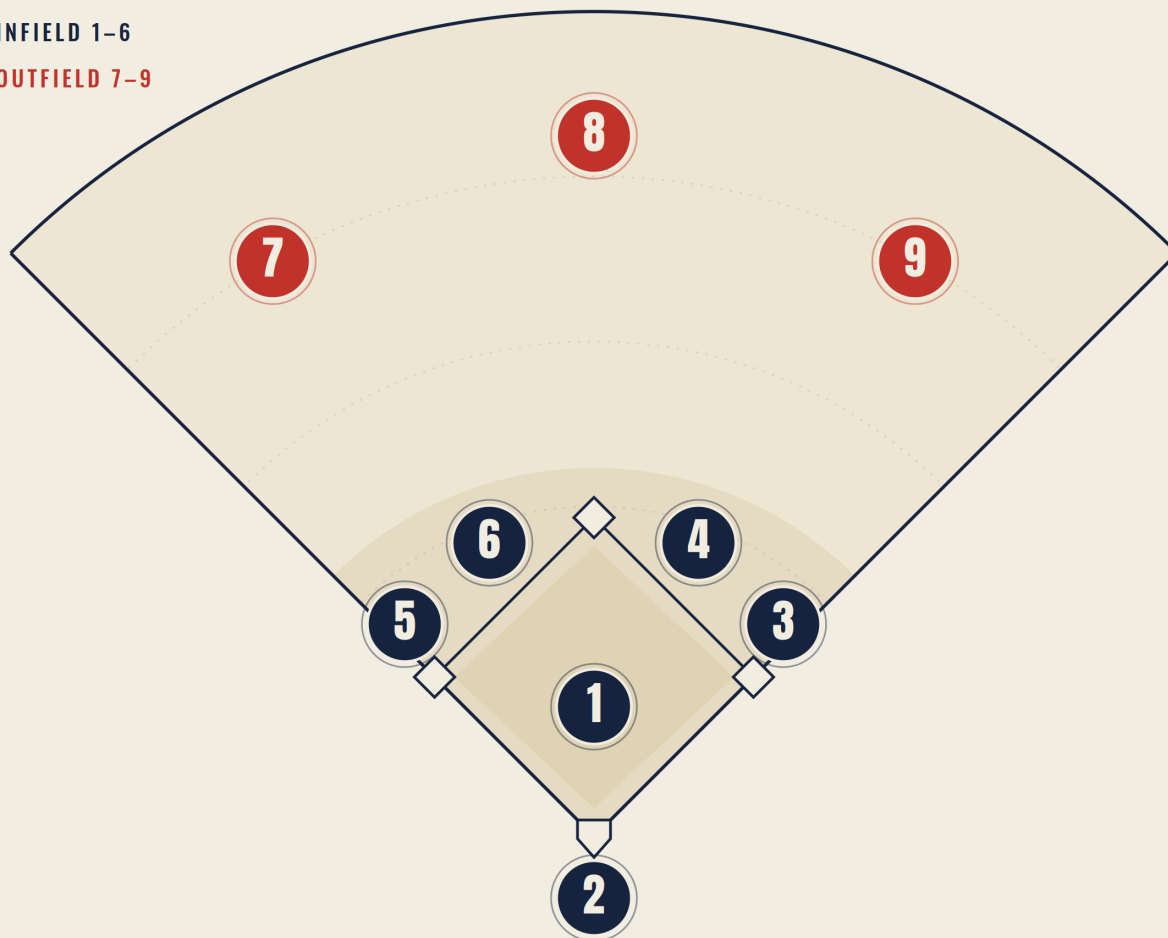


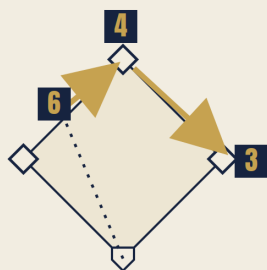
FIG. 1 — BY THE NUMBERS

FIELD ORDERS • PART ONE

- INFIELD 1-6
- OUTFIELD 7-9



THE SCOREBOOK SENTENCE



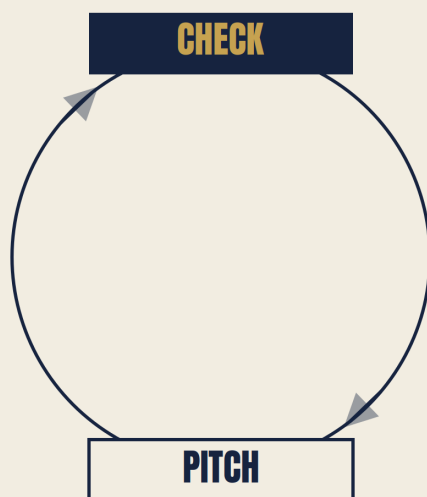
6 - 4 - 3
SHORTSTOP SECOND FIRST

= TWO OUTS, ONE SENTENCE



FOUR OF THESE HOLD STILL FOR A WHOLE AT-BAT. ONE MOVES EVERY PITCH.

THE HABIT



FIVE FACTS. EVERY PITCH.

THE COUNT MOVED — SO THE
WHOLE BOARD GETS READ AGAIN.

FIG. 3 — THE SITUATION REPORT

FIELD ORDERS • PART ONE

THE SITUATION

RUNNER ON FIRST • ONE O

SAME PITCH.
NINE JOBS.

6 — SHORTSTOP

"BALL TO ME —"
4 FOR THE FORCE."

9 — RIGHT FIELD

"HIT TO ME — BALL"
IN TO SECOND."

3 — FIRST BASE

"GROUND BALL —"
BAG, THEN LOOK."

SAY IT BEFORE THE PITCH

"IF IT COMES TO ME,
I'M GOING TO

"

OUT LOUD OR UNDER YOUR BREATH — BUT SAID. A DECISION ALREADY MADE
IS A DECISION YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE WHILE THE BALL IS SKIPPING AT YOU.

THE ONE QUESTION

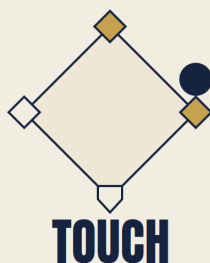
DOES HE HAVE TO RUN?

GOLD BAG = A FORCE LIVES THERE

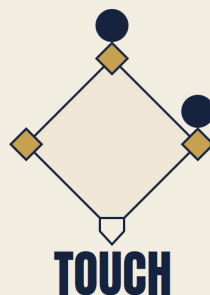
SOMEBODY ON EVERY BAG BEHIND HIM? HE'S FORCED. GAP BEHIND HIM? HE ISN'T.

FORCED — TOUCH THE BAG

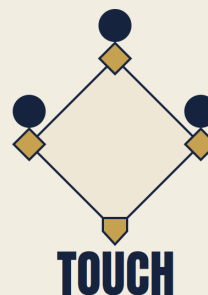
RUNNER ON FIRST



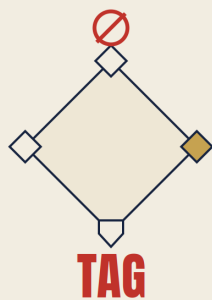
FIRST AND SECOND



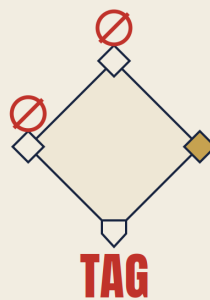
BASES LOADED

**NOT FORCED — TAG THE RUNNER**

SECOND ONLY



SECOND AND THIRD



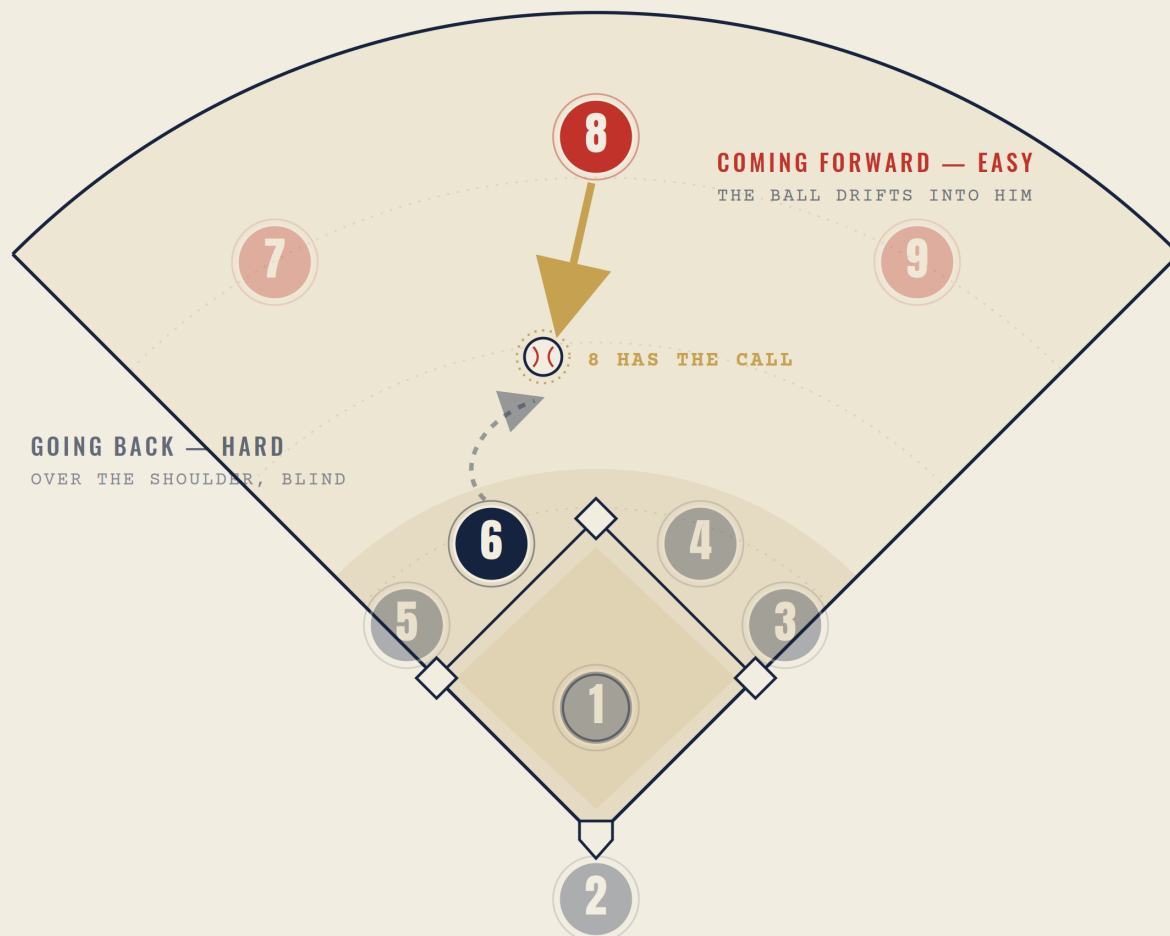
WORK IT BACKWARD FROM FIRST

NOBODY ON FIRST?**NOBODY BEHIND HIM IS FORCED.**

THE BATTER IS ALWAYS FORCED AT FIRST — THAT'S WHY FIRST IS ALWAYS GOLD.

