

Hello to all,

This week's newsletter is a special one for me, because after seeing our first week of practice, I realize that we have not completely bought into the idea of "Individual Hustle." What I mean by saying this is, sometimes as athletes, we like to perform when someone is watching. The moment we understand they (being coach/ instructor/ or opponent) aren't watching us, we tend to take this moment as a time to relax or "go through the motions." In actuality, it should be the complete opposite. When no one is watching should be the moment where you elevate your internal game i.e. work ethic. Getting after the game by hustling around and playing with some excitement shouldn't be something you are told to do, but more less, how someone views your "game play." They guys who move around and carry themselves well, no matter if people are watching or not, are usually the "higher prospects".

Everyone who has played the game of baseball knows that if you do not make the game fun for yourself, it can become drawn out. I have attached a clearly explained article I found that will describe how coaches/scouts/or opponents view how you carry yourself on and off the field as a description of your personality and athletic ability. I hope you enjoy it.

On a lighter note, I am still signing families up for their College Placement Interviews with me. Our Interviews so far have been really informing and good progress is being made with regard to our players being signed by schools. I hope you are taking this college recruiting process serious, because it can turn into the best journey you will ever take in your athletic career.

The logo for the Abron Braves features the word "Abron" in a red, cursive font, a blue baseball bat with a white feather in the middle, and the word "Braves" in a red, cursive font.The Orioles logo features a stylized orange and red bird (an Oriole) perched on a green diamond-shaped base, with the word "Orioles" written in a red, cursive font across the base.The Diamond Nationals logo features the word "Diamond" in a blue, cursive font above the word "NATIONALS" in a bold, blue, block font, with a baseball graphic integrated into the design.The Giants logo features a realistic baseball with the word "GIANTS" written in a bold, black, block font across it.



College Placement Newsletter

Some College Placement Reminders:

- Remember you must take the ACT/ SAT to become eligible by the NCAA.
- List below are the offer dates for 2009-2010 school year.
- Also a brief description on how to use your combo score and how it fits on the sliding scale with your cumulative GPA.
- Remember to send your scores to the National Clearing House by entering the send code: 9999 on the “ send scores” section on the test cover

SAT

October 10, 2009
 November 7, 2009
 December 5, 2009
 January 23, 2010
 March 13, 2010
 May 1, 2010
 June 5, 2010

ACT

September 12, 2009
 October 24, 2009
 December 12, 2009
 February 6, 2010
 April 10, 2010
 June 12, 2010

Taking Tests More than Once

You may take the SAT or the ACT more than one time. If you take either test more than once, you may use your best sub score from different tests to meet the minimum test-score requirements.

Here is an example:

	Math	Verbal/Critical Reading	Total Score
SAT (10/09)	350	470	820
SAT (12/09)	420	440	860
Scores used	420	470	890

Your test score will continue to be calculated using the math and verbal/critical reading subsections of the SAT and the math, Science, English and reading subsections of the ACT. **The writing component of the ACT or SAT will not be used to determine your qualifier status.**



-Some Interesting Thoughts-

I wanted to provide you with something along the lines of “You never know who is watching so always play hard” but rather than just write a few lines about it we figured we could find something that would really make an impact. The following is from a High School baseball web site (High School Baseball Web) and really illustrates how college coaches look beyond stats and even performance. They look at character and the way you act on the field. Remember, even if you make 3 errors in a game the way you REACT to those errors may have a bigger impact on how you are recruited than the errors themselves

You Never Know Who’s Watching

By: Bob Howdeshell

The statement above is a common one used on this web site. It means that a player should hustle and give his best effort every time he steps on the field. That includes practice and games.

Because You Never Know Who’s Watching

This past weekend I was fortunate enough to be allowed to sit with several college coaches as they evaluated talent at a very good high school baseball tournament. This was a small tournament with only six invited teams, held at a major division 1 college campus. A “showcase” tournament.

