

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Issue 60

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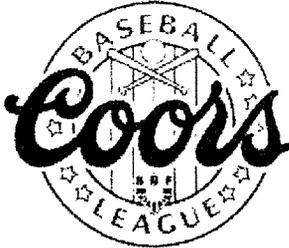
August / September / October 1998

1998 SEASON FINALE

The 1998 Coors Baseball League Finals were contested between the Menwith Hill Patriots and the London Warriors, at the home of Brighton Baseball Club on September 5th & 6th. The final was scheduled for a three game series, Game 1 on Saturday the 5th, with Games 2 & 3 on the Sunday. This was the third time in four years that these two ball clubs had met in the final.

GAME 1

The Warriors were the home team for Game 1. The Patriots jumped all over the London starter Alan Smith. They quickly scored five runs though Keeler, LaPointe, Nichols, Benitez and Rekus. Nichols and Benitez both hitting home runs. In the bottom of the first Bloomfield the leadoff hitter for London worked a base on balls. London then moved him



around the bases, with Perry the DH driving him in. Benitez, the Patriots starter closed the inning to keep the score at 5-1.

Smith the Warriors pitcher found his

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groove, blanking the Patriots, striking out two in the top of the second. A stunned Warriors team did not score either, despite Ackley leading off with a walk, and then stealing second base.

In the top of the third, the Patriots scored two more runs through Rekus and Schneider. Bloomfield led off again in the bottom of the third with a walk. He stole second, advanced to third on a single by Davis, and was driven in by a sac fly by Coldiron. The score at the bottom of the third was Patriots 7, Warriors 2.

In the top of the fourth Smith kept the Patriots from scoring, however Ackley and Mosca scored two more runs for the Warriors, who had the bases loaded with no outs, Benitez

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weathered the storm, despite London sending eight batters to the plate, to make the score Patriots 7 Warriors 4.

In the top of the fifth Smith once again shut out the Patriots, with the help of a 6-4-3 double play. London were blanked in the top of the fifth, the Patriots also turning a very valuable 6-4-3 double play.

In the top of the sixth Smith blanked the Patriots offense. Similarly in the bottom of the inning, Benitez made very short work of the London hitters, keeping them scoreless.

Time was beginning to run out for the Warriors, as in the seventh they again failed to score. The pitchers were definitely on top now, as Smith again shut out the Patriots with two ground balls and a strike out to end the seventh. The score was still Warriors 4 Patriots 7.

In the top of the eighth the Patriots with a solo homer from Schneider extended their lead. Maksymchuk the Warriors catcher led off the bottom of the eighth, with a single to left. Shotton moved him to third with a double to left. Bloomfield scored Maksymchuk, with a sac fly. However London did not score any more runs despite having the bases loaded., the score Patriots

8 Warriors 5.

The Patriots sealed the game in the top of the ninth exploding for five more runs from LaPointe, Nichols, Benitez, Rekus and Schneider. A dispirited London team failed to score in the bottom of the ninth, with the Patriots taking the game by a final score of 13 -5.

Benitez pitched a great game to take the win for the Patriots, spreading five hits over nine innings. Schneider had an awesome day with the bat going 5 for 5, with two doubles and a homer, scoring three runs. Not a bad days work!

So the Patriots had a one game lead going into Game two.

GAME 2

The Patriots were the home team for Game 2. The starting pitcher was Hurley, who had pitched a masterpiece in the Semi Final victory over Brighton the previous week. However the Warriors quickly jumped into the lead touching Hurley for three runs from Bloomfield, Ackley and Coldiron. Mosca the London starter made short work of the Patriots half inning.

Osborne and Bloomfield scored in

Shotten then drove him in with a homer to left. Ackley and Coldiron were driven in by another homer from Perry. Then Ward doubled to centre, and scored on a double to left from Mosca. The score was now Warriors 15 Patriots 17. Menwith were rattled, but Nichols the huge right hander came on to close the game. With runners on first and third, Nichols got Shotten to fly out to centre to end the game, and give the Coors League Championship to the Menwith Hill Patriots.

Hurley got the win, Nichols the save. LaPointe had a great day with the bat for the Patriots going four for six, with two homers and scoring four runs. Creasy also went four for six, scoring three runs. Keeler also scored three runs. On the day London out hit the Patriots 20 to 17. However they also left 12 runners on base, which eventually was their

downfall.