IN DOUBT? THERE IS NO DOUBT. FIRST BASE.

FIG. 5 — THE PRIORITY LADDER



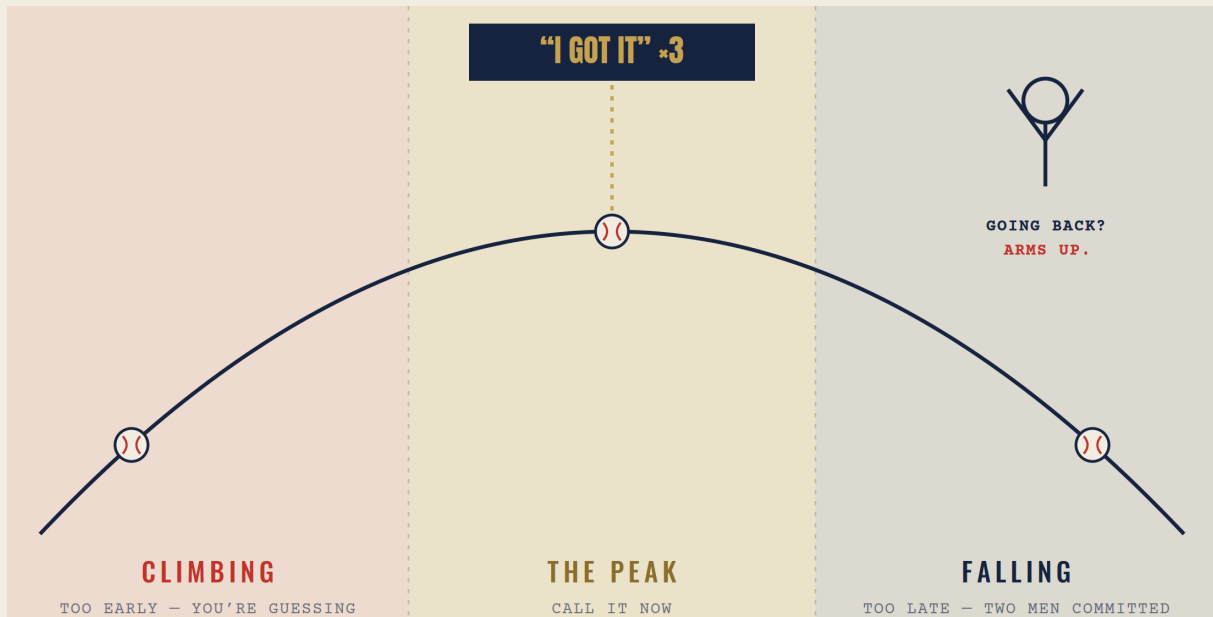
THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

8	CENTER FIELD	CALLS OFF ANYONE ON THE FIELD
7 9	CORNER OUTFIELD	CALL OFF EVERY INFIELDER
6 4	MIDDLE INFIELDER	CALL OFF THE CORNERS
5 3	CORNERS	CALL OFF PITCHER AND CATCHER
1 2	BATTERY	TAKE WHAT NOBODY ELSE CAN REACH

EVERY RUNG IS THE SAME SENTENCE:

**FORWARD
BEATS BACK.**

HIGHER RANK KEEPS IT.
LOWER RANK YIELDS.



THE CALL

1

TRACK IT

EVERYONE CHASES UNTIL CALLED OFF

2

WAIT FOR THE PEAK

CALL IT WHILE IT'S CLIMBING AND YOU'RE GUESSING

3

“I GOT IT” × THREE

ONCE CAN BE MISSED. THREE CAN'T.

4

ARMS UP GOING BACK

HANDS CAN BE SEEN WHEN VOICES CAN'T

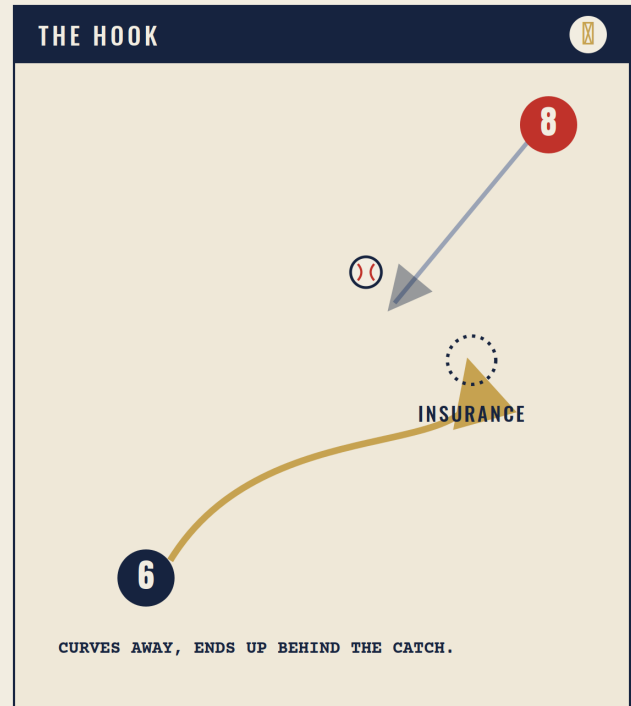
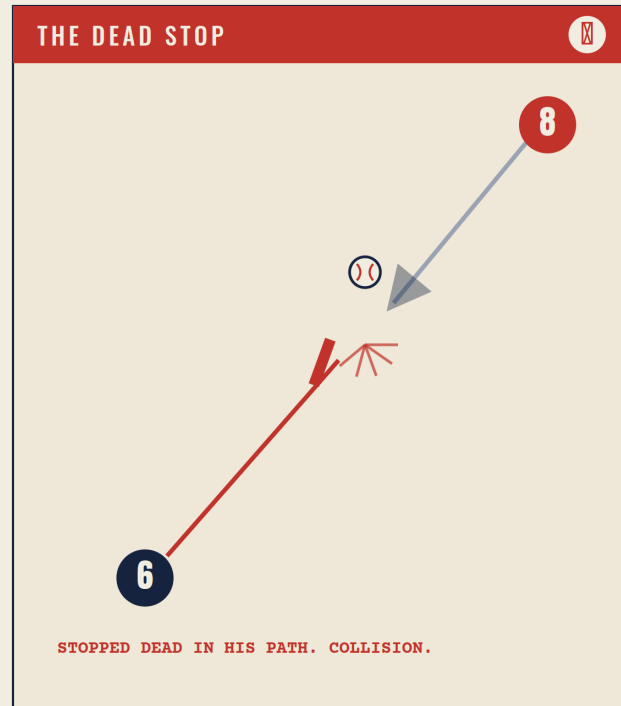
X

NEVER YELL “BALL”

IT NAMES THE BALL, NOT THE MAN

A CALL HAS AN “I” IN IT.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THERE'S A BALL.
THE QUESTION IS WHICH MAN.



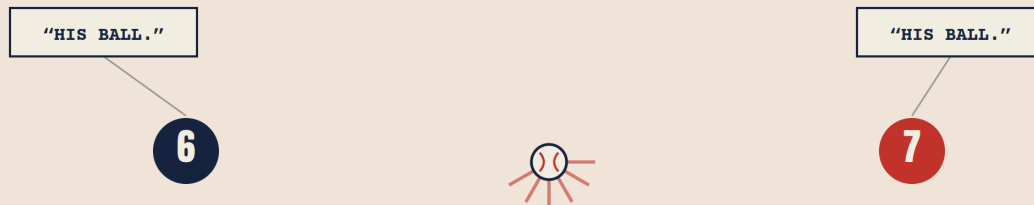
AFTER THE CALL

- 1 ANSWER HIM**
"TAKE IT, TAKE IT" — SO HE CATCHES WITH BOTH EYES
- 2 PEEL IN A CURVE**
NEVER A DEAD STOP IN HIS PATH
- 3 CIRCLE BEHIND**
10-15 FEET BACK OF THE CATCH
- 4 EYES UP**
LOOSE BALL OR TAGGING RUNNER IS YOURS

**EVERY FLY BALL ENDS
WITH TWO GENERALS.**

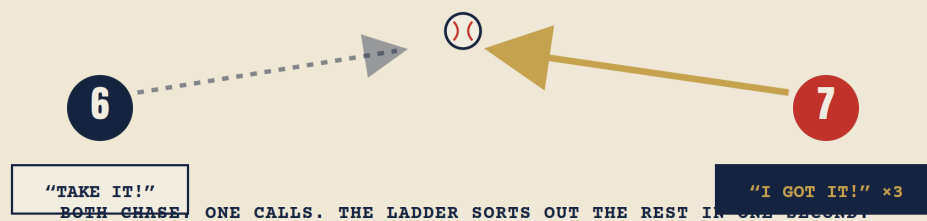
ONE CATCHING. ONE INSURING.

THE BALL NOBODY WANTED



TWO PLAYERS. ZERO STEPS. THE ASSUMPTION MADE THE CATCH — AND ASSUMPTIONS CAN'T.

