

## **The Most Common Pitfalls** **High School Players Experience**

By: Bob Howdeshell

High School Baseball Web

*Every parent of a high school player should read this article ... then every player should read it, even if it doesn't apply to you or your player. Each of us knows someone that should read this, so maybe you should pass it along to someone else as well.*

### **The Big Three**

- No sense of urgency that time is slipping by
- Inability to listen to Coaches and Teachers
- The way I dress and act is just “my style” and if they want me, they know where to find me, and then I will change

### ***Bad Misconceptions or Habits***

- Overestimating your own ability level
- Poor personal grooming habits & social skills
- Believing that attitude has very little to do with your appeal to a college coach
- My poor work habits will improve when I get around a college coach
- Very small perspective on baseball abilities of others around the nation
- No sense of urgency to get serious about the work needed to move on
- Being influenced by the wrong type of self-destructive people
- Believing that sportsmanship is not important
- Appearing lazy or lethargic
- Thinking “I’ll turn it up when I need to”
- Frequent trips outside the dugout to talk to dad, girlfriend or buddies

### ***Things that do not go unnoticed***

#### **Negatives**

- Long Hair & Facial Hair
- Earrings & Tattoos
- Poor fitting uniform
- Being unprepared to play
- Being late for a game

- Smoking or chewing
- Being rude or obnoxious
- Tantrums, swearing, helmet or bat throwing
- Arguing with Umpires
- Frequent trips out of the dugout
- Hanging out with sketchy characters
- Always having an excuse
- Immature behavior
- Sloppy non-athletic appearance
- Inability to communicate
- Walking on and off the field

### **Positives**

- Clean, well kept appearance
- Wearing the uniform correctly
- Hustle and Enthusiasm
- Backing up bases
- Not missing signals
- Encouraging teammates
- Arriving early to game
- Helping clean up gear after the game
- Calming influence
- Hanging around quality people
- Taking responsibility
- Displaying good character
- A tremendous smile
- Athletic appearance
- Good speaking abilities
- Working hard in the classroom
- Addressing adults with respect (yes sir and yes m'am, etc)