

Baserunning

Again, our philosophy is to make things happen. Along those lines we will teach our players to always be observant of lacks of concentration on the part of our opponents. Taking an extra base in the right situation is an excellent way of changing momentum in a game and putting our opponents on their heels. Some examples of things we will look to do are listed below.

Situation – Man on first, less than two outs.

Batter bunts the ball down and it is fielded by the 3B. Our runner at first, having seen the ball down sprints full out to second base. Without slowing down, he will round second and continue to third base. He must pick up the third base coach at some point around second just to see if the coach wants him to stop. The runner must sprint the whole way, not slowing at any point for him to be successful.

Situation – Runner on second observes the pitcher is consistently one-looking him back (only done with less than two outs).

If this happens, the runner should be sure that the pitcher is not baiting him. When he is sure that this is the pitcher's pattern, the runner should get a walking lead after the pitcher gives him the look. As the pitcher begins his delivery the runner should break from his walking lead into a sprint for third. Once he has made his decision to go he can't stop and retreat. This will also depend on where the shortstop and second baseman are and who is holding him on.

Situation – Batter gets a base hit with a runner on base. Coach or baserunner observes the outfielder overthrow cutoff man.

In this situation the batter must be observant of where the outfielders are playing, the strength of his arm, and where the runner in front of him is. If the runner is headed to third or home and the cutoff man is over thrown, the batter should look to take second base. This will be easier if the batter has done his shuffle off of first properly after touching the base. The batter should always look to take the extra base, however he needs to be cognizant of the situation and not run us out of a scoring run by being tagged out before the other baserunner scores.

Situation – Coach or Runner on first observes the Shortstop and Second Baseman consistently not backing up the throw back from the Catcher to the Pitcher.

The baserunner will execute a delayed steal of second base.

These are only a few example of aggressive Baserunning. I will expect us all to take advantage of opportunities at all times. We must prepare our players for any situation they may encounter in a game through drill work and practice. Failing to prepare them is preparation for failure.