CHASE THE SILENCE



THE TIE-BREAKERS

NO CALL

EVERYBODY KEEPS CHASING

ONE CALL

EVERYONE ELSE ANSWERS AND YIELDS

TWO CALLS

THE LADDER DECIDES — LOWER RANK YIELDS

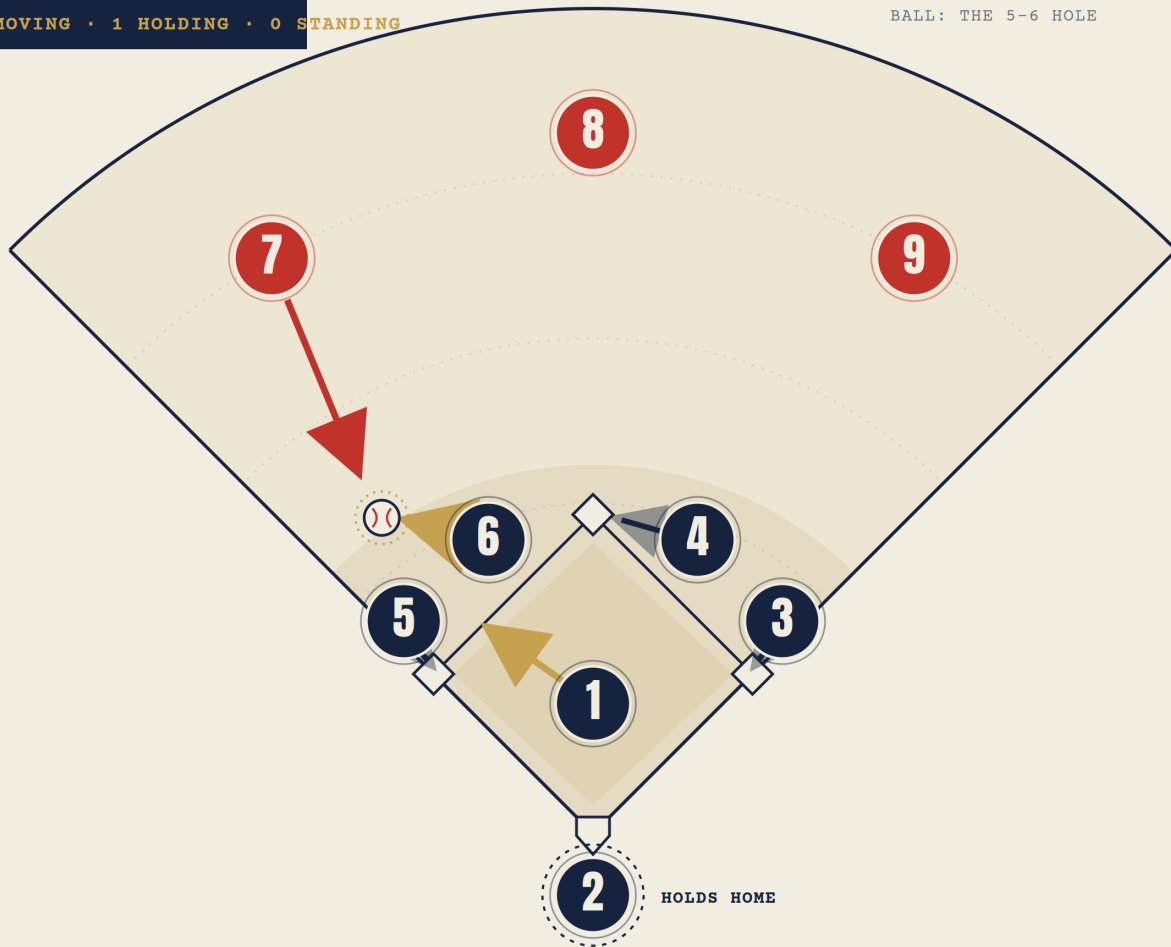
SUN BALL

THE MAN WHO CAN SEE IT CALLS IT

**QUIET IS
THE ERROR.**

LOUD AND WRONG BEATS
QUIET AND RIGHT.

BALL: THE 5-6 HOLE



1-6-4

MOVE TOWARD THE BALL. ALWAYS.

5 - 3

RUN TO YOUR CORNER BASE.

2

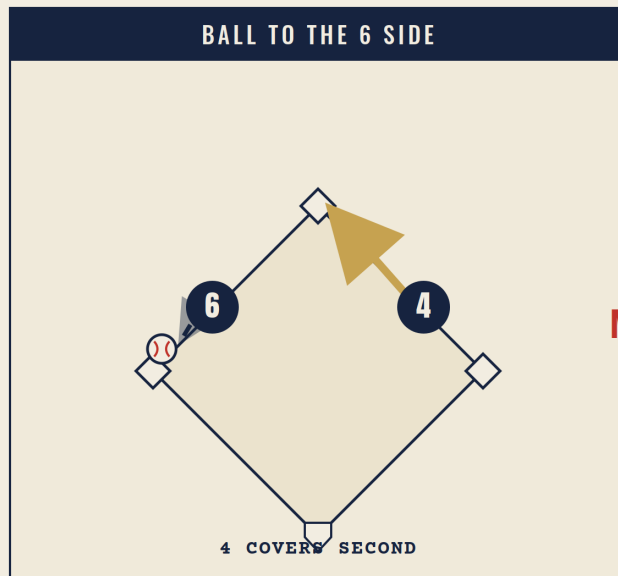
OWN HOME, THEN TRAIL THE BATTER.

7 · 8 · 9

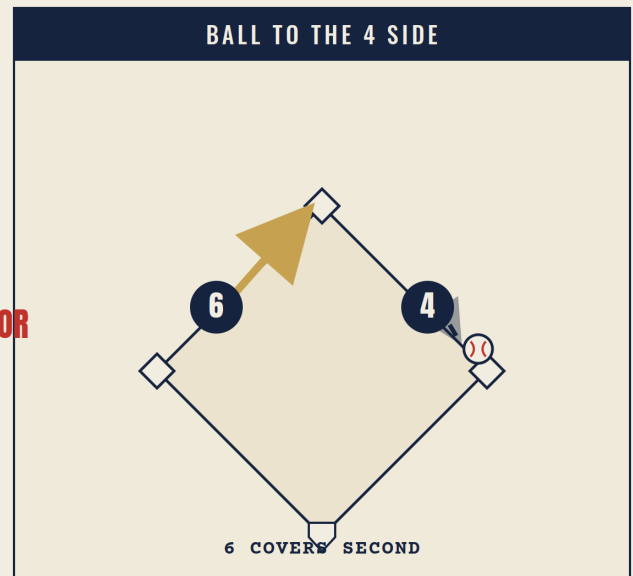
EVERY GROUND BALL IS YOURS UNTIL IT STOPS.

ONE BALL. SEVEN MEN MOVING.

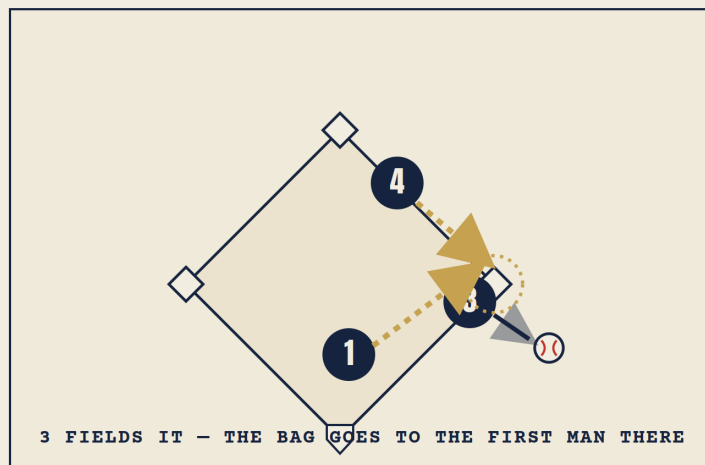
GROUND BALLS HAVE NO LADDER -
FIRST MAN THERE WINS. BOTH CHASE.



MIRROR



WHEN FIRST BASE EMPTIES



BALL PULLS ONE

THE BAG TAKES THE OTHER

3 LEAVES THE BAG

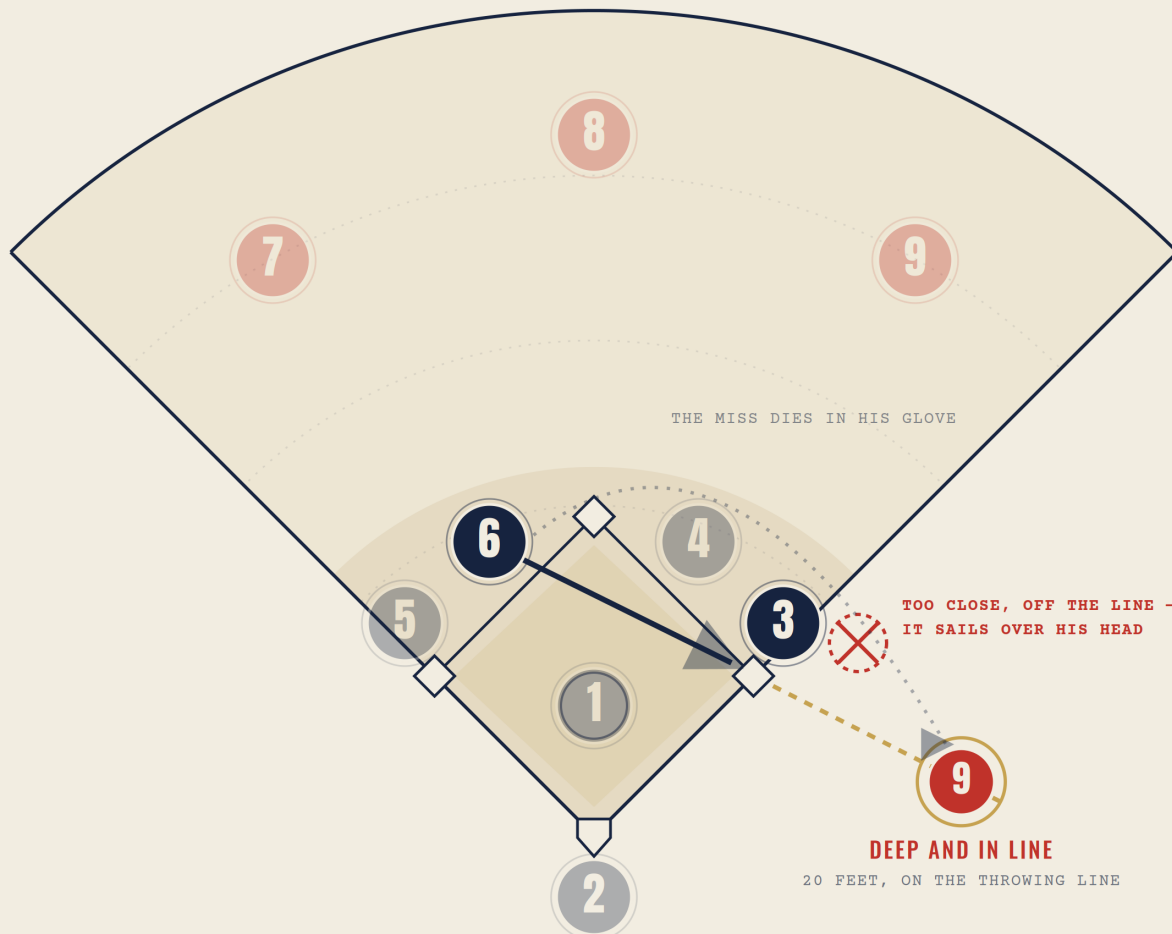
4 OR 1 INHERITS IT

PITCHER

BREAKS TO FIRST ON EVERY BALL RIGHT

CATCHER

NEVER LEAVES HOME EMPTY



THE STANDING ASSIGNMENTS

1

PITCHER

BEHIND THIRD OR HOME ON EVERY OUTFIELD HIT

2

CATCHER

TRAILS THE BATTER TO FIRST ON INFILDT OUTS

789

OUTFIELD

BEHIND EVERY INFILDT THROW ON YOUR SIDE

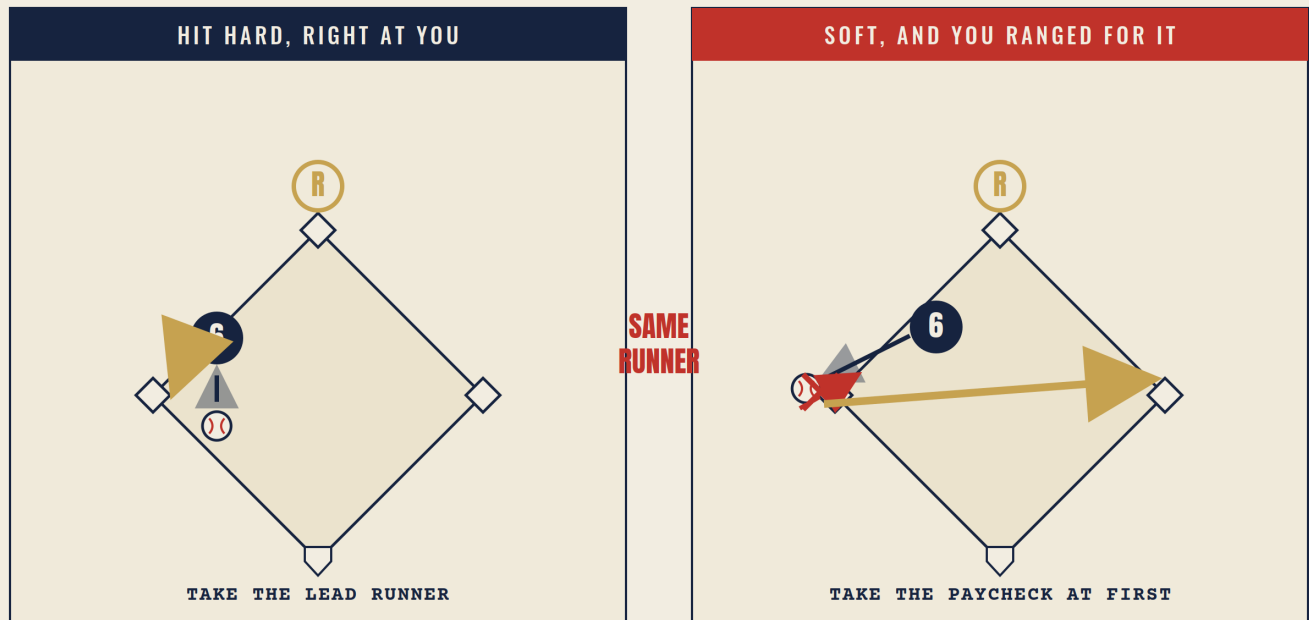
ALL

EVERYONE

DEEP AND IN LINE — 20 FEET, ON THE THROWING LINE

A SPRINT.
THAT'S THE PRICE.

