

HOW I LEARNED TO HIT A BASEBALL

By Chandler York

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One day my mom was looking at camp brochures and she asked me if I wanted to go to baseball camp during the summer. I thought about it and in the end I decided to take baseball camp at Minuteman Technical High School. I had never played organized baseball before and I was a little nervous. A week before camp my dad played catch with me a few times to get me used to a baseball. The camp runs from eight thirty to eleven thirty Monday through Friday and the two coaches are Mike Pabein and Danny Richter. In the first part of the morning we work on basic skills for about an hour and a half, such as base running, catching, throwing. After a twenty-minute break we usually play a baseball game. Sometimes we play Home Run Derby.

The first week I did not know that I was a good baseball player. My swing looked terrible and I thought that I would never hit the ball. Whenever the ball was hit to me I had difficulty fielding the ball. One of the kids, named Justin, even said, "you stink". At the end of the first day my dad took me to MVP Sports. We bought 20 baseballs and an aluminum bat. Then we went to Lincoln field and worked on my hitting. My father showed me my stance, how to get my bat back, rotate my hips, keep my eye on the ball and take a hard cut. That day I only hit 3 out of 20 pitches. We worked on my hitting every day after camp that week. My dad would throw 5 or 6 sets of 20 pitches. After each set, I would have to walk around with a bucket and pick up all the balls that I had hit. By the end of the first week I was hitting 14 to 18 of the 20 pitches in each set.

During the second week I was making much better contact with the ball but I was still having trouble with Home Run Derby. In Home Run Derby one of the instructors tosses the ball to the hitter from the side. Since the ball was coming from the side I still had difficulty hitting it. But, because I was hitting pitching pretty well Justin did not think I stunk anymore. I made some other friends at camp, Byron, Gusama and Kevin. For the rest of the second week we worked on my hitting and dad bought 7 more balls for an even 25.

Now in the third week I know all the keys to hitting crouch, make sure that I can reach the middle of the plate with my bat, keep my eye on the ball and take a hard swing. And on the second day my dad came and saw me connect for a big hit but since the out fielders were way back the out fielder caught the ball. I had wondered if I would see it pay off and I did. Baseball is a great sport once you get the hang of it.

The End