

SLIDER DOMINATION PRESENTS

# The Case Against Baseball Being a Money Sport



*Expensive*

A Parents Guide to Understanding  
the Alternatives

by Brad Kirsch

Baseball is rapidly becoming a rich kid sport. And that's sad. Baseball is the everyman sport. The American Past Time which is ever expanding it's worldwide reach, is enjoyed thoroughly by families everywhere. With the rise of personal coaching, technological enhancements for training techniques, and pay (**BIG**) to play travel teams, the kids who come from more money are having more success at the amateur levels. This leaves the working class kids in a bind.

Does the family make sacrifices to keep up with the Jones' of the baseball world? Or do they settle with playing alongside the other kids who have little or no instruction against a competition of the same variety?

There is a lot of good to be said about the ball player who comes from the working class background. The farmer, the factory worker, the small business owner and so on. They have a solid work ethic instilled in them from a young age and a hunger to prove others wrong. They also have a reputable standard for personal fulfillment. Additionally, they aren't afraid to get dirty with the job. Throughout history, the vast majority of MLB players came from families in these endeavors. And they still do.

You can take all the personal coaching and the \$1000s & \$1000s of spent on these services. What does it guarantee? It does not *add* talent to a ball player. It does not *increase* a player's intangibles. Nor does it warrant a player to be more driven.

Therefore, what do college coaches and professional scouts look for in players? Well, a number of factors, some which I have already touched on. However, one of them is the ability to be coachable and coach yourself. Does the player have the ability and aptitude to take matters into his own hands and make adjustments when needed. Another thing that coaches look for is consistency. These 2 go hand in hand.

When a player can make adjustments and understand **WHY** and **HOW** to do so, they will become more consistent. Because adversity will always show up. The ugly monster is inevitable. It's how one handles the setbacks to minimize any damage, while still being able to produce. This is what noticeably separates players from their peers. Major League pitchers who work out of a bases loaded, nobody out jam make it look easy. They will be the first to tell you it isn't.

## WHAT DO ALL PARENTS WANT?

With all of the money invested in private lessons and travel teams, parents want one thing, and rightfully so.....**ROI**. That's right! Return On Investment. They want their son to receive a college scholarship. They want their son to get drafted. They want their son to get the **HUGE** Signing Bonus. They want their son to make it to..... OK you get the picture.

Let's be honest. None of these are guarantees. Especially, as parents may crave the results more than the players. Quite often, these hankerings are unrealistic. As an athlete, you get to the level where you are *supposed* to play. This is based on talent and work ethic, along with a few other things...intangibles, durability, etc. Many of these demands have no backing. Plus, it is not fair to your kid to compare his progress and projection to anyone else. Too many factors go into it.

Lastly on this topic, in baseball, the more money invested does not grant bigger returns. It never works that way. Success first and foremost comes internally from the individual. Having personal coaches can teach the fundamentals of the game and provide guided repetitions. Being navigated in the right direction is key.

However, it does not prepare the player for the elements in which baseball contains at higher levels. The 12 hour bus rides through the night every 3 days. Playing 20 games in 20 days in 7 different cities. Living off of \$700 per month with \$15 per diem. Choosing between eating dinner at a fast food joint or a gas station. The willingness to embrace these realities in order to stay focused on the game comes from within the individual. These elements have made the decision for many talented players to walk away from the game.

## TEENAGE BALL PLAYER EXAMPLE # 1

So your son is a little league all star every year. Then all of a sudden, the uncoordinated kids begin to catch up with him when they get to high school. Surely, it becomes frustrating. So as parents, you look for a solution help out your kid acquire some direction. Naturally, they hit the lesson circuit hard. Really HARD!!!! When they don't get results immediately, they bounce from coach to coach looking for the magic, instant fix. Then they find one who works well with them, mainly because the instructor strokes the ego of the young player and parent. As the instructor assures them that he can get their son to the next level. He just has to deliver his elevator speech. Something to the tune of:

*Well, it will just take some work. I will have to rebuild him from the ground up and recreate him into a well oiled machine. He has it in him! It will take some time. I am on board for this, are you? He has great potential.*

You love your son and want the best for him. So you trust the coach's wisdom and authority. You want to get your son back to where he was when he was as a happy 12 year old, the King of the Hill. So you sign up for a 20 pack of lessons. This may run somewhere in the \$900 range. You can't put a price tag on your kid's happiness, right? Plus, let's get him that scholarship that everyone in the past has told him he would have one day. Now as a teenager, Judgement Day for this is coming soon.