THE CHEAPEST INSURANCE
IN BASEBALL.

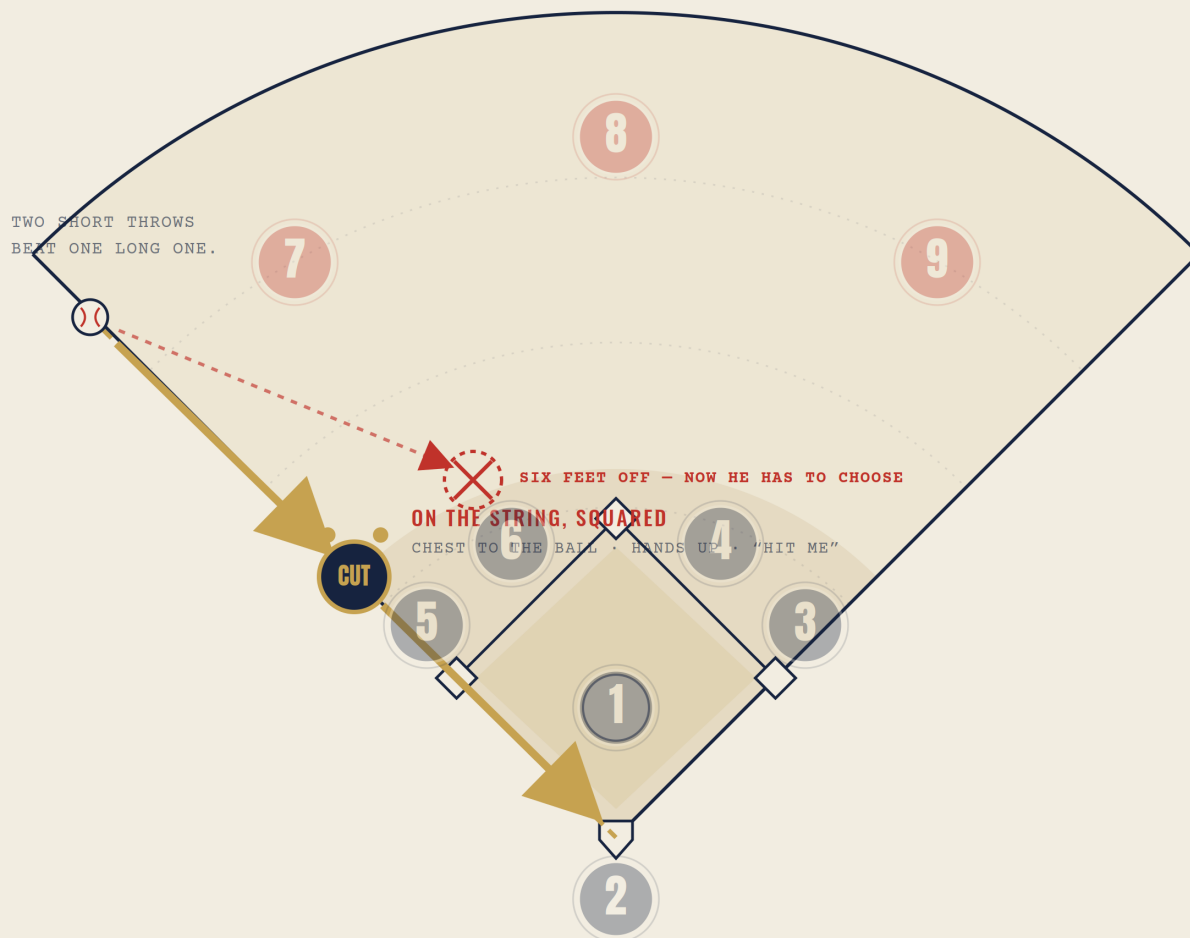


THE MENU

-  **HIT HARD, AT YOU, RUNNER CLOSE**
LEAD RUNNER
-  **HIT SOFT, OR YOU RANGED, OR HE WAS MOVING**
FIRST BASE
-  **TWO OUTS**
NEAREST OUT. ALWAYS. NO MENU.
-  **IN DOUBT**
THERE IS NO DOUBT. FIRST BASE.

THE PRIZE IS OPTIONAL. THE PAYCHECK ISN'T.

TWO ANSWERS, MADE BEFORE THE PITCH. THEN THE BALL PICKS ONE FOR YOU.



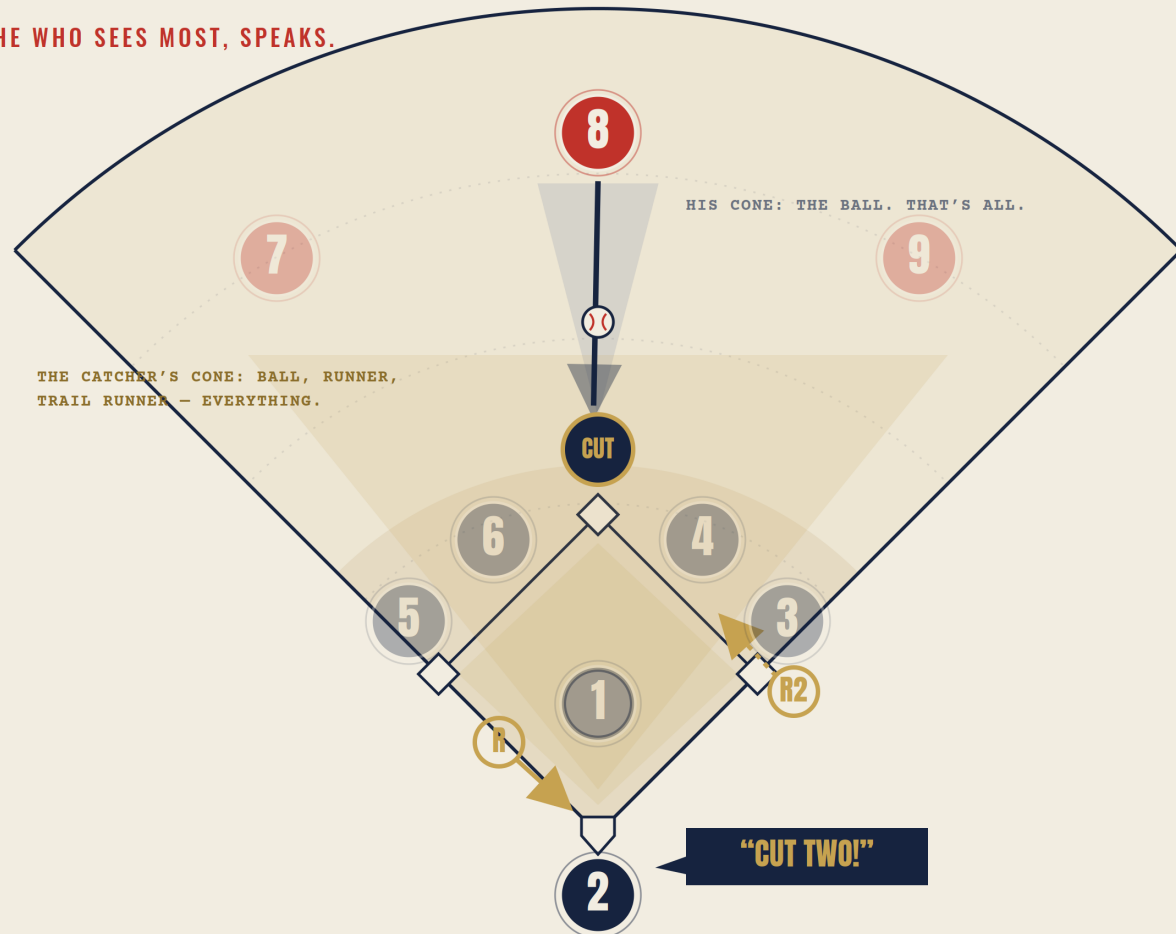
THE CUTOFF JOB

- 1** FIND THE STRING
BALL TO BASE — STAND ON IT, NOT NEAR IT
- 2** SQUARE UP
CHEST TO THE BALL, HANDS HIGH
- 3** TALK
“HIT ME, HIT ME” — A TARGET THAT TALKS IS EASY TO FIND
- 4** CATCH TURNING
GLOVE-SIDE, ALREADY ROTATING TO THROW

**BE A WALL,
NOT A STRIPE.**

SIDEWAYS, YOU DISAPPEAR.
SQUARED, YOU'RE A TARGET.

HE WHO SEES MOST, SPEAKS.



THE VOCABULARY

2

"CUT TWO"

CUT IT, THROW TO SECOND — THE TRAIL RUNNER IS STEALING A BASE

3

"CUT THREE"

CUT IT, THROW TO THIRD

4

"CUT FOUR"

CUT IT, THROW HOME

X

"CUT" ALONE

CUT IT AND HOLD. DON'T INVENT A THROW.

