting that is smart and effective.

Supportive Floors or High Ceilings?

Ramirez was setting supportive floors for himself with the goals that he set in 2007. The goals that he noted that day to the *Boston Globe* were not a cry for mediocrity, or him losing confidence. They were actually a superior way to set himself up for success.

Supportive floors are goals that are achievable, moderate, and realistic, ones where the intention is to hopefully reach them and then go beyond it. This is opposed to high ceiling goals, which set the bar high, are very challenging, and intentionally put more stress on the athlete.

Research reveals that setting supportive floors reduces anxiety, gives us more mental flexibility, and helps us make more reflective adjustments in season. This is another Sports Psychology Paradox—by setting

The goals that he noted that day to the *Boston Globe* were not a cry for mediocrity, or him losing confidence. They were actually a superior way to set himself up for success.

moderate goals, with less expectation than the year before, Ramirez was able to perform better. He proceeded to have one of the greatest years ever as a hitter, and that's hard for anyone, even Manny Ramirez to achieve. If Ramirez had tried to go beyond what he had done previously during the entire year, he would have been pressing from Day One, and this style of goal setting simply is not what worked for him. If he had higher expectations for the coming year, this athlete would have given himself no mental "wiggle room" if he were to fall



into a batting slump. He would be constantly critical of himself if he were not where he "thought" he should be with "lofty" goals, and he would press more than he already was. Instead, with these goals, if he's in a slump,

Ramirez has given himself some room—in his mind—to make an adjustment and get back on track, versus being critical of himself because he's not.

Bear in mind that this does not mean that Ramirez does not have lofty aspirations, but the framework that he uses to get there is different. At some point during the season, Ramirez surpassed the goals he set for himself—thus giving himself positive reinforcement, good feelings about himself, and the achievement of hitting a goal. Then he kept on going towards greater goals.

Ramirez already hit his goals two-thirds of the way through the season. After that, everything he is achieving will feel better and better, as mental "icing on the cake." The alternative would be a constant sense of chasing—nothing within grasp—and possibly a sense of frustration, which is not conducive for success. One could say that Ramirez is simply using "mind games," or a psychological "trick" to get himself where he wants to go. Again, it's just a different framework or strategy. The reality is that it's wise to use whatever works best for you.

High Ceilings—Kobe Bryant

As previously discussed, an alternative approach to setting supportive floor, or goals, for oneself is the concept of "high ceilings." Kobe Bryant was well-known for adopting this mentality, constantly pushing himself and his teammates to exceed expectations and strive for greater success. For example, one of Kobe's career goals was to exceed Michael Jordan's number of championships. This is an extremely lofty and demanding goal, that not many elite players would place on themselves.

The difference between Kobe's personality and Ramirez's is that Kobe thrived on high ceiling goals—giving himself challenges and demanding expectations. Just as Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman had different personalities and needed to be coached differently, Manny Ramirez and Kobe Bryant have different personalities and set goals differently for themselves. Kobe loved it when people doubted him; he loved enormous challenges that seemed impossible. Moreover, Kobe set a career goal, and Ramirez was setting season-long goals. Kobe, of course, had season-long goals too, but his perpetual desire for greatness was nearly unmatched.

Which Style Works for You?

Kobe had the personality, confidence, and mentality to handle the stress and demands of high ceilings, but this type of goal setting does not work for everyone. As seen above, Manny Ramirez and Kobe Bryant set goals for themselves in different ways. Setting high ceilings for yourself requires a degree of self-confidence, as well as a willingness to deal with not meeting goals, frustration, and expectations that may not be met.

What type of personality do you have?

Kobe loved it when people doubted him; he loved enormous challenges that seemed impossible.

Do you respond to challenging yourself with demanding goals? Can you handle the frustration of not meeting them? Or do you prefer to have more flexibility and give yourself more space to get where you want to go?

It needs to be noted that both players went on to produce Hall of Fame numbers with two very different goal setting systems and personalities—different paths to get to the same destination. You need to find out what works for you. They also had very different leadership styles and could rub

teammates the wrong way. Ramirez could be aloof; Kobe could be too demanding and egocentric. They both had their own way of doing things and didn't yield to others.

