

Defensive Baseball – The Finer Details (by position)

Third Baseman

- Yells out, while signaling, the number of outs to these teammates and in this order – left fielder, shortstop, and pitcher
- Likes to be the engineer of the “round the horn” throw around after strikeouts and takes pride in his snap throw to the shortstop
- Likes to be the caboose of the “round the horn” throw around after an out at first and takes pride in his throw back to the shortstop and subsequent echo of the number of outs
- Helps to “manage” the pitcher (motions to him to slow down or calm down, or directly tells him to do certain things, “hey, roll us a pair,” etc.)
- Takes great pride in his ability to charge the slow-roller and take away the bunt for a hit and/or guard the line to prevent doubles
- Lives for the tag play at third and the back door pick from the catcher when playing behind the runner
- Understands and executes his role as the cut-off man on balls hit to left field
- Is vocal in taking the cut in the slot by making his presence known (giving a target with two hands up) and then always opens up to the glove side
- Works on jumping to catch the high throw, coming off the bag to the inside and making the tag, and diving to block an errant throw to prevent the overthrow from the catcher on a steal attempt
- Asks for timeout and initiates a mound visit in situations where the pitcher or the defense need conferring with to save the coach a charged visit
- Charges low on a bunt defense with a runner on first base and looks for the lead out
- Thoroughly communicates with the defense prior to bunt defenses and first and third steal defenses and alerts them to it as soon as the situation occurs
- Works on drop steps on foul pops to the foul territory side of third base and wants the ball on pops up in the shallow infield on the left side or in foul territory to the third base dugout
- Takes pride in being a “low” fielding infielder with range and a strong arm
- Is a presence as a fielder who will knock down hard hit balls and snare line drives when playing in on the edge of the infield turf
- Is responsible for guarding against the double between him and the third base foul line
- Works hard on his communication and execution of either taking the ground ball or covering the bag on a ball hit in the hole with a runner on second base providing an alternative for the shortstop to take the out at third