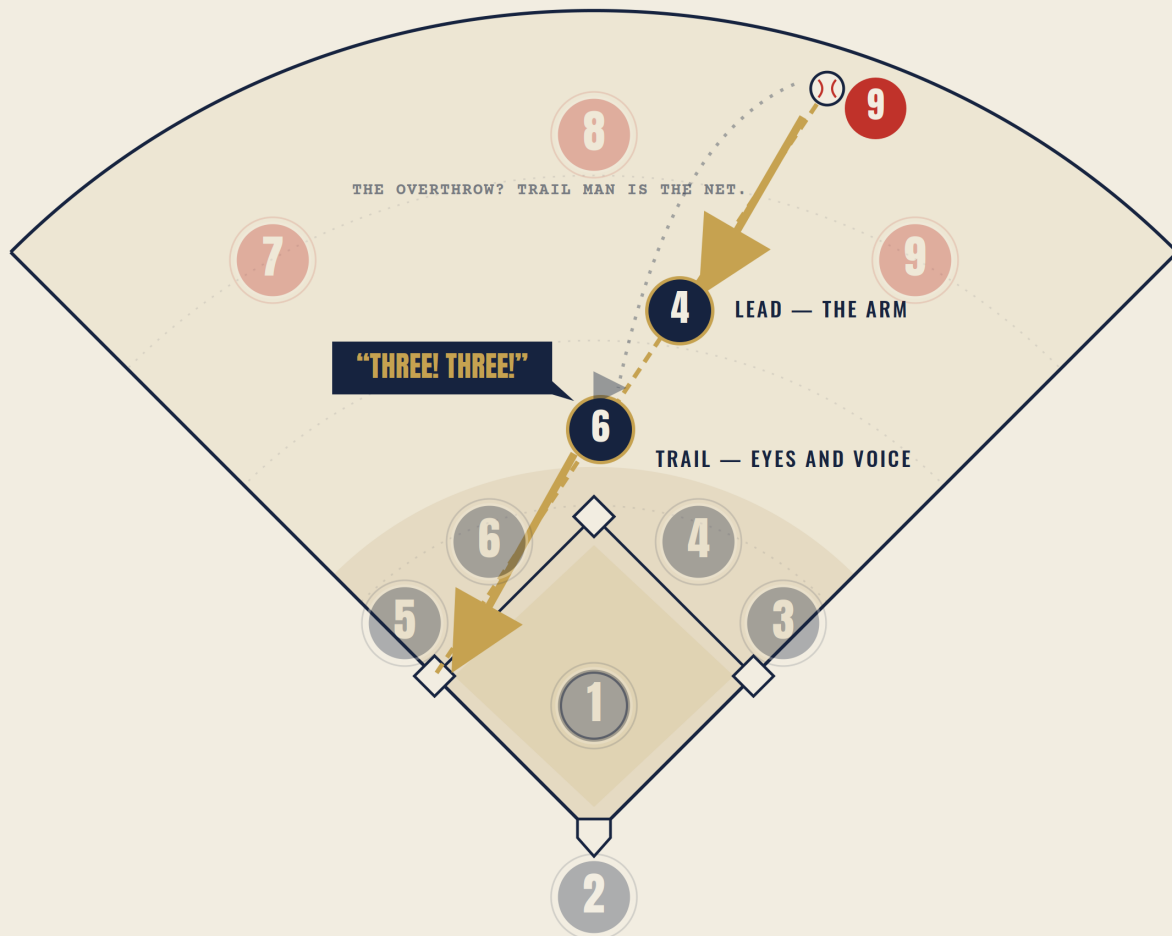
—

SILENCE

LET A GOOD THROW TRAVEL. THE RACE IS STILL ON.

THE VOICE COMMANDS. THE LINE OBEYS.

HIS BACK IS TO THE PLAY.
TRUST THE MAN WHO CAN SEE.



THE TWO JOBS

LEAD

DEEP, ON THE STRING, GLOVE UP

CATCH, TURN, THROW — IN ONE MOTION

TRAIL

15–20 FEET BEHIND, SAME STRING

CALLS THE BASE BEFORE THE CATCH

CALL

“THREE!” OR “FOUR!” — EARLY

THE LEAD MAN NEVER HAS TO LOOK

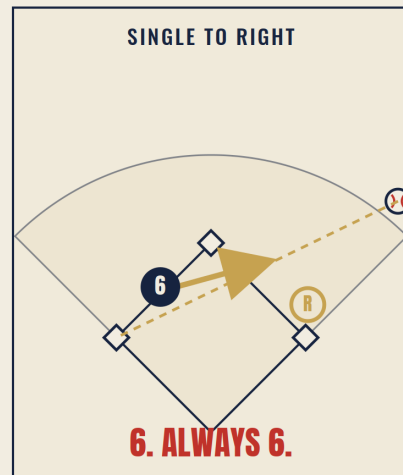
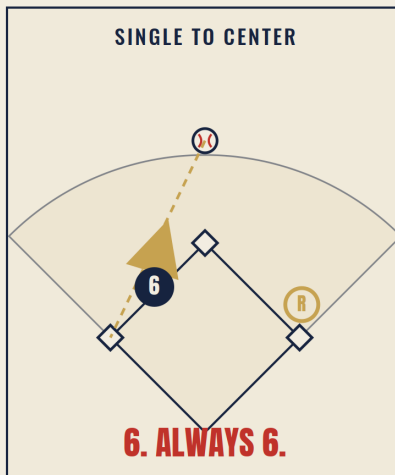
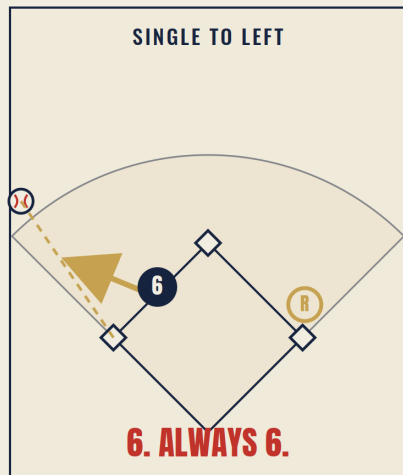
MISS

OVERTHROW SAILS THE LEAD

TRAIL CATCHES IT — ONE STATION SLOWER, NOT DEAD

TWO ARMS.
ONE BRAIN.

AND THE BRAIN
STANDS IN BACK.



THE REDRAW

6

SHORTSTOP

CUTOFF TO THIRD — LEFT, CENTER, AND RIGHT. ALL THREE.

5

THIRD BASEMAN

STAYS HOME ON THE BAG. CALLS THE CUT.

4

SECOND BASEMAN

OWNS SECOND BASE.

1

PITCHER

BACKS UP THIRD, DEEP AND IN LINE.

**EXCEPTIONS ARE
WHERE RELAYS DIE.**

ONE RULE, ZERO THINKING — THE MAP
REDEWS ITSELF IN ONE MOVE.

CLOSEST IS NOT ASSIGNED

ON A SINGLE TO LEFT, THE SHORTSTOP IS STANDING NEXT TO THE BALL.
IT'S STILL THE LEFT FIELDER'S BALL — CLOSENESS JUST MAKES
THE SHORTSTOP'S SPRINT TO THE STRING SHORTER.

HIS JOB DOESN'T MOVE. ONLY HIS COMMUTE DOES.

THE EMPTY ONE
EVERYONE REMEMBERS FIRST. NOBODY REMEMBERS THIS.

5 - 3

CHARGE. HARD. THE BUNT DIES IN THE GRASS.

4

SPRINT TO FIRST - SOMEBODY JUST LEFT IT.

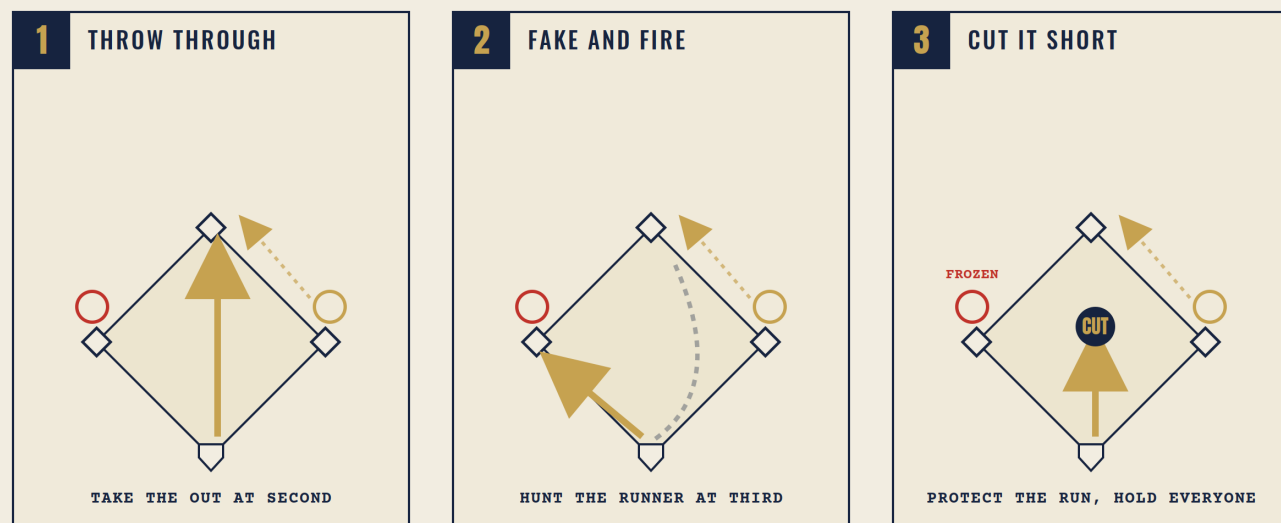
6

COVER SECOND - OR THIRD IF IT'S THE EMPTY ONE.

2

FIELD THE SHORT ONES. DIRECT EVERY THROW.

THEY TOLD YOU IT WAS COMING.
BE REHEARSED, NOT SURPRISED.



THE ONLY LOSING PLAY HAVING NO ANSWER.

ALL THREE ANSWERS WIN OFTEN ENOUGH. WHAT LOSES IS DECIDING MID-WINDUP — THE STEAL IS BAIT, AND BAIT ONLY WORKS ON A DEFENSE THAT'S STILL CHOOSING.

BEFORE THE INNING

SIGNAL

ONE CALL FROM THE DUGOUT OR CATCHER

EVERY TIME THIS SITUATION APPEARS

KNOW IT

EVERY FIELDER KNOWS TONIGHT'S ANSWER

BEFORE THE PITCH, NOT DURING THE PLAY

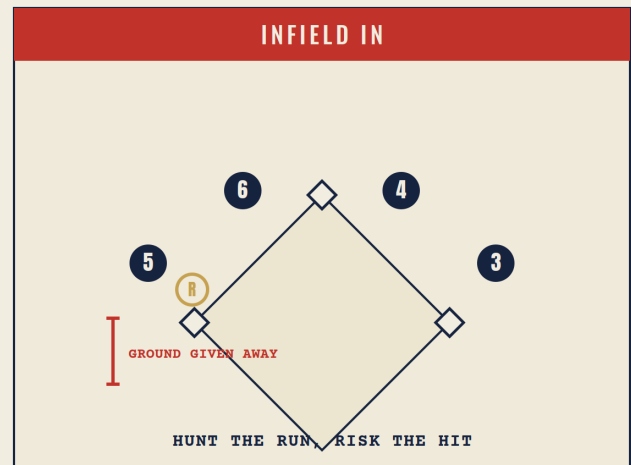
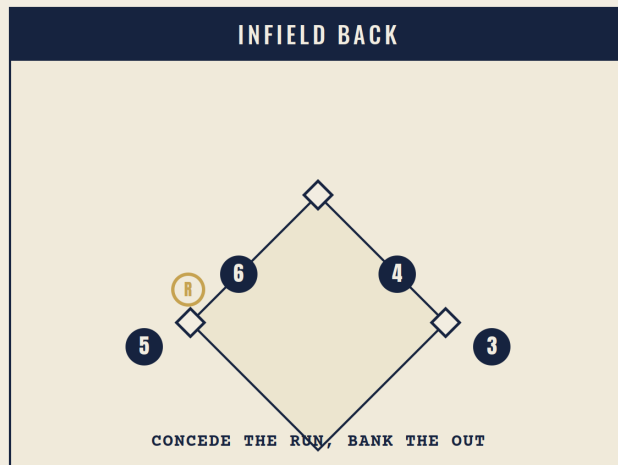
HIDE IT

NOTHING IN YOUR STANCE GIVES IT AWAY

A REHEARSED PLAY LOOKS LIKE NO PLAY

A BAD PLAN YOU KNOW BEATS A GOOD ONE

YOU DON'T.



