



OUTFIELD

1. The most important characteristic of a great outfielder is wanting the baseball hit to him. Especially in the big situation.
2. Footwork, getting the proper angles, and simply catching the ball are more important than an outfielder with a great arm.
3. Outfielders need to know when to dive for a ball and when to let it bounce in front of him. The general rule is when the ball “has air under it” or it’s more of a fly ball they should dive fore it. On line shots—play it safe and let the ball drop if in doubt.
4. Outfielders have priority over infielders on short fly balls—you must COMMUNICATE.
5. Hit the cut off man...also be able to throw the long one-hopper to fielders. Don’t throw over the cutoff man as this allows other runners to advance bases. Short hopping the receiver makes it a very difficult catch and tag.
6. Many great outfielders let the ball come to them as opposed to charging the ball.
7. Understand the CROW HOP or back step and make it work for you. You are getting energy moving forward.
8. Wear sunglasses during games and practice on sunny days. Get used to it.
9. Check the wind and ground around you every inning to be ready.
10. Before each game the outfielder should walk the outfield and warning track, fence area to understand your work environment for the day.
11. After charging a ground ball—you need to start “breaking down” with the ball about 20’ in front of you.
12. A great outfielder can decoy runners into thinking they lost a ball in the sun or that they mishandled a ground ball. This needs to be practiced.
13. The center fielder has priority over the corner outfielders on fly balls.

DRILLS to PRACTICE at HOME

- Drop step, running in.
- W drill, Z drill, playing balls every direction.
- Crowhop, long toss, hitting cuts, proper fundamentals.

Practice catching fly balls when it is windy and when it is sunny.