Russell Schneiter was named Coors League Final MVP, going 7 for 9, with three home runs, four RBI, and scoring five runs over the course of the series. This was well deserved, and it was great to see it go to a really nice guy. The Menwith celebrations were long and fun filled, and as the Monday was Labor Day, a US public holiday, I am sure they went well into the evening and possibly the next morning.

Overall it was a great final with two excellent teams playing good quality baseball, at a great ballpark. Congratulations must go to Brighton Baseball Club and Brighton Council for all their help in putting together a great event, and to the two ball clubs, who made it a very exciting and enjoyable final for the spectators.

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BBF / PONY NATIONAL ALL STAR GAME



The BBF / PONY National All Star Game was held prior to the National Premier League finals at Brighton on September 5th. Unlike the regular season, the game was played on the full 90 foot bases. This reflected the quality of the players on show, as the full dimensions only added to their performances.

The North won the toss and decided to be the home team. Walter (Leeds) was the starting pitcher. He made quick work of the first inning, getting all three batters to ground out. In the bottom of the first Owen (Alconbury) retired the side in order, striking out one.

The south squeezed ahead in the top of the second, Russell (Bracknell). Walter then closed down the rest of the inning. In the bottom of the second, Evans (Kingston) levelled the scores, tying the game at one run each.

The South were closed down once again in the third, Walter striking out two. In the bottom of the third, the North were retired in order.

In the top of the fourth the South

exploded for five runs through Bath (Enfield), Russell, Willis (Alconbury), Stanislaw (Windsor) and Halley (Alconbury). The North were rocked by this, and in the bottom of the inning, Russell came on to pitch, retiring the side in order. The score was 6-1.

Englestone (Hessle) came on to pitch for the North in the top of the fifth, retiring the side without scoring. The north were once again held scoreless in their half of the inning.

In the top of the sixth Russell scored his third run of the game to move the south further ahead 7-1. Bath then came on to pitch for the south, giving up one run to Englestone to make the score 7-2.

This took us to the seventh where Englestone once again retired the side in order. In the bottom of the inning Bath held his nerve to strike out the last two batters to record the save, and avenge last years defeat at the hands of the North.

There was some outstanding baseball on show, which was appreciated by a large crowd. All

the players and coaches were presented with a PONY Tournament team patch, and commemorative All Star certificates by BBF President Steve Herbert and the Mayor of Brighton.

SOUTH		NORTH	
PLAYER	CLUB	PLAYER	CLUB
Carroll	Bracknell	Englestone	Hessle
Clarke	Windsor	Cantwell	Sutton Trust
Jandu	Hemel	Rennie	Sedburgh
Bath	Enfield	Headrick	Menwith Hill
Russell	Bracknell	Walter	Leeds
Willis	Alconbury	Evans	Kingston
Dolphin	Chiltern	Grusenski	Menwith Hill
Linton	Tonbridge	Slater	Menwith Hill
Stanislaw	Windsor	Teegarden	Menwith Hill
Halley	Alconbury	Russell	Menwith Hill
Manning	Hemel	Doughty	Menwith Hill
Gathergood	Windsor	Child	Sedburgh
Blower	Chiltern		
Clement	Brighton		
Blackman	Windsor		

Should any member of either squad wish to purchase a team photograph from this event, these are available from BBF Head Office:

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(this includes the frame, and mounting which details the event and all players and coaches names)

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DIVISIONAL ALL STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The final of the BBF/PONY Divisional All Star Championship was played between Scotland, the champions of the Northern Conference, and the South - North Division, champions of the Southern Conference. The game was held at Leeds on Saturday August 22nd.

Casey started the game for the South on the mound. He pitched shut out baseball for three innings, keeping the Scotland bats quiet, giving up no hits, and striking out four.

The South took the lead in the bottom of the first inning, Dave Talbot scoring the run. Jamieson the Scotland pitcher shut out the South in the second inning, keeping the score at 1-0.

In the bottom of the third, the south exploded for six runs, Dave Talbot, Jandu, Halley, Chris Talbot, Casey and Willis scoring the runs. Willis hit a homer driving in three of the runs. The score was now 7-0.

In the top of the fourth Scotland pulled one run back through Mitchell.

