



Defense and Fielding

Main points – Philosophy

1. The initial keys to being a quality defensive player are awareness and anticipation. Know how many outs there are, where the baserunners are, who the baserunners are, and whatever you might know about where the hitter might be likely to hit the ball. In short, understand the situation and anticipate what might happen before the play begins.
2. WANT the baseball. Be aggressive in looking to make plays until someone above you on the communication chain calls you off in going to the ball. Never look or hope for someone else to make a play instead of you.
3. The only play that matters is the next play, regardless of whether you made an error or a great play on the last one. Play the game one pitch at a time.
4. Use the following order of priority when calling balls in the air – Center fielder, corner outfielders, middle infielders (shortstop with priority between the two), corner infielders, catcher, pitcher. Teach the palyers to use “Mine” as the call for the ball.
5. Use the following order of priority as a general rule for balls on the ground in the infield – catcher, middle infielders, corner infielders, pitcher.