

Duties of the First-Base Coach

The first-base coach has but one duty; namely, to get his runner to second or beyond. He should have a keen sense of judgement and the ability to make rapid decisions. The start and run to first base are important to the batter but, beyond that, the runner is in the hands of the coach. When a batter hits, he usually takes his glance in the direction in which the hit is going. If it is an infield hit, he will try to get to first base in time to beat the throw. However, if his hit is beyond or over the heads of the infielders, he comes up to a point about fifteen feet before the base and gets ready to round the base. If there is a chance for another base, he should direct the runner by calling the number 2 which message will tell the runner to stop at second. No signal will hold the runner at first.

On a long hit the coach should again designate, using his judgement as to the position of the infielders, the outfielders arm and the fence, the number of bases the runner is to take; "Take two" for a two base blow & "Take three" for a triple. The first base coach as well as the third base coach must also hold his runner after a foul or fly has been caught and start him at the proper time.