

BASEBALL TEAM FUNDAMENTAL OF THE MONTH

DEFENSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH POSITION

PLAY: Bunt Defense:

SITUATION: Runner on 1 st and 2 nd and 0 outs – Wheel Play

The wheel play is put on as a bunt defense when you are 99% sure the opposing team is going to bunt and you definitely want the out at 3 rd base.

What is everyone's responsibility?

Pitcher – The pitcher reads the shortstop. When the pitcher comes to the set position in his stretch on the mound, he picks up the shortstop. When he sees daylight between the shortstop and base runner as the shortstop breaks towards third base to cover, he delivers the pitch. (By waiting to see the shortstop clear the base runner to the third base side well enough to see daylight between them, assures the defense that the shortstop will beat the runner to third base for the force play.) After delivering the pitch he moves straight in to cover any bunt in front of the pitching mound area.

Catcher – He takes any bunts in front of home plate and makes the call to which base the ball needs to be thrown in order to get an out. The play is designed to get the out at third base but if that can't be done adjustments have to be made to get an out at another base.

1st baseman – He is in front of the base runner at first and begins to creep in a little as the pitcher comes to his set position in the stretch. As the pitcher delivers the ball and the hitter squares to bunt he charges in hard but under control. He handles all the bunts from the 1 st base line to a straight line from pitchers mound to home plate.

2nd baseman – He covers 1 st base.

Shortstop – He comes behind the runner and holds the runner close to 2 nd by letting the base runner feel his presence on his left side. He then starts hard towards third as the pitcher comes to his set position in the stretch. He must break hard to third in order to beat the base runner to 3 rd for the force play.

3rd baseman – He shortens up a little at 3 rd looking for the bunt. As the pitcher comes to his set position in the stretch, he starts creeping in towards the home plate area. Once the pitcher delivers the pitch and he sees the hitter square to bunt he charges in hard but under control. He handles all bunts from the 3 rd base line to a straight line from pitchers mound to home plate.

Note: Communication between the 1 st baseman, pitcher, and 3 rd baseman is absolutely necessary when fielding the bunt since all three are charging straight in hard once the ball is thrown.

Left Fielder – He backs up 3 rd base.

Center Fielder - He backs up 2 nd base.

Right Fielder - He backs up 1 st base