

Baseball Team Devotion- The Pick-Off

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 3:12-13

One of the greatest weapons a starting pitcher can have is a good pick-off move to first. That keeps runners from usually stealing a lot of bases and it also cuts down the lead at first. When a pitcher has a great pick-off move you can believe that the base runners will not stray far from the base. When they do it often results in them diving back to the base or being picked off. During the 2009 season the top three in pick-offs were all left handed, Mark Buehrle of the White Sox led the Majors with eight, followed by Doug Davis of the Diamondbacks and Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers with seven each. These pitchers are known for keeping runners close. The key to a good pick-off move is deception. The base runner must struggle to know when the pitcher will go to the plate or throw over to first. A good pick-off move is deceptive and keeps runners close.

In today's Scripture lesson the writer of Hebrews warns the church of being hardened by sin's deceitfulness. The church had fallen into the trap of being comfortable in their faith and relying upon themselves. Runners often times get picked off when they are too comfortable and their lead is too big. Thus it is easy for them to be fooled. The key to not getting picked-off in sin is to realize the same things hold true. Satan wants to fool us, he wants us to be picked-off in sin. He will tell us lies like , no one will ever know, hey this sin is fun, go ahead if it feels good do it. All of these are deceptions Satan uses to try to get us to sin. If Satan can pick us off with sin we can't be all we can for God. Just like base runners study a pitcher's move, we can study God's Word and use it against Satan. The more we know about what God wants from us the better we can be in living for Him. Satan can't pick-off a follower of God who is prepared and living for Him. So today is Satan hardening our hearts by our sin? Are we spending enough time in God's Word to prepare us to not be deceived? God is a prayer away and is willing to forgive our sins and mistakes, if we ask. God will also help us not to get picked-off in sin. Remember Satan is deceptive and will do his best to pick us off. But with God's help and by studying His Word, Satan can not win. Let's go out today and stay safe from sin by giving our lives to God and the study of His Word.

Visual aid: great you tube video featuring now Tampa Ray David Price
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhCGxClOeVc>