



Trust the Process

The Austin Baseball Club is committed to the Process. I understand that playing baseball at the next level is somewhere in the minds of each ball player and family who chose to participate in the ABC organization. The "next level" for some is making the high school team; for others, it's earning a spot on the varsity squad; for most though, in the back of your mind, you have been dreaming of playing college baseball from an early age. Now that you are within arms-reach, it has begun to dominate your thoughts (and stress level). I embrace the role I can play in helping you navigate the college recruiting Process.

Best Advice

The best advice I can share with you related to my personal experience as a player is to turn it over to God. Keeping praying for wisdom and clarity, because baseball is hard; often cruel. About the time you feel you have jumped one hurdle there will be another one higher than the last. Pray for humility. Beware of feelings of entitlement that can dominate your emotions. *Stay Hungry, Humble and Smart.*

The System is not broken

Have confidence that the evaluation and recruiting process is not a broken system. The bottom line is, can you play at the next level (high school, varsity, collegiate, pro)? How would you know? Validation. This is where you need to trust the system. Don't just trust what someone tells you, sells you, or what you read on a website. Trust the Process. Be proactive and do something about it. Get better (stronger, faster, throw harder, etc). Learn to maximize the baseball tools you have been blessed with. But there is a catch. You can incrementally get better, but it still might not be "good enough" to compete at the level you desire. You can play seasons of select baseball, travel to tournaments near and far; sign up for showcase events where the recruiters from the school you want to attend will be in attendance, yet it feels as if you go unnoticed. Focus on developing into an *Invaluable Impact* player. Remember, baseball is hard. The Process is hard.

It doesn't take Undeniable size, skill or talent to be Invaluable

We are all subject to our own limitations (mental and physical). Spud Webb who stood 5'7" played 13 years in the NBA and won an NBA Slam Dunk contest; Houston Astros second baseman, Jose Altuve, stands 5'6", leads the team in several statistical categories

every year, is a perennial All-Star, voted MVP of the American League, and signed a \$100mil + contract. Football player, Darren Sproles, stands 5'6" and is the all-time leading rusher at Kansas State Univ and broke the single season record in the NFL for all purpose yards. I can only imagine there were times in their careers where coaches and evaluators typecast them as "too small" or not "big enough". However, what they proved to the world is that they are *Invaluable*. There are many things about your physical and mental development that you cannot control, however, there are many that you can. Instead of obsessing about being the fastest, throwing the hardest, or having an optimal launch-angle, focus on becoming an *Invaluable* asset to the team and your coaches. Get it done or you risk becoming *Insignificant*.

Homework - Challenge the Process

One of my goals is to equip you with tools and Process to reduce stress. Start with writing an evaluation on yourself (ball player); or parent write an evaluation of your ball player. Most of the metrics to evaluate are at your disposal. Some are physical which you can objectively evaluate and you also need to weigh in on your mental make up. Below are some suggestions and a good place to start to evaluate:

- grade your five-tools: speed, arm strength, hitting, hitting for power, defense (these tools can be measured so be sure and attend the ABC pro-style skills combines).
- request objective feedback from baseball professionals who are in your warm circle regarding their opinion on your ability to hit and play defense
- are you an invaluable asset to your team?
- are you an undeniable force at this stage of your career? Why or why not? Be specific. Don't make excuses.
- grade your ability to handle adversity on a scale of 1 to 3 (3 being great)?
- do you hustle? When?
- do you play with enthusiasm? What does this look like?
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Do your homework and test/grade your skills; ask for the objective tough love opinions of others (coaches). When you take this exercise to heart you will begin to find more clarity in the Process. You will begin to better understand where the bar is set at the next level and what you need to do to **close the gap**.