However Nadel struck out the side to close the inning. In the bottom of the fourth Stead came on to pitch for Scotland, he closed down the South's bats to keep the score at 7-1.

Both teams were held scoreless in the fifth inning. In the top of the sixth Mitchell and McMahon pulled another two runs back for Scotland to make the score 7-3. However in the bottom of the sixth the South scored another five runs, through Chris Talbot, Willis, Bobby Halley, Alexander and Guddins to extend the lead to 12-3.

In the top of the seventh Scotland scored another two runs to make the score 12-5, but Owen, the South's closer struck out the last two batters to win the game for the South.

Vince Garcia, Game Development Director awarded commemorative certificates and PONY All Star patches to all the players and coaches, with the South - North Division, the 1998 BBF/PONY Divisional All Star Champions.



National Team Hitting Philosophy

Focus

We want all national squad hitters to have a fundamentally correct swing.

Through various drills and communication all hitters will incorporate the 10 absolutes of good hitting. These absolutes will be:

1. A balanced, workable stance. (Getting solid)
2. Rhythm and movement in the stance.
3. A good weight shift from a firm, rigid backside forward to hit from a firm, rigid front side. (Back to go forward)
4. Striding with the front toe closed (straight or slightly bent knee).
5. Having the bat in the launching position the moment the front foot hits the ground.
6. Making a positive, aggressive motion back toward the pitcher. (Drive your shoulder at the pitcher)
7. A tension free swing. (Free



and easy)

8. Putting your head down when you swing. (Bury your head)
9. Using the whole field to hit in. (Go with it)
10. Hit through the ball. (Finish your swing)

The rest of our hitting philosophy will include:

1. Hit the ball back through the box
2. Count awareness
3. Put the ball in play (make the other team play catch)
4. Manufacture runs early to get the lead
5. Everyone makes a contribution on offence
6. Know what to do with power pitches
7. Drag in sac situations
8. Slash in contact situations
9. Put the other team away
10. Torso straight (stay tall to hit)
11. Swing as hard as you can, while under control

First and Third Situations

When deciding what defence to use for first and third situations, coaches must first take into consideration the situation and personnel. My preference is to utilise four different defences according to the situation.

Play 1 - Catcher throws the ball directly to the pitcher's head. Pitcher cuts off the throw and keys in on the runner at third.

Play 2 - Shortstop or second take the throw to second base. Catcher takes a quick glance at third and throws to second base if runner is not taking liberties at third. Shortstop or second base cheat towards the base and take throw while moving towards home plate. As the ball passes over the pitcher's head the pitcher fakes taking the throw (slaps glove) and fakes throw to third. Third basemen or extra middle infielder (whoever isn't taking throw to the base from catcher) yells "FIRE" if runner goes from third to home. If nothing is said, the play is at second base on runner from first base.

Play 3 - Catcher fakes throw to second base (must be realistic or the runner at third will not bite) and throws to third.

Play 4 - Pitchout with shortstop taking throw to second. Second basemen cheats towards middle of infield prior to throw. On throw to second, second baseman moves into position between second base and pitchers mound. Third basemen yells "FIRE" if runner takes liberties at third or breaks for home. If third basemen yells "Fire" second basemen cuts off throw to second base and makes the play on runner from third. If "FIRE" is not called the throw goes on to the shortstop at second base. Pitcher does not fake intercepting throw to second.

Vince Garcia

COACHES CORNER

This series of articles all those past and present for their hard work.

is dedicated to all past and present members of the British Baseball Federation and past titles of such... For had it not been for their dedication and hard work, put into baseball, I personally do not think we'd be in the position we are today.

So lets give thanks to

The Series

The first of my series is rather a short one, owing to the lack of information at the time.

But I suppose it must have started some two years after my leaving the Armed Forces in 1947. It was during this time that I saw my first game of Baseball



in Nottingham.

letter.

The team I saw were the Nottingham Wolves, who were also members of the Nottingham Ice Hockey team, who had got together to form a baseball team.

The Wolves wore a black uniform with a gold trim. All uniforms at that time were hand made, including stirrup socks by girlfriends, wives or mothers.

The ground they were playing on was called 'Melbourne Park'. I mention this because, I am sure it will revive memories of past games played there for some 'Old Timers' from Birmingham, London, Hull and Wellingborough in the late forties and early fifties.

