

## Perception IS Reality

As we look toward the spring and getting ready to apply our trade of umpiring in this great game of college baseball, I want to share just a few things that will add or detract from the PERCEPTION of being a good official in the eyes of players, coaches, fans, evaluators, and your peers.

First of all I hope you have done a good inventory of your equipment and uniforms, replacing the old and cleaning up the old that is still usable. I further hope there has been an effort to remain in or get into good physical shape. I first thing anyone sees is HOW YOU LOOK when you walk on the field.

When you walk on the field with your crew do you walk with confidence or arrogance? Do you look like you want to be there or like you are doing them a favor by your presence? Are you clowning around with players and coaches on one team or do you exude a professional and businesslike demeanor. These first two items make the first impression of someone who has never seen you work.

At the plate meeting are you pleasant and businesslike, without an arrogant attitude and appearing as a professional?

Do you stand in proper attention during the national anthem rather than talking with your partners?

Do you hustle out to your position as the game prepares to start rather than walk? During the game are you using the proper tools to get into good position, anticipating the next possible play, using good timing, and displaying calls in a crisp, firm style without being flamboyant?

When you are approached by a coach are you professional or inflammatory, resulting in a good discussion and explanation or an ejection and future bad blood?

Do you work hard to get the play correct or just rely on video review?

All of these items are just a small portion of what it takes to be perceived as a good official, but if you noticed, nothing was mentioned about whether or not you got the call RIGHT. These are the items that you have control over prior to even making a call. These are the tangibles that help you earn RESPECT as a good official.

I wish you all the best in the upcoming 2020 season.