Bouncing Back

Failure and not living up to expectations is simply part of the game—how you respond and how quickly you respond are an unseen part of success. Bouncing back, or resilience, is an indispensable ingredient to you getting better. Learning from a mistake or failure should not have to be negative. Remember that staying positive is a choice, and thus position yourself, mentally and physically, on the field and off the field to do whatever gets you to your goals as fast as possible.

Supportive Floors & High Ceilings

It is also very reasonable to set both supportive floors and high ceilings. You could set supportive floors along with some "stretch goals." Play around with this and see what works for you. This is a fun element in the art of sport, learning to utilize the mental aspect of it to your advantage.

GOAL QUESTIONS FOR EACH PRACTICE AND TRAINING SESSION

1. What are the things I can focus on that will improve my game every day?
2. If winning or losing were not an issue, what would my primary goal be?
3. What type of relationship do I want to have with my coach? Teammates?

Keys to the Game

1. Utilize Supportive Floors and High Ceilings. See what works best for you.
2. Work with the SMART Technique. Be Specific and have end times for goals.
3. Use Process Goals and Outcome Goals. Goals involve markers and outcomes. Utilize both.
4. Do the easy things first to get into a rhythm. This is how you gain momentum.

ABCA National Polls - 2024 Final

Division I
(presented by USA Today)
Final Poll (6/25/24)

1	Tennessee	60-13
2	Texas A&M	53-15
3	Kentucky	46-16
4	Florida State	49-17
5	North Carolina	48-16
6	Florida	36-30
7	Virginia	46-17
8	North Carolina State	38-23
9	Clemson	44-16
10	Georgia	43-17
11	Oregon State	45-16
12	Arkansas	44-16
13	Oregon	40-20
14	Oklahoma State	42-19
15	Oklahoma	40-21
16	East Carolina	46-17
17	West Virginia	36-24
18	Duke	40-20
19	Connecticut	35-26
20	Mississippi State	40-23
21	Kansas State	35-26
22	UC Santa Barbara	44-14
23	Evansville	39-26
24	LSU	43-23
25	UC Irvine	45-14

Schools Dropped Out
No. 17 Wake Forest; No. 20 Arizona; No. 21 Indiana State; No. 22 Dallas Baptist; No. 23 Louisiana; No. 24 Southern Miss; No. 25 Nebraska

Others Receiving Votes
Wake Forest 95; Arizona 81; Indiana State 64; Louisiana 35; Dallas Baptist 32; Southern Miss 26; Vanderbilt 24; Coastal Carolina 10; Alabama 7; San Diego 5; South Carolina 4; UNCW 2; Texas 2; UCF 1; Nebraska 1

Division II
(presented by Netting Professionals)
Final Poll (6/10/24)

1	Tampa	52-8
2	Angelo State	44-21
3	Catawba	46-17
4	Indiana (PA)	41-18
5	Point Loma	46-13-1
6	Central Missouri	52-10
7	Lubbock Christian	45-16
8	North Greenville	41-14
9	Missouri Southern	44-15
10	Southern NH	37-19
11	Embry-Riddle	35-22
12	Indianapolis	41-21
13	Cal State Monterey Bay	39-21
14	Augustana	47-10
15	West Chester	43-9
16	Saginaw Valley	41-18
17	Molloy	42-14
18	Lee	39-18
19	St. Leo	38-13
20	Georgia College	37-22
21	Mount Olive	40-18
22	Arkansas-Monticello	35-24
23	Colorado Mesa	38-18
24	West Texas A&M	37-19
25	UNC Pembroke	43-14
26	Young Harris	41-15
27	Arkansas Tech	38-20
28	Seton Hill	41-17
29	Northwest Nazarene	36-15-1
30	East Stroudsburg	43-14
30	Maryville	40-19
30	Ashland	42-15

Receiving Votes: Charleston (WV) (44-10), Millersville (38-16), Minnesota State (37-20), Wingate (34-25), UT Permian Basin (35-25), Regis (32-24-1), Harding (37-19), San Francisco State (34-24), Cal Poly Pomona (32-24), West Florida (36-24), Jefferson (33-17).

