



NORTH SUBURBAN YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

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The Ten Commandments of Fielding

by Jeff Smith

1. Thou shalt observe the ready position on every pitch.
2. Know thy targets, and each of them, before the ball is hit.
3. Thou shalt keepeth thy eye on the ball, until it is in thy glove.
4. On every play, thou shalt go to the ball, a base, or a backup position.
5. Fear not in going to the ball, and commiteth not sloth, but make haste to put thy body in the way of the ball, so as to make thy pickups easy and thy throws unhurried.
6. Thou shalt not kill the birds of the air with thy throws, but shall maketh them flat and true; nor shalt thou run with thy glove outstretched, lest thou be mistaken for a deliverer of pizzas.
7. An outfielder shalt not hold the ball, for many are the runners who will score in thy time of indecision; but an infielder shalt not throw the ball around the infield after the play is over, for what gaineth a man to throw to a base after the runner hath safely slid in?
8. Thou shalt yell "mine" for that which is thine, and proclaim it to all the heavens, and thy assists and putouts shall surely increase.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's grounder, nor his popup, but shall honor thy neighbor if he has a better angle to the ball.
10. They shalt not steal — if thou covereth after every pitch, and the catcher returneth the ball to the pitcher without delay.

"The Ten Commandments of Fielding" were written by the legendary Jeff "Double Steal" Smith, who coached in the Skokie Indians system during the mid- and late 1990's and then at Evanston before Skokie Indians reconstituted their Pony League. They are copyright 1997 by Jeff Smith and are used here with his permission.