

# TEAMWORK

At the start of each game, two teams are prepared to compete at a high level for the opportunity to gain respect and prestige. In all reality there is always a third team on the field and that team must be of high quality and ready to compete. The third team, whether it be a two-man, three man, or four-man unit, plays an extremely important role in making sure that each game is officiated in a professional manner.

It is a well-known conclusion that baseball teams need to be cohesive units in order to be successful in today's outstanding college baseball game. You can be the most talented team in Division I baseball and still fail if you lack team cohesion. Also known as teamwork, team cohesion is an active process where players come together to achieve a common goal and remain united in pursuit of that objective.

In most cases the typical "fan" understands how important this concept is to have a winning baseball program. Often, the typical "fan" does not realize how important the concept of team cohesion is for the third team—the umpires. For the umpire team to be successful and reach their full potential as a unit, each official must commit to working hard with their teammates for the good of the team.

The third team is an integral part of conducting a successful and classy game. As umpires, always remember that the third team must be prepared and work together and make sure that the game is officiated in a professional manner. Work hard, support your fellow umpires and always be ready to work.

Remember, the third team is THE important unit.