Division III
(presented by Netting Professionals)
Final Poll (6/10/24)

1	Misericordia (Pa)	44-11
2	Wis.-Whitewater	45-12
3	Endicott (Mass.)	47-4
4	Salve Regina (R.I.)	40-10
5	Pomona-Pitzer (Calif.)	37-14
6	Lynchburg (Va.)	37-17
7	Denison (Ohio)	42-8
8	East Texas Baptist	39-10
9	Birmingham-Southern	33-16
10	Johns Hopkins (Md.)	35-11
11	Randolph-Macon (Va.)	33-16
12	Wis-La Crosse	36-16
13	Salisbury (Md.)	32-12
14	Baldwin Wallace (Ohio)	33-11
15	Christopher Newport	29-12
16	Case Western (Ohio)	33-11
17	Trinity (Texas)	32-15
18	La Verne (Calif.)	30-16-1
19	NC Wesleyan	36-13
20	Penn State Harrisburg	35-11
21	Adrian (Mich.)	33-16
22	Claremont (Calif.)	32-15
23	Aurora (Ill.)	34-11
24	Cortland (N.Y.)	31-14-1
25	Benedictine (Ill.)	33-14
26	Transylvania (Ky.)	34-14
27	Centre (Ky.)	36-13
28	Arcadia (Pa.)	33-14
29	Mitchell (Conn.)	34-13
30	Messiah (Pa.)	35-11

Receiving Votes: Spalding (Ky.) 33, Rowan (N.J.) 27, Babson (Mass.) 26, Eastern Connecticut State 23, Cal, Lutheran 21, Elizabethtown (Pa.) 20, Ithaca (N.Y.) 18, Willamette (Ore.) 17, Catholic (D.C.) 15, Middlebury (Vt.) 14, New Paltz (N.Y.) 7, Washington & Jefferson (Pa.) 6, Montclair (N.J.) State 5, Buena Vista (Iowa) 4, Coe (Iowa) 4, Marymount (Va.) 3, Concordia (Texas) 1, Maryville (Tenn.) 1, North Park (Ill.) 1.

NAIA
Final Poll (5/8/24)

1	Southeastern (Fla.)	48-6
2	Georgia Gwinnett	47-6
3	Cumberlands (Ky.)	48-6
4	LSU Shreveport (La.)	42-8
5	Lewis-Clark State (Idaho)	36-10
6	Webber (Fla.)	42-12
7	Missouri Baptist	39-10-1
8	Central Methodist (Mo.)	43-7
9	Reinhardt (Ga.)	38-16
10	Hope Intern. (Calif.)	37-14
11	Mid-America Christian	38-11
12	Jessup (Calif.)	39-9
13	Tennessee Wesleyan	37-16
14	Bellevue (Neb.)	38-12
15	William Carey (Miss.)	34-14
15	Faulkner (Ala.)	35-15
17	Taylor (Ind.)	40-14
18	Concordia (Neb.)	40-13
19	Doane (Neb.)	38-12
20	Kansas Wesleyan	45-10
21	Oklahoma City	35-15
22	Loyola (La.)	36-17
23	MidAmerica Nazarene	34-17
24	Columbia (Mo.)	37-14
25	Point Park (Pa.)	41-13

Receiving Votes: Tabor (Kan.) 79; Oklahoma Wesleyan 74; Keiser (Fla.) 65; Arizona Christian 51; British Columbia 42; Science & Arts (Okla.) 30; OUAZ (Ariz.) 12; Northwestern Ohio 12; Point (Ga.) 10; Milligan (Tenn.) 10; Oregon Tech 8; Georgetown (Ky.) 7; Indiana SE (Ind.) 4; Indiana Wesleyan 3; Benedictine Mesa (Ariz.) 3

Northwest Community College
NWAC
Final Poll (5/14/24)

1	Linn-Benton	
2	Tacoma	
3	Everett	
4	Lower Columbia	
5	Spokane	
6	Umpqua	
7	Edmonds	
8	Columbia Basin	
9	Blue Mountain	
10	Wenatchee Valley	