Note: See page 16 and 17 in Brit Ball January 1997.

As I said at the start of this page, it would be rather short, so without more information I will close until next month.

I hope I have given you a little more idea of how we did it Yester Year.

This now brings me to the photographs I've submitted. (They were taken at Melbourne Park possibly 1948).

Benny Benson

The Wolves were founded as far as my memory serves me around 1947/1948. It was some three years after that they broke up and reformed themselves into the Nottingham Athletics. Why they broke up I have never been able to find out. But, anyway, that's for next month's

If you have any memories you wish to add to Benny's articles or have memories of your own tht you would like to send in, please do so.

SCORERS

COMBINATION

PREPARING FOR THE GAME

RULES

All the rules for scoring baseball games are in section ten of the rulebook published by 'The Sporting News'. About a month before the start of the baseball season, it is advisable to read through scoring rules two or three times to refresh one's memory.

SITTING

When you arrive at the ball park, find the best place you can to score the game from. Make sure you can see the entire playing area, preferably in an elevated position.

The ideal position is behind the backstop, towards first base. This gives a good view of close plays

at first base, and you are not too far from the umpire so you can hear his calls and consult with him if

need be.

Don't score from the players' bench. There are too many distractions and you could be hit by a foul ball.

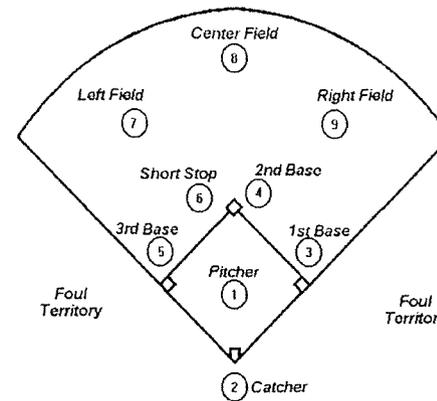
Scorers for both teams must sit together for BBF games. If a dispute over the score of game cannot be resolved, tell the umpire AT ONCE. Also consult with each other if you are in doubt of a play. No one is perfect

EQUIPMENT

Have an ample supply of pencils. An eraser is a must. Even top scorers can make mistakes.

Not all games are played in dry weather, so when it rains get shelter. There is nothing worse than trying to score a game on a soggy sheet of paper.

Have a rule book nearby. You may need to check a ruling during the game.



PREPARATION

Write in the names of the teams noting who is the home team and the away team. Show the date and venue of the game. Enter the umpires' names, with the plate umpire first and the base umpires in rotation.

Finally, show who scored the game.

LINE-UPS

At least half an hour before game time, the managers must give you the starting line-ups of both teams. Make sure they give you the players' surnames and their fielding positions, and if a designated hitter is used, that he is batting for the pitcher only (6.10)

RULE

When writing the line-up, use numbers for the players' fielding positions as follows:

- 1--Pitcher
- 4--Second baseman
- 7--Left Fielder
- 2--Catcher
- 5--Third baseman
- 8--Centre Fielder
- 3--First baseman
- 6--Short stop
- 9--Right Fielder
- DH--Designated Hitter (if used)

Always get the players' uniform numbers. Continually, as the game progresses, check the batter's uniform number against the player who should be at bat according to your scoresheet. There could have been a player change, you could have missed a play. The player could even be batting out of order.

KEEP CHECKING TIME

Make a note of the time as soon as the umpire calls "Play ball".

Also note the time if the game is interrupted by rain and record the time when the game restarts.


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COORS BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

End of Season

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Menwith Hill Patriots	19	1	
Hessle Warriors	13	7	6
Kingston Cobras	11	9	8
Leeds Luddites	9	11	10
Lancashire Tigrercats	6	14	13
Barnsley Strikers	2	18	17

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Croydon Pirates	15	2	
Windsor Bears	14	3	1
Arun Panthers	8	9	7
Bournemouth Sharks	7	10	8
City Slick Sidewinders	7	10	8
Brighton Buccaneers B	0	17	15

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
London Warriors	20	1	
Brighton Buccaneers	15	6	5
Enfield Spartans	13	8	7
Hounslow Blues	11	10	9
Kitsons Cambridge Monarchs	10	11	10
Bracknell Blazers	6	15	14
Birmingham Bandits	6	15	14
Essex Arrows	3	18	17