THE LOOK-BACK — THREE BEATS

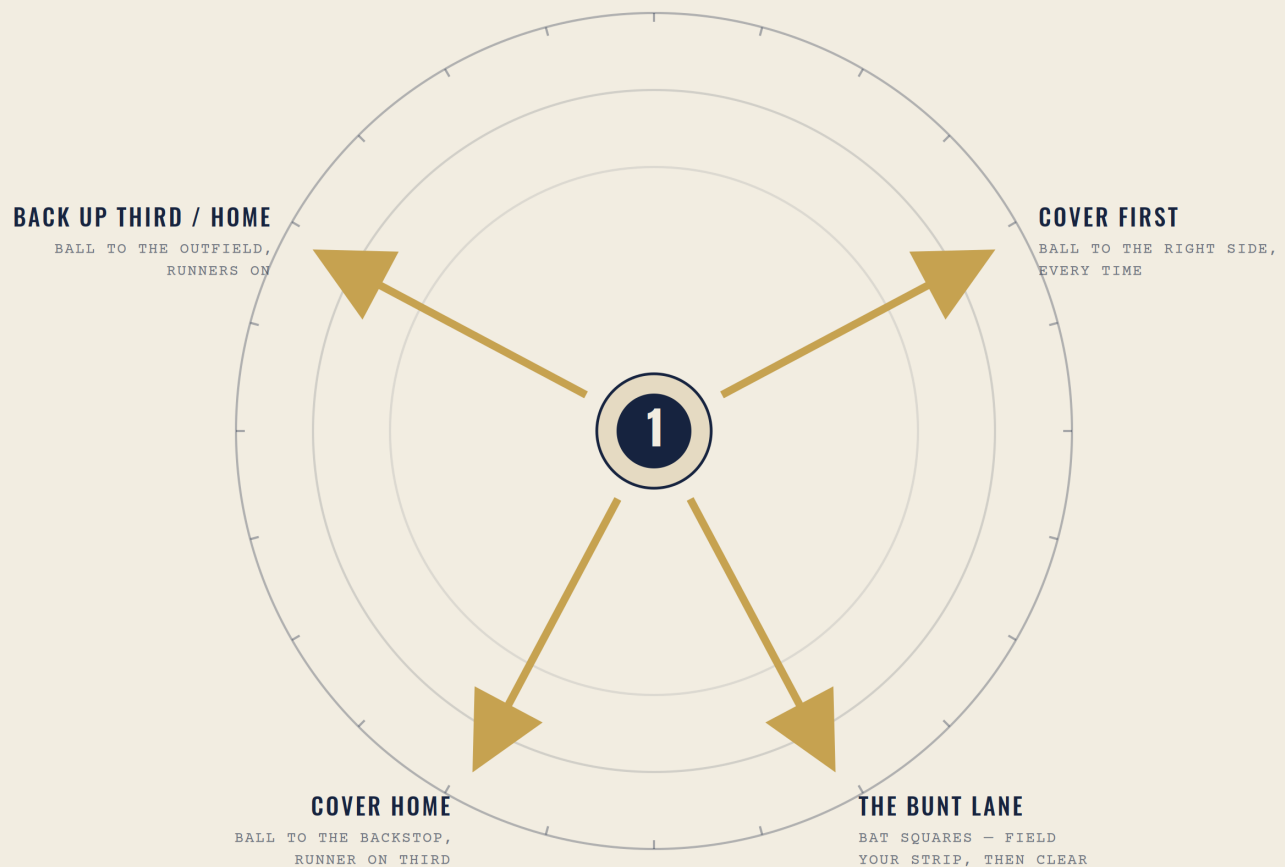


RUN THE CLOCK HONESTLY

THE LOOK COSTS HALF A SECOND.
THE BAITED THROW COSTS A RUN.

HE'S NINETY FEET FROM HOME. YOU HAVE TIME. HIS WHOLE PLAN IS CONVINCING YOU THAT YOU DON'T.

THE DUTY ROSTER, DRAWN AS A MAP



THE LIST

1

BALL RIGHT SIDE

BREAK TO FIRST — EVEN WHEN HE WON'T NEED YOU

2

BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

BACK UP THIRD OR HOME, DEEP AND IN LINE

3

BUNT

FIELD YOUR LANE, THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY

X

WATCHING FROM THE MOUND

NOT ON THE LIST

**THE PITCH IS A HANDOFF,
NOT A FINISH LINE.**ZERO PLAYS END WHEN IT
CROSSES THE PLATE. ZERO.



THE LEASH: NEVER FARTHER THAN ONE HARD DIVE BACK

THE FEET



THE TWO MOVES

1

PRIMARY

TWO STEPS OFF THE BAG — ONE DIVE BACK HOME

2

SECONDARY

TWO HARD SHUFFLES AS THE PITCH TRAVELS

3

LAND BALANCED

AS THE BALL CROSSES THE PLATE

X

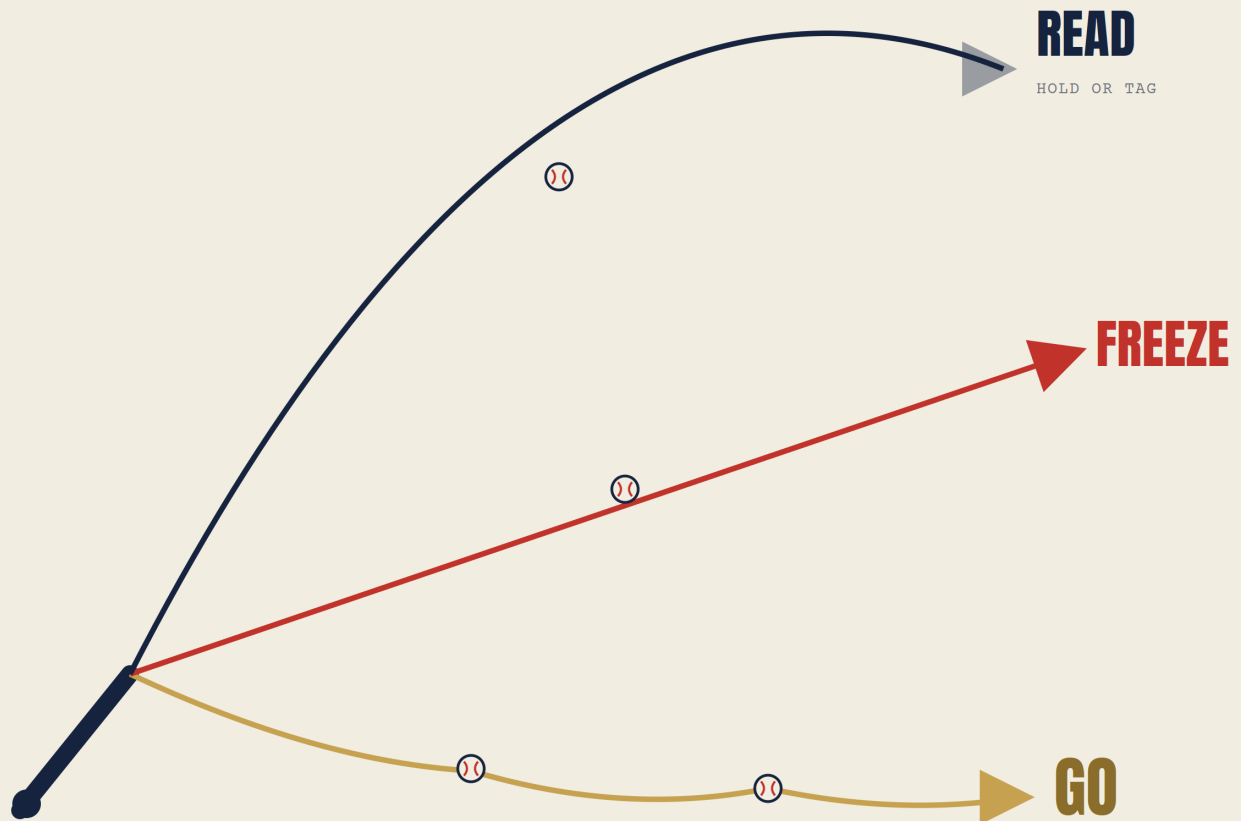
EYES OFF THE PITCHER

THAT'S HOW YOU GET PICKED — NOT THE LEAD SIZE

**NOT FASTER.
STARTING CLOSER.**

FIFTEEN OF THE NINETY,
TAKEN IN ADVANCE.

OFF THE BAT — ONE QUARTER OF A SECOND



THE THREE READS

GB

GROUND BALL — GO

FORCED RUNNERS NEVER WATCH A GROUND BALL

LD

LINE DRIVE — FREEZE

CAUGHT, YOU'RE SAFE. THROUGH, YOU LOSE HALF A STEP.