Junior College
NJCAA Div. 1
Final Poll (5/13/24)

1	Johnson County CC	48-10
2	Georgia Highlands	51-7
3	Iowa Western CC	50-7
4	Northwest Florida State	36-13
5	Weatherford College	45-13
6	Florence-Darlington Tech	51-10
7	Crowder College	47-13
8	Blinn College	40-15
9	C. of Southern Nevada	48-10
10	Hutchinson CC	46-11
11	Gaston College	51-8
12	Shelton State CC	42-17
13	Pima CC	45-16
14	Navarro College	34-18
15	Kansas City Kansas CC	46-10
16	Indian River State	40-14
17	McLennan CC	41-17
18	Central Arizona College	45-14
19	Cowley County CC	41-16
20	Walters State CC	44-14

California Community College
CCCCAA
Final Poll
North

1	Feather River	35-10
2	Santa Rosa	31-15
3	Fresno City College	31-12
4	West Valley	38-14
5	Butte	30-14
6	San Joaquin Delta	36-15
7	Lassen	26-15
8	Chabot	34-13
9	Skyline	30-14
10	Modesto	27-14

South

1	Golden West	31-14
2	Cerritos	38-10
3	Santa Ana	35-15-1
4	Palomar	36-11
5	LA Valley	37-8
6	Saddleback	34-17
7	Mt. San Antonio	30-15
8	Cuesta	32-13
9	Long Beach	30-15
10	Fullerton	25-19

Junior College
NJCAA Div. 2
Final Poll (5/13/24)

1	East Central CC	50-5
2	Pearl River CC	47-8
3	LSU Eunice	48-7
4	Brunswick CC	47-8
5	Heartland CC	39-15
6	Frederick CC	49-6
7	Wallace CC-Dothan	44-8
8	Jones College	39-14
9	Southeastern CC	43-17
10	St. Johns River State	38-23
11	Kirkwood CC	43-15
12	Madison College	34-11
13	Iowa Central CC	46-13
14	Parkland College	40-13
15	Kellogg CC	40-10
16	Black Hawk College	45-12
17	Meridian CC	35-17
18	Grand Rapids CC	35-10
19	Rock Valley College	41-13
20	Northern Oklahoma	42-18

Junior College
NJCAA Div. 3
Final Poll (5/13/24)

1	Rowan - Gloucester	43-7
2	Dallas College Eastfield	44-11
3	Northampton CC	42-8
4	Brookdale CC	43-7-1
5	Niagara County CC	47-9
6	Dallas College Richland	37-18
7	Camp CC	32-18
8	Herkimer College	24-7
9	Surry CC	38-10
10	St. Cloud Technical CC	29-11
11	Northern Essex CC	25-13
12	Erie CC	39-15
13	College of DuPage	29-16
14	Kingsborough CC	20-20
15	Rochester Community	29-15

THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

Win Your Day! by Steve Gilbert

We must be very intentional in how we define success.

First, we need to make sure that we decide for ourselves what success means to us. Otherwise we'll spend our days chasing the approval of others, which is fruitless and exhausting.

Second, we need to be aware of whether we're going to focus on the process/journey or the end result. The process and our effort are factors we can control for the most part. The end result is not.

Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden had this as his definition: "Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best you are capable of becoming."

Absent from Wooden's definition? Winning. That's because he knew that was out of his control (and remember this is a guy who won 10 National Championships in a 12-year stretch).

Baseball players face this challenge all the time. Every time they step into the batter's box the now gigantic scoreboards display their batting average and other statistics for all to see. If they allow those numbers to define them, they will spend each day riding a roller coaster of emotions. It's mentally exhausting and will wear a player out far more than even the physical grind of playing 162 games.

It's a challenge for the players to look away from that scoreboard and instead focus on how they prepare and attack the day. We have the same challenge: Do we choose to look at the scoreboard of our life? Or are we focused on the process and the journey?

Today, choose wisely.

Contact MLB.com writer Steve Gilbert at winyourday@gmail.com to sign up for his daily inspirational emails.

