

Defensive Baseball – The Finer Details (by position)

First Baseman

- Yells out, while signaling, the number of outs to these teammates and in this order – right fielder, second baseman, and pitcher
- Builds a friendly rapport with the base umpire by being respectful and polite (“Mr. Umpire” or “Sir”, politely asking “Excuse me, Sir, what is the count? Okay. Thank you.”)
- Likes to be the engineer of the “round the horn” throw around and takes pride in his snap throw to the shortstop
- 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 pick ANY bad throw in the dirt
- Acknowledges that he is the anchor that keeps players close at first base and establishes an awareness for how much is too much
- Lives for the pick-off tag and the back door pick when playing behind the runner
- Understands and executes his role as the trailer on balls hit to the gap
- 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 or in being the trailer in covering second base on a “sure double”
- 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
- Meets the throw from the infielder while maintaining contact with the bag then pushes off to “sell” the out
- 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 second 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 first base and wants the ball on pops up in the shallow infield on the right side or in foul territory to the first base dugout
- Takes pride in being a fielding first baseman as well as a receiving first baseman
- Is a presence as a target for all of his fielders and works to communicate to his catcher to throw either inside or outside on bunt plays, balls in front of the dish, or third strikes in the dirt
- Is responsible for guarding against the double between him and the first base foul line
- Works hard on his communication and execution of either taking the ball to the bag or “flipping” the ball on the ground ball “pitcher covering first” play