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Tonbridge Bobcats	14	1	
London Exiles	11	2	2
Alconbury Seniors	5	6	7
Cambridge Monarchs B	5	6	7
Guildford Mavericks	7	7	6.5
Caterham A's	5	8	8
Milton Keynes Truckers	4	9	9
Brentwood Stags	0	12	12.5

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Preston Bobcats	16	0	
Sheffield Bladerunners	11	5	5
Durham Centurions	8	7	7.5
Manchester A's	8	8	8
Liverpool Trojans	7	8	8.5
Newark Yankees	7	9	9
Sibley Vikings	3	12	12.5
Cartmel Valley Lions	1	14	14.5

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Richmond Flames	11	3	
Bushey Falcons	11	3	0
Southend Peers	9	5	2
Tiptree Rays	8	6	3
Bracknell Dynamite	7	7	4
Chiltern Blue Jays	6	8	5
Croydon Pie Rats	4	10	7
Maidstone Lasers	0	14	11

	GAMES		
	WINS	LOSSES	BACK
Edinburgh Reivers	10	0	
Dundee Dragons	7	2	2.5
Glasgow Comets	4	7	6.5
Kirkcaldy Chiefs	0	12	11




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CATCHING AN OUTFIELD BALL



First thing an outfielder wants to do is judge whether the ball is going to land in front of them, coming right at them or going over their head. When making this judgement, the outfielders uses a small jab/drop step backwards with the foot that is on the side of the ball. This prevents the outfielder from making a crucial mistake of running in and having the ball sail over their heads. A ball that goes over an outfielders head is going to allow the base runners to advance more bases. In addition, when you take that jab/drop step, it opens up your body to run in that direction.

Next the outfielder wants to try and get under the ball. You never want to time your arrival just as the ball arrives. If you can, you want to get there early. If you take it easy and

make a minimal effort to get to a ball, this is called drifting. When you drift, there is always the chance that you will not judge the ball correctly and get there too late.

On balls that are hit a good distance away, you should try and run to a spot rather than look at the ball the whole while you are running. This means the outfielder has to try and judge where the ball is going, duck their head and then pick up the ball again just before the catch. You also want to pump your arms and not run with the glove extended the entire time. You don't see any sprint champions running with one hand up. Pump them arms!!!!

Once you get to the ball, you want to use two hands and catch the ball with your arms extended, use two hands and

catch the ball over the throwing shoulder when possible.

Summary

Take a drop step and judge where the ball is going.

Try to get there early and get underneath the ball.

If the ball is hit a good distance away, duck your head, pump your arms, don't

run with your glove arm extended and run towards where you think the ball is going. Pick up the ball again and then extend your glove.

Try to catch the ball on your throwing side if possible with your arms extending out. As always, look the ball all the way in to the glove.

Vince Garcia

1998
BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 6 December 1998

1.00pm prompt

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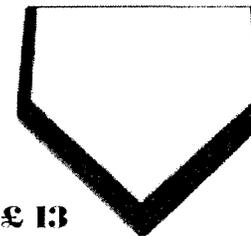
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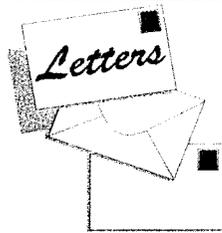


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Dear Brit-Ball

Quite a few people have remarked how Premier Division games in this area seem to be getting more and more high scoring. This is interesting in view of the fact that a few years ago it was being forecast that the end of the nationality rules would lead to lower scoring games due to more overseas players.

Could the rule change have anything to do with this? I don't think so; the real problem I believe lies in small squads: nine or ten players seems to be the norm now. The double-headers usually consist of a good or average game and a poor game, most times. This is even in national



play-offs, as well as a growing tendency for teams to forfeit 3 game Series for various reasons. This can't be a good thing.

I feel with such small squads the answer is to go back to single nine innings games in both league and play-offs, then we might see more quality games again. Double-headers need large squads to work properly and they are just not around now. I think the 'sudden death' element in the nine innings single games is the better way at the present time.

Will Cosgrave

GREG NEWMAN

It is with regret that we must report the news of Greg Newman's passing away.