No player’s names are being used, no teams are being mentioned and I will try to stay as generic as possible with the description of these players. The focus of this article is to make a point, not to embarrass any particular player.

The following are some of the comments and discussions that I was allowed to listen in on:

* The first involves a player with a “national reputation” listed as a top prospect in several sources that I am familiar with. He is a position player. The coaches were in agreement that this player had several nice tools Good arm strength, good glove and good speed. The question that each of them had was his ability to hit at the upper end of college baseball.



Some coaches told me that the solid tools that the player had would make him a prospect to them even without “plus” hitting abilities.

What happened next amazed even me. The player was struggling with his bat but showed flashes of an “upside.” However on defense the player did not move well. Did not show good anticipation, did not follow foul balls (showing a jump). More often than none he only moved from his position if he was involved in the play.

Some of the coaches REALLY did not like the “lazy” (their words – not mine) attitude shown. On a couple of stolen base attempts (where the player was covering the bag) he did not make an attempt to stop a “less than perfect” throw. Basically he flagged at the ball and got out of the way.

One coach told me that he wanted players that were interested in “sticking their nose in there and getting dirty.” This coach is with a team that would be considered a “national power.”

Some of the coaches told me that they would have to see the player again – later this summer before making any decision regarding a potential scholarship offer. Other coaches told me that they probably would not pursue this player any further.

* Next Up - A right handed pitcher that was throwing solidly in the upper 80’s. He has a slight movement on his fastball, an okay breaking ball and a fair change-up.

This player however did impress many of the coaches. WHY ????

He did not have his best control at times. At times was getting penalized by a “moving” and small strike zone, and had 5 errors made behind him, by his defense.

What caught the coach’s attention was his ability to battle and keep challenging the hitters. He did not drop his head or slump his shoulders when things went against him. He showed no expression when a ball was called on an obvious strike.

He even went so far as to walk over and speak to his second baseman, after a costly error and then pat him on the back as he walked away. The coaches I was sitting near did not miss this!

Each of the coaches that I spoke to admitted that they did not have the player on their lists of potential recruits. Each also said that they would be making a point to see the player pitch again this summer.

This player became a prospect with several “big time” schools on a day when he was the losing pitcher and did not have his best stuff. Because of his attitude and the heart he showed.



* Third Example: Is a big first baseman. This young man does not run like a gazelle, does not have a great arm. (average at best) He is not what you would term “athletic” but he is not fat. However he made points with several of the coaches in attendance.

Of course you have guessed it by now The young man can hit with the best of them.

There is a little more to the story though. He can hit to all fields with power. He displayed a good ability to “go with a pitch.” He showed a good knowledge of the strike zone. I personally did not see him chase a bad pitch.

With runners on second and third and no outs in a one run ball game this young man hit a ground ball to the right side of the infield. He did this with a 2-strike count. He made an out and the run scored. He did his job for his team.

He hit a home run or two over the weekend, a double or two to the spacious gaps, had several “screaming” singles, but more importantly he hustled!

This player ran hard on and off the field, every inning He did not quit as most of his teammates did in a blow out loss at one point in the tournament. As one pro scout commented to me “A “player” never changes his game, no matter what the score. A “player” plays as hard if his team is behind seven runs or ahead seven runs, or if his team is in a one run ballgame.”

If you think that college coaches and professional scouts do not notice the “little things” you are mistaken. As one coach told me “We have to pay attention to each of the intangibles, it is the only real separator between some of these guys.” He went on to explain that each recruiting year they will have several players on their board that are essentially equal in athletic skills and ability. What then makes the difference is the “Little Things.”

So the next time you think that it doesn’t matter how you hustle or present yourself maybe you should revisit that part of your game. As another coach told me ... “A player can hustle and give his maximum effort even on a day when he and/or his team is not playing their best game. It doesn’t take any athletic ability to hustle.”

You Never Know Who Is Watching!