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2. MAKING THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

Although making the high school team does not guarantee an opportunity to play college baseball, it does help college bound ballplayers. At the same time, not making the high school team does not eliminate the possibility of playing college ball.

The following are some tips and reminders. These are helpful not only for your high school baseball team, but also any team.

- Persistence is more important than talent
- There is a reason that the word STUDENT comes first in student/athletes
- Respect the game as much as you want to be respected
- Tuck in your shirt all the time
- Don't wear your hat backwards
- Practice hard because you play the way you practice
- It doesn't take any talent to hustle
- Be a student in baseball. Learn the game - Study the history of baseball
- Help your team win whether you play or not
- Keep a daily diary of what you do at practice and keep notes of your observations. This will help you see the progress you have made
- Never argue with an umpire
- Agree to let your coaches train you
- Don't cut class
- Maintain the grades that keep you eligible
- Set high standards along with knowing the steps to attain them
- Don't tell people what you are worth, prove it to them
- Your girlfriend is not more important than your career
- Your parents love you, but they don't know more than your coach about baseball
- Don't let anyone make an excuse for you
- Maintain eye contact with all adults when they talk to you. Practice on your friends
- It is your coach's opinion of you that counts. He makes out the lineup. Fail to understand this point and you will soon be out of the game
- Life is not fair. Regardless of what some people want you to think
- Be passionate about your teammates
- Love the game
- Players are not the only people in the game. There are coaches, trainers, announcers, umpires, broadcasters and writers. All of these jobs are honorable professions and those holding them deserve as much respect as players.
- The only thing that coaches owe you is HONESTY
- Body language screams. It never whispers

- Balance makes champions. If you focus on hitting and ignore the defensive part of your game you will never be a complete player
- Be as diligent on defense as you are on offense
- Defense wins more games than offense
- Pitching sets the tone
- Games are lost not won. Mistakes lead to losses
- You can win a league with a few good pitchers. Well developed pitching staffs win the tournaments
- Work on your game every day of the year
- Who you are today is a result of who you were in the past. Fill your past with smart work and good deeds and you will maximize your potential
- You don't have to be a great athlete to be a good baseball player
- Show off your talent to your current coach and your future coach by doing the following: (ALL THE TIME)
 - When you jog to warm up finish first
 - When you stretch, do it best.
 - When you play catch, throw to a target and hit it every time.
 - When you are doing a drill, do it perfect every time
 - Go hard all the time. Never walk on a baseball practice field.
 - As a batter/runner run to first as though it matters that you are safe
 - Know the situation on defense and do the right thing.
 - When you play catch, catch the ball or block the bad throw and
 - Keep it in front of you every time.
- Baseball reveals character it doesn't build it
- Character means doing the right thing when nobody's watching