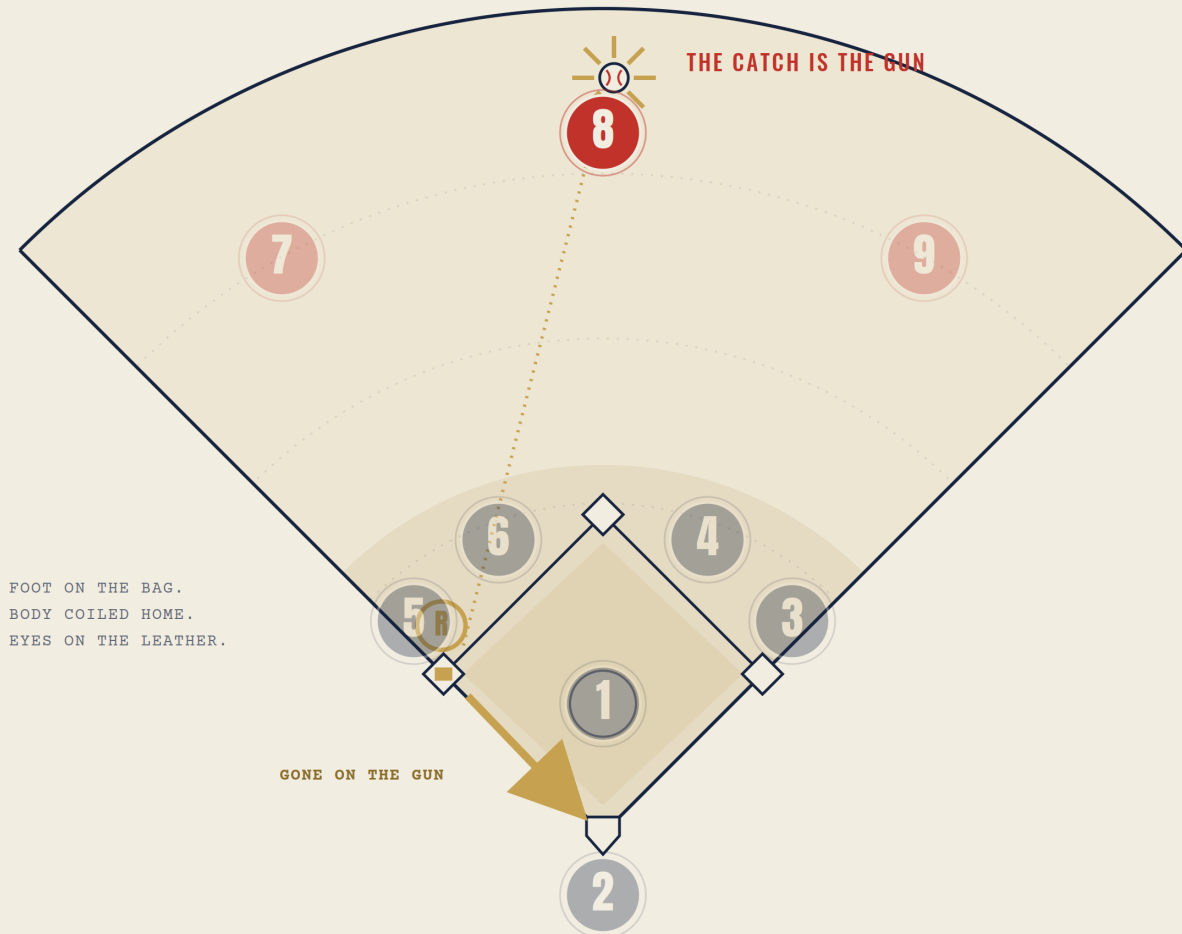
FB

FLY BALL — READ IT DOWN

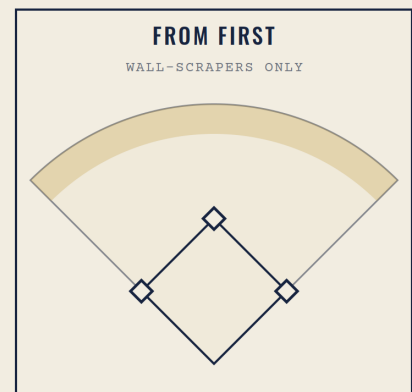
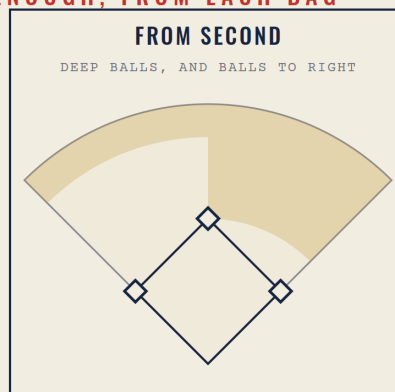
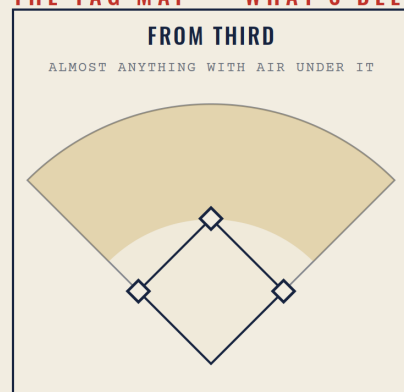
LESS THAN TWO OUTS: HOLD OR TAG

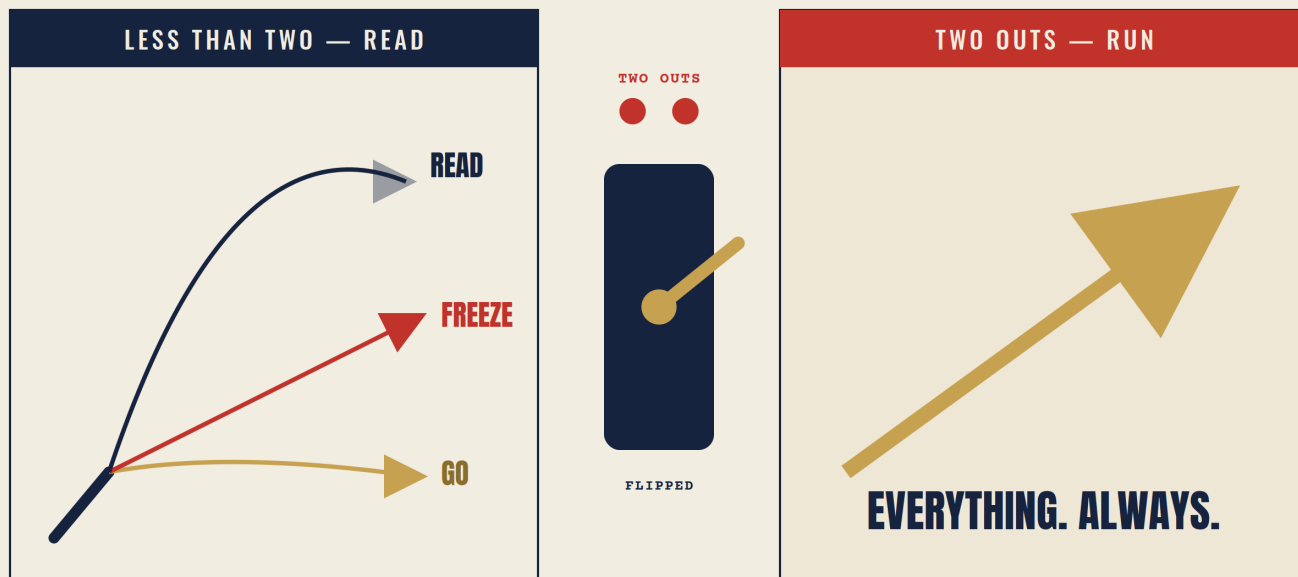
**HOPE IS NOT
ONE OF THE READS.**

THE READ HAPPENS OFF THE BAT, NOT OFF THE BOUNCE.



THE TAG MAP — WHAT'S DEEP ENOUGH, FROM EACH BAG





THE OUT COUNT IS THE HAND ON THE SWITCH. NOTHING ELSE MOVES IT.

THE SUSPENSION

<2

LESS THAN TWO OUTS

ORDERS 22 AND 23 GOVERN. READ, FREEZE, TAG.

2

TWO OUTS

RUN ON CONTACT. EVERYTHING. ALWAYS.

+

TWO OUTS, FULL COUNT, FORCED

YOU'RE RUNNING ON THE PITCH ITSELF

=

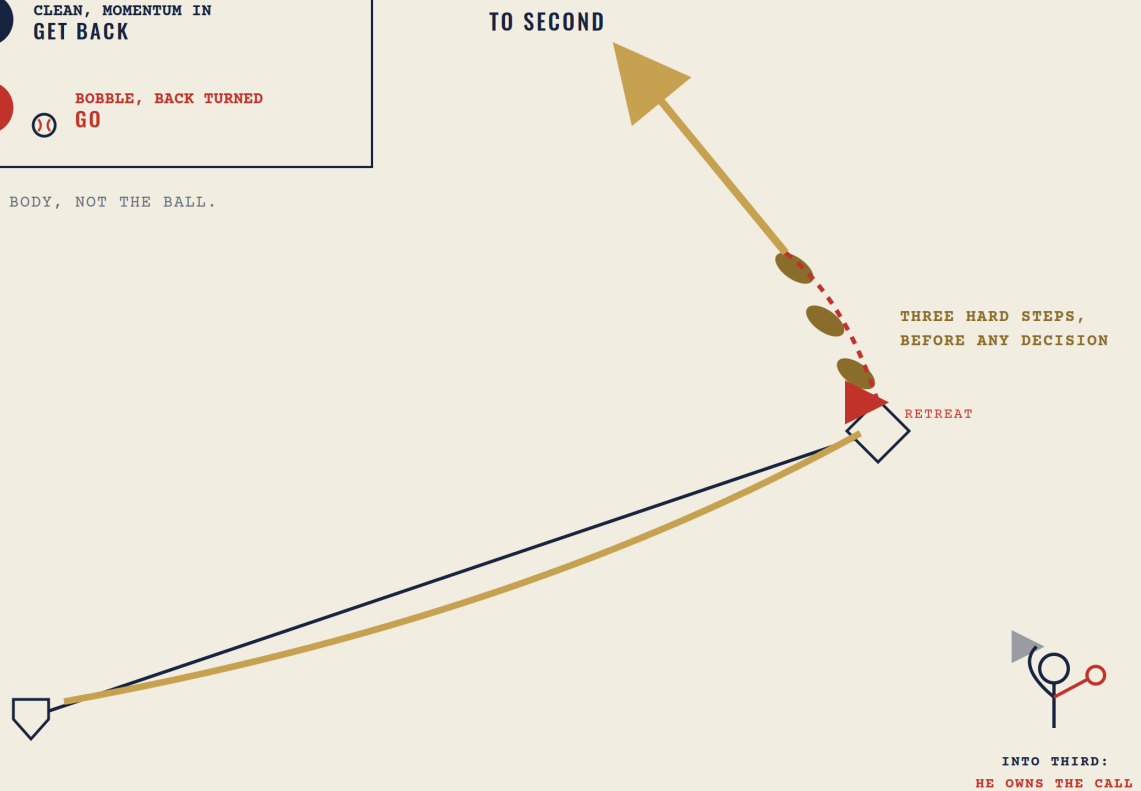
CAUGHT ANYWAY?

THE INNING WAS OVER EITHER WAY. YOU LOST NOTHING.

**THOSE RULES WERE WRITTEN FOR A
WORLD WITH OUTS LEFT TO LOSE.**



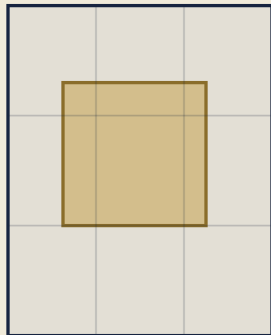
READ HIS BODY, NOT THE BALL.



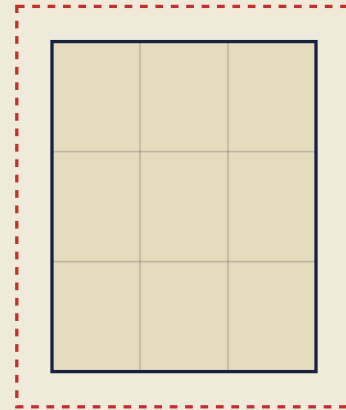
THE HARD TURN

- 1 **INSIDE CORNER, LEAN IN**
EVERY SINGLE GETS THE HARD TURN
- 2 **THREE HARD STEPS**
BEFORE ANY DECISION — KEEP BOTH FUTURES ALIVE
- 3 **READ HIS BODY**
CLEAN? GET BACK. BOBBLE? GO.
- 3B **INTO THIRD**
THE COACH OWNS THE CALL. OBEY IT INSTANTLY.