Greg worked with Carol Babbage and Steve Core in Plymouth with the Pitch, Hit and Run programme and with the club's youth programme. He was always enthusiastic with the children and about baseball and, typically of our friends in Plymouth, was always very hospitable when we visited. He was a fine example to the kids, dealing with his disability with determination.

His legacy will live beyond him in his daughter Joy, a Pitch, Hit and Run National Champion in 1998 and a player with the Plymouth organisation. Happily Greg saw Joy's triumph this year in Manchester before he left us.

Hit and Run



Hit and run execution can be very important in manufacturing runs. In a more advanced system, hit and run becomes automatic in certain situations. It also can call for hitters to only place the ball to the right side of the pitcher. A more basic hit and run could have the batter successful upon hitting a hard ground ball anywhere on the diamond. When executing the hit and run the runner must look in on the third step to see what is going on. There could be a pop up, pitch out or a ball hit right at them. In any case, the runner should know what is happening. The hitter's responsibility lies with putting the ball in play or at least protecting the runner by swinging at any pitch with two exceptions. Those would be a ball in the dirt (surely the runners will advance) and the ball pitched right at the hitter (again, advancing the runners). The strategy of hit and run is basic. You want to get the defensive team on the defensive. Make them play out of position. Most of all, make them play catch. Often hit and run strategy will come into play when a team has slow base runners or hitters, thus they want to stay out of the

double play. By putting the runner(s) in motion, there is less of a chance that a double play will occur. This is providing that the hitter hits the ball on the ground. Hitters will find that hitting the ball in the air can be a real rally killer. In addition to this, teams that are not swinging the bat well may revert to trying to execute more and rely less on pure hitting. To execute this properly, the hitter must not be early on the pitch. If anything, the batter should be patient on the extreme side. A good catch phrase for hitters who are trying to execute this offensive play is, "Let the ball get deep." This will almost ensure that the ball is put in play. Hitters should try to hit the ball from the middle to back of their hips (with relation to the ball and their bodies).

Summary of Hit and Run:

- Swing the bat
- Let the ball get deep (don't be early, be patient)
- Put the ball in play, hard on the ground

(Continued on page 29)

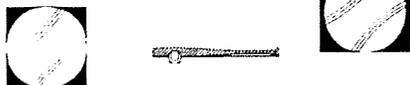
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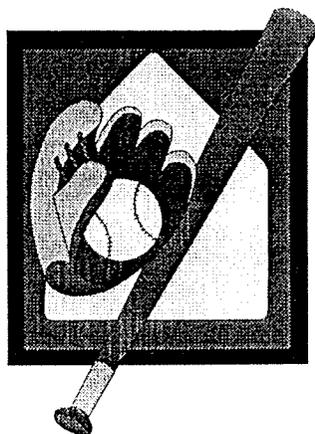
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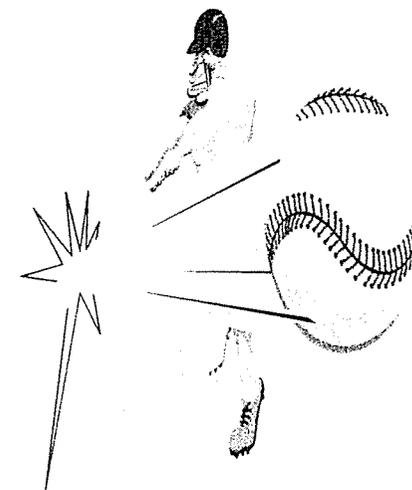
Move the Runner Over

