

Outfield Play- Todd Dulin

I. Mental Approach

- A. How can I make myself a part of every play?
- B. Visualize making great plays.
- C. Back each other up.
- D. If you know your teammate is backing you up, you can go and get dirty, you can dive for that ball and make a great play.
- E. Hustle- run on and off of the field, umpires, scouts, coaches, parents love it.

II. Communication

- A. The Center Fielder is in charge of the outfield.
- B. Call it, "I got it", and never never never say "you".
- C. Before the next AB- they should communicate the number of outs.
- D. Before the next AB- where are we playing this batter? What do the charts say? Who is on the mound?
- E. If there is a base hit with a runner on base the backup outfielder is giving a number call- 2, 3, or 4.

III. Movement

- A. Do runoffs as a part of your warmups. An outfielder should know how many steps it takes to get to the fence? What is the wind doing? How thick is the grass? Are there any hazards in foul territory?
- B. Always move with the count- (0-0) check my scouting report, then if the count goes (0-1) move in a step, (0-2) move in another step, and if the count goes to a hitters count (2-0) move back two steps.
- C. Move on the swing of the bat... great outfielders intuitively know where the ball is going because they can read the swing.
- D. If the ball is hit right at you, always open up glove side...
- E. If the ball is hit right at you above the brim of the cap turn and go, below the rim come in.

IV. Priorities

- A. The Center Fielder has priority.
 - 1. Exceptions- If the left fielder, right fielder or infielder is camped under the ball do not come flying in and call them off. That is when disasters happen.
 - 2. On certain plays- especially on a tag up play the right fielder may have a better angle to come onto the ball and throw the runner out that is tagging up.
- B. Coming in on balls, outfielders have priority over infielders.

V. Approaching the Ball

- A. Surround the ball and come onto it in rhythm.

- B. Catch fly balls on your throwing shoulder with the glove foot out front.
- C. Catch ground balls on your glove side with the glove foot out front.
- D. Speed up or throttle down to get the good hop.
- E. Angles are everything to an outfielder.

VI. Outfield Throwing

- A. Before the play the outfielder should have an idea of where they want to throw the ball.
- B. Come onto the ball with momentum, rhythm, and direction and then work that crow hop.
- C. Throw through the cutoff man.
- D. We want four seam fastballs.
- E. Wherever the glove goes that is probably where the throw will go...
- F. On an extra base hit off of the wall, screw it in, and then find your cut so you don't airmale it.

VII. Outfield Drills

- A. On their own-
 - 1. During warm up throwing, outfielders should work on catching the ball with their glove foot and work also on their crow hop.
 - 2. Then they partner up and feed each other ground balls and catch them on their glove foot side.
 - 3. Next they do "runners" and open to the ball glove side.
 - 4. Then they do "runners" and open to the ball non- glove side.
 - 5. Then they open up the wrong way and make a recovery turn.
- B. Then the coach hits them at least two buckets a day.
 - 1. We always start with sun balls.
 - 2. Then we move them in and hit line drives right at them.
 - 3. Then fly balls over their head.
 - 4. And then I push them deep and have them run in.
 - 5. I will also hit a myriad of ground balls that they need to field.
 - 6. We also occasionally do the sprinkler drill. They start jogging from the right field line and I hit them five balls in a row on the jog and they end up on the left field line. We turn it into a competition.
- C. Then we will put the entire team on the field.
 - 1. We will work on priorities. (Communication and backing up)
 - 2. Situations with live baserunners.
 - 3. On a windy day we will play (21 outs Big Sky). Everyball that hits the ground before they make 21 outs is a lap around the bases. They are forced to be aggressive and communicate.
 - 4. Outfielders should be tracking swings and catching fly balls during BP.