

Baseball Team Devotion-The Stolen Base

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 18:10

One of the most exciting plays in baseball is the stolen base. Everything must work together for the runner to steal. He must have a good lead, read the pitcher's move, and have a great first step. All good base stealers have those things in common. The career leader for stolen bases is Rickey Henderson with 1,406. He also holds the single season record with 130 in 1982 while playing for the Oakland Athletics. In 2009 the stolen base leaders were in the AL Jacoby Ellsbury of the Boston Red Sox with 70 and the NL leader was Michael Bourne of the Houston Astros with 61. The stolen base enables the base runner to get in scoring position (stealing 2nd), get to where it is easier to score (stealing 3rd), and even in the rare occasions score by stealing home. When a person steals successfully they are safe. The next time you watch a MLB game pay attention to the leads, moves, and first steps of the base stealers.

In today's Scripture lesson the writer of Proverbs reminds us of another way to be safe. Not safe in stealing a base, but safe in life: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe." A tower signifies strength in the ancient world. If we run to the Lord and maintain a relationship with him we will be safe as if we were in a strong fortress. When we run to God, he is always there for us. God wants to help us in our daily living so that we can make a difference for him. Base stealers in baseball run with confidence that they will be safe. We can run the race called life with confidence if we run toward God. The goal of the stolen base is to be safe. The goal of life is to be safe and to run toward God. Today are we running toward God or are we running away from God? The only way to true happiness and contentment is to run to God and let Him direct our steps. Are we ready to run today and live a life that makes a difference for God?

Object lesson: you tube video Tribute to a legend: Rickey henderson