**THE SOFT TURN IS THE
GREAT THIEF OF DOUBLES.**

2-0 YOUR COUNT — YOU'RE THE HUNTER**HUNT HERE ONLY**

YOUR PITCH, YOUR ZONE — OR LET IT PASS

0-2 HIS COUNT — YOU'RE THE SURVIVOR**ANYTHING CLOSE**

THE DASHED LINE IS THE UMPIRE'S MOOD

WHO'S IN CHARGE**2-0****HUNTER**

SMALL ZONE, BIG SWING. HIS BEST STRIKE IS COMING.

3-1**HUNTER**

SAME — BUT A WALK IS A WIN. DON'T RESCUE HIM.

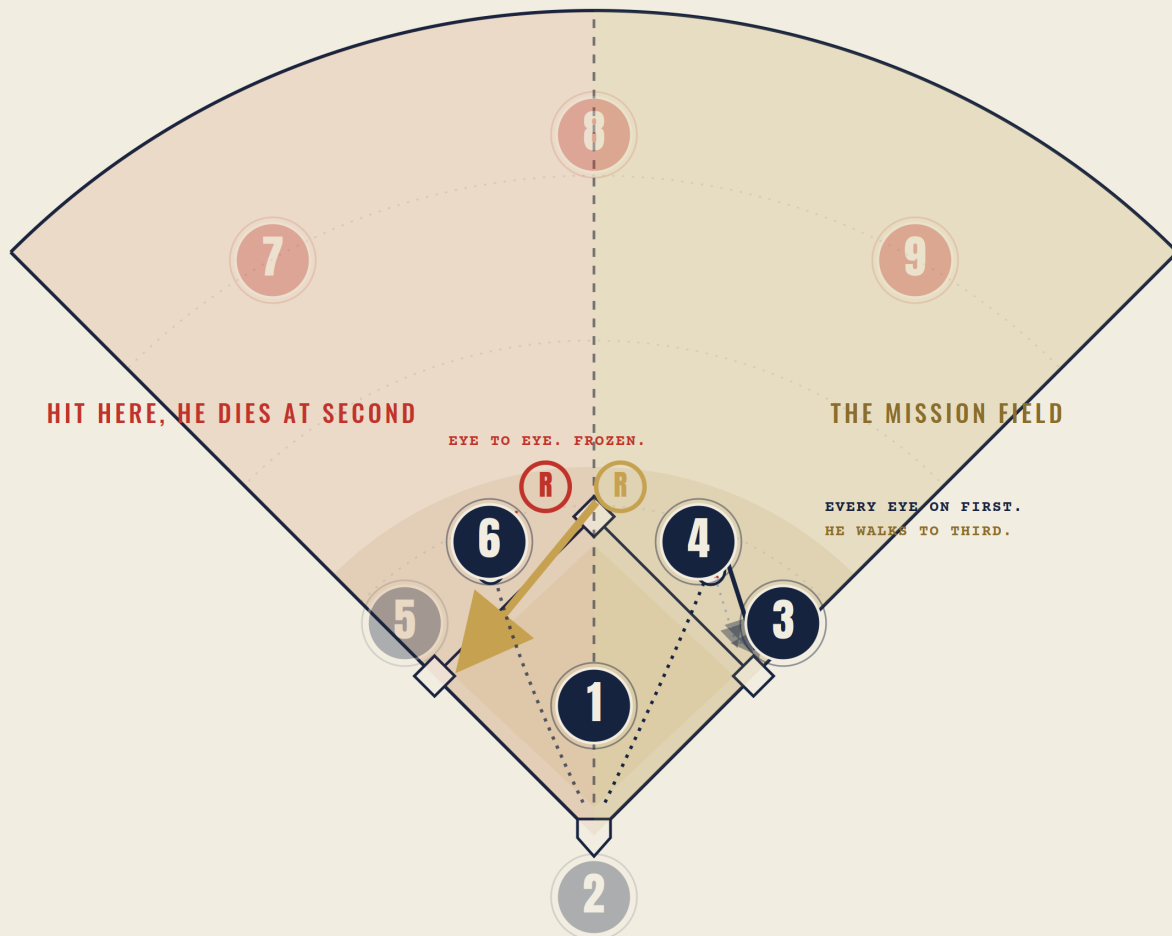
1-1**EVEN**

THE HINGE PITCH. WIN IT AND YOU'RE HUNTING.

0-2**SURVIVOR**

BIG ZONE, SHORT SWING. ORDER 29 TAKES OVER.

**SAME PITCH.
OPPOSITE ANSWERS.**



THE MISSION

**HIT THE RIGHT HALF**

SECOND BASEMAN, FIRST BASEMAN, OR BEHIND THE RUNNER

**AN OUT THAT MOVES HIM**

IS A WIN IN THE SCOREBOOK — 4-3, RUNNER TO THIRD

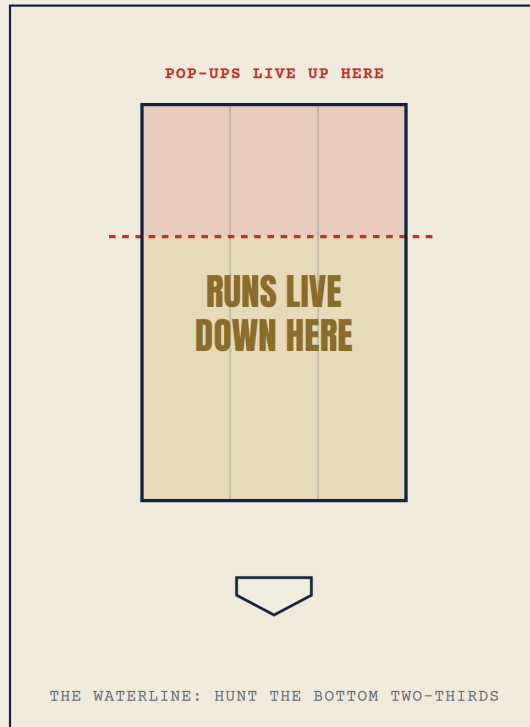
**PULLED TO SHORT OR THIRD**

THE BALL BEATS HIM THERE. HE NEVER LEAVES.

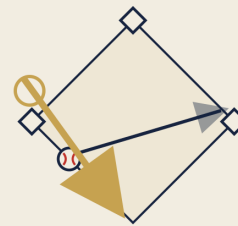
**THIRD WITH ONE OUT**

NOW A FLY, A GROUNDER, OR A WILD ONE SCORES HIM

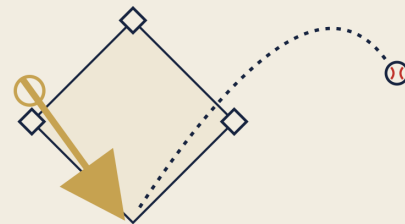
**MOVE HIM WITH THEIR BACKS,
NOT YOUR MUSCLE.**

**GRINDER TO SHORT — THEY TAKE FIRST**

THE RUN WALKS IN. 6-3, RBI.

**MEDIUM FLY — THE FREE RUN**

ORDER 23: HE TAGS AND SCORES

**IF THE INFILDS CREEPS IN****INFILDS IN?****SAME SWING, AIMED PAST THEM — HARD THROUGH THE MIDDLE**

IN CLOSE, THEIR GLOVES COVER LESS GRASS. MIDDLE IS THE GAP THAT'S LEFT.

WHAT SCORES HIM**GROUND BALL**

EVEN AN OUT DOES THE JOB — RBI GROUNDOUT

**MEDIUM FLY**

THE TAG. ORDER 23, RUN SCORED.

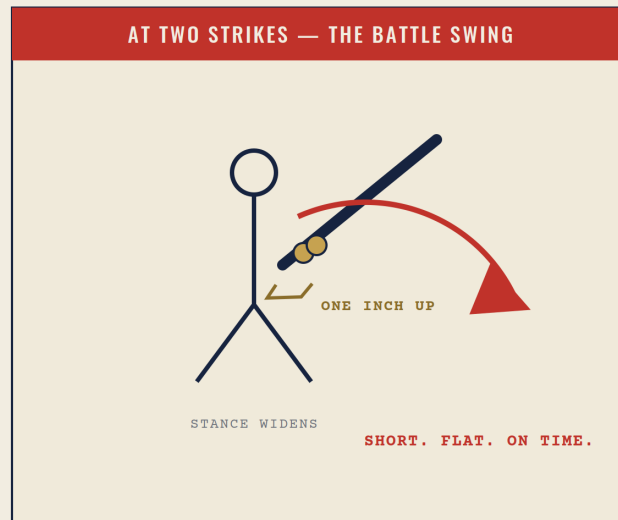
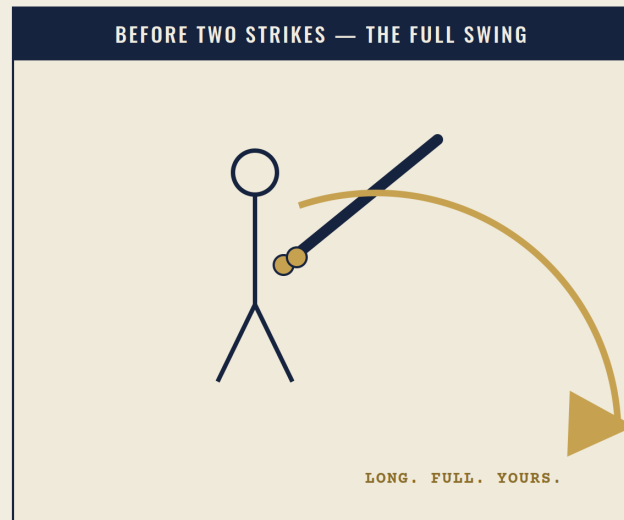
**ANYTHING LOW AND HARD**

THROUGH OR NOT, HE'S MOVING

**THE HIGH POP**

THE ONE BALL THAT STRANDS HIM

**HE NEEDS CONTACT,
NOT A HERO.**



SPEND HIS PITCHES
THE BORDERLINE PITCH, FOULED OFF:



**SHIELD,
NOT SHAME**

THE TWO-STRIKE HITTER

1

CHOKE UP ONE INCH

TRADE AN INCH OF POWER FOR AN OUNCE OF TIME

2

SHORTEN THE SWING

COMPACT. FLAT. THROUGH THE MIDDLE.

3

WIDEN THE STANCE

LESS STRIDE, LESS HEAD MOVEMENT, MORE TIME

∞

FOUL BALLS ARE FINE

EVERY FOUL IS ANOTHER PITCH HE HAS TO THROW

**A DIFFERENT HITTER
WALKS TO THE PLATE.**



THE MESSAGES

IN

CORNERS CREEPING

THEY FEAR THE BUNT — THE GROUND BEHIND THEM IS OPEN

LOW

OUTFIELD SHALLOW

THEY DON'T FEAR YOU DEEP. PROVE THEM WRONG ONCE.

DEEP

OUTFIELD BACKED UP

THE SHORT GRASS IS FREE. A SOFT SINGLE IS A GIFT.

GAP

A LANE NOBODY CLOSES

EVERY SHIFT OPENS ONE. FIND IT BEFORE THE PITCH.

KEEP YOUR HEAD UP. GENERALS LISTEN.

EVERY RULE IN THIS BOOK, REVERSED,
IS A SCOUTING REPORT ON THEM.