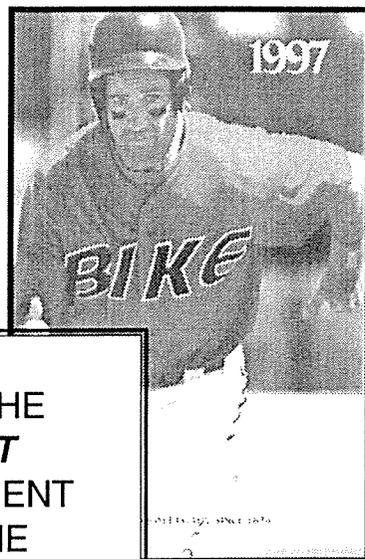
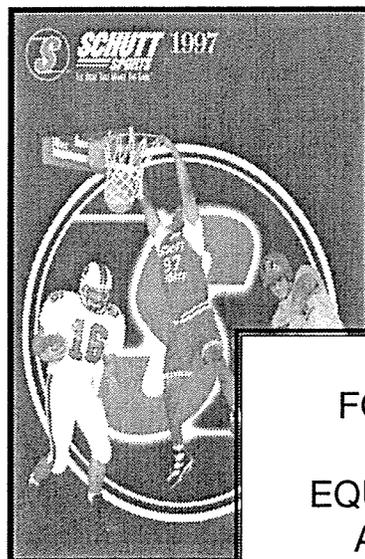
Moving a runner from 2nd to third base with less than two outs gives the offensive team the opportunity to score a run by simply putting the ball in play (i.e., ground ball, fly ball, bunt). In addition, the odds of scoring from third with less than two outs are significantly better than having a runner at 2nd with less than two outs. You have more ways of scoring from third than from 2nd (error, wild pitch, past ball etc.). Often you can generate runs where you don't get a hit. Again, this puts the defensive team at a disadvantage. Unlike the hit and run, pitch selection is very important. Hitters must key on getting a pitch to hit to the right side of the pitcher in order to move the runner over. This is done in two ways, get a pitch to handle and let it get deep. Like the hit and run, you don't want to be early and you want to stay out of the air. Hit the ball off of your middle to back hip.

Drive the Runner in From 3rd With Less Than Two Outs

The most important thing to remember about driving the runner in from third base with less than two outs is that the hitter

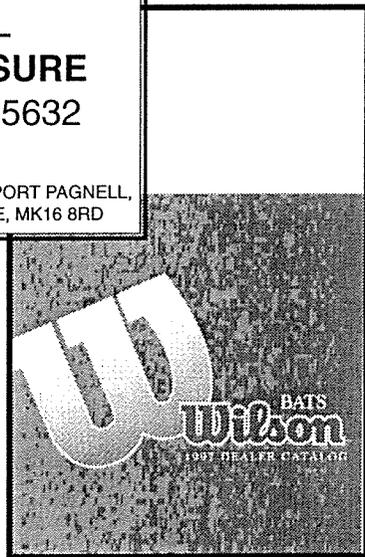
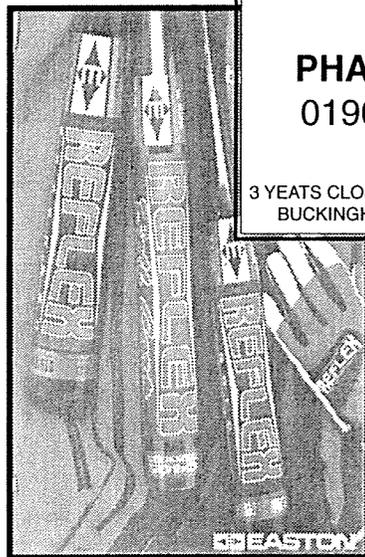
must get a good pitch to execute with. The hitter is trying to drive the ball to the outfield to produce a scoring fly ball with less than two strikes. This requires the hitter to know what pitches they best can produce a scoring (reasonably deep) fly ball with. Most hitters are better hitting to the outfield on pitches that are up and over the plate. As a hitter, remember that the first two strikes are up to you. The third strike (or potential third strike) belongs to the pitcher. With less than two strikes, the hitter can afford to be patient. With two strikes, the hitter must put the ball in play and stay away from the pop up and strike out. To do this, again, the hitter needs to let the ball get deep.





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Diamond Development - contains details of who you can apply to for funding.

Diamond Construction - Full details on how to construct a baseball diamond.

Introduction to the Game - briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - a brief history of baseball in the UK.

How to set up a Baseball Team - How do you go about starting your own team - ideas for fund-raising, recruiting players, details of fees, where the BBF spend the money etc.

Teeball - an instructional leaflet on the game of teeball.

Baseball Information Sheet - ideal for people new to the game, it explains what the BBF is and what we can provide.

Parent Information - a leaflet designed for you to hand out to your junior players parents.

Baseball Qualifications - gives the aims and objectives of the coaching association and details on how to attain level A, AA and

AAA qualifications.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1998 Edition - only £3 per copy.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - Details of how to organise a baseball camp this summer. It full of ideas and available at a cost of £3.50.

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