

Baseball Team Devotion-The Balk

Scripture lesson: Revelation 12:9

According to wiseGEEK, "The underlying principle behind the balk rule is to protect base-runners and would be base stealers from being deceived by the pitcher. Deceiving a base runner is the best way to throw them out." Basically, the balk is simply the pitcher deceiving the runners on base by intending to do so or doing it by accident. If a pitcher drops the ball while on the rubber, whether he means to or not, with a runner on base that is a balk. If a pitcher does not step to the base in which he is throwing, that is a balk. There are about 10 things that could be called as a balk. Hall of Fame pitcher Steve Carlton has the career record for balks with 90. Dave Stewart of the Oakland A's set the single season record for balks with 16 in 1988. A balk is deceiving the runners on base. The penalty for a balk is for the runners to advance one base. If you are on third when a balk occurs, then you score.

Our Scripture lesson today tells us of one who is the great deceiver of this world. There is one who wants to deceive us and get us out in the game of life. Satan is trying to deceive us every day. He is trying to trick us into doing things that are not pleasing in God's eyes. A balk can fool a base runner. Satan wants to fool us by telling us sin is great and doing things not pleasing to God is just fine. Have you ever done something you knew was wrong even before you did it? The battle that went on inside of you to do the right thing or do the thing that you knew was wrong, was tough wasn't it? Satan's influences always tries to deceive us to do the things we know that are wrong! He is great as a deceiver, but he is no match for Jesus. When we come to times in our lives when we need to decide between right and wrong, it is Jesus who helps us make the right choice. All we have to do is ask Him. The next time Satan is trying to deceive us or balk in the game of life, remember we have someone who is always there for us to help us decide between right and wrong, Jesus Christ. Let's do our best to listen to him and realize that living for Him is the only way to defeat Satan and his deception.

Object lesson: refer to MLB Official Rule book rule 8.05 or youtube video mikescottbaseball Balk Rules