

CHANGE BRINGS SUCCESS

Approaching the 2015 College Baseball season will be a very exciting experience. College Baseball is at a whole different level.

“IT IS A NEW ERA”

With a new National Coordinator (Mr. George Drouches) there will be change. Positive changes will improve college baseball and baseball umpiring.

“WILL YOU BE PART OF CHANGE”

“WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT PERFORMANCE”

College baseball has become a very big business. The exposure of the game is at an all time high. Changing trends will increase the accountability of all umpires. You must continue to improve your game to the highest level. Baseball at all levels is in a place where television, media exposure, instant replay, K-zone, camera angles and announcers bashing. Working towards perfection is a necessity.

Demands are much greater on school administrators, coaches and players to win and have successful programs. Whether you want to believe it or not, we (the umpires) are a big piece of the baseball puzzle. Our responsibilities and expectations are expanding with each pitch, play, game and each season. Remind yourself how lucky you are to be a major participant in college baseball. Don't take the game for granted. If you are not at your best the game will suffer and you will not meet your goals.

With the increase of accountability comes a higher level of commitment. Umpires need to ask themselves one important question. “Am I capable?” There are a few general principles that we all need to follow.

Can I improve my game every year to meet the expectations?

Can I handle all the pressures?

Can I be consistent in every area?

Can I enforce the rules as written and comply the proper mechanics?

Can I stay in physical condition and exhibit great mobility and agility to get into proper position?

Can I manage a game the proper way?

Can I focus for the entire game no matter how long or how bad the game is?

Can I be a good and reliable partner? Can I be a leader and not a controller?

It is time to take a step back and ask yourself, "What more can I do or what do I have to do to be a complete umpire?" An umpire that is proud to be a big part of this great game.

The 2015 season will be here before you know it. Have yourself ready. You need individual commitment to be the very best you can be. If you are not ready you will fail and failure is not an option. It doesn't matter what your history or your experience or what you have done in the past. We are in the era of **performance, perfection, consistency, accountability, chemistry, change** and most important **yearly improvement**. Do you have the will to get better each and every year?

There is an old saying. **"Once you have arrived". "The hardest thing to do is stay"**.

Are you the one that is going to stay? Good Luck and have the best season of your career.

Mark Ditsworth Central Regional Advisor Big 10, Big 12, SEC, Mid-American, Missouri Valley,
American, Southland, SWAC, Summit, C-USA,
Horizon