So the lessons begin, and the atmosphere is good. Your son creates a bond with his instructor and you see improvement in his progress. Additionally, he is in a happier mood. One problem, working out indoors, in a tunnel, has 1 serious, baseball flaw. Your son has no competition related feedback. No games are being played. He is not applying anything which he has learned into a game situation. So this allows for the instructor to keep inflating his confidence. Obviously, Baseball is a game played against an opponent. This is the greatest, fastest, and most honest provider of feedback. More on that in a bit.

So now the Plot Takes a Traditional Industry Twist...

### ***You only have 3 more lessons left on your 20 Pack***

The instructor approaches you, the parent, after a lesson or calls you on the phone to have a conversation.

The season is finally about to start and the instructor insures you that you don't want your son to go into the season and lose everything that he worked on. Now that would be money down the drain. So you make the sacrifice and sign up for another 20 Pack. \$900 more paid in full. He is going to have an amazing season! This reupping cycle will continue again around the time all star teams are picked. How Convenient? However, it is *Very Necessary* the instructor casually insists.

Now everybody has a bottom line and everyone has a limit. You can't keep renewing lessons at this price forever. So you have to

cancel this relationship. As much as you enjoyed it, financially, it is a burden. So you figure that your son has gotten enough repetitions and learned plenty of drills, that he can take the reigns by himself and put in the work.

### **So does he?**

Not likely. He was spoonfed his baseball training. The instructor did all leg work for him. All he had to do was show up and the next 30 minutes would take care of itself. Therefore, it did not build an independent work ethic. So when the lessons ended, so did his practice, so did his repetitions. Thus regression set in, and frustration rose. As the next tier of uncoordinated kids from little league begin to take some of his playing time. Ouch! In this downward spiral, he is not being a good teammate either. A sulker on the bench and the coach wants nothing to do with him.

You contact the instructor just to talk with him and seek some courtesy recommendations. Then you realize he won't open up his playbook as much, or even stroke your ego, because you are no longer a paying customer.

As a parent, you are mad as anything inside. You feel like you are being let down from every angle. As a result, you can't help but wonder what you could have done differently. At this point, \$1800 down the drain, everything seems like it would have been a better idea. Hindsight is 20/20. We all know that. The solution comes through simplicity.

## TEENAGE BALL PLAYER EXAMPLE #2

Your son has been one of the bigger kids his whole life. When he turned 13, his classmates and teammates began to catch up to him in height, strength, and advancement. However, he hasn't begun to develop yet and it's a year or 2 of frustration. He may have even been the uncoordinated kid in little league... Shocking as it may seem, this is a good thing for ball players. More on that in the next segment.

During this period, he has his doubts about baseball. Fortunately enough, when he turns 15-16, he begins to mature a bit and has some strength gains. Thus he is having better results on the field. He is enjoying himself again as a ball player. This all begins to escalate. Your son is getting better, living life more confidently, he is starting to see where he can go in this game. Therefore, he wants more! He wants more instruction, he wants more knowledge about how to get better. Here is the kicker....he wants to do it himself. *Great!!!!* He has a good work ethic already. The question is "Where to go now?" Both you and him know there is something needed that will give him a huge boost. Because the way this game goes, there will be more walls to climb over.

One of those walls that is all too real, is that coaches do not cater to their players the way instructors do. They will share their knowledge of the game to the individual, however, they have a whole team to oversee. Therefore, it is up to the player to take the advice given to him, implement it and improve. This is the accountability which good players understand.

Young players are susceptible of falling into the trap of being institutionalized from 1 on 1 lessons. As mentioned in the first example.

Installing a solid work ethic in a player at an appropriate age when it is time to take the game seriously is critical. This creates the independent drive to be the best. Self Starters succeed because they don't wait for anyone to tell them what, when, where, why, & how to do their work.

As I promised I would get to in regards to the uncoordinated player. Professional baseball is about projectability. It's not how good is a player now. The scouts look for how good will he be when he is 21, 22, 23 years old. So it is essential to provide him with good advice that he can run with and build his craft. Because when he really grows into his body, **WATCH OUT!** Things will take off!!!!

In order for a young ball player to be successful, he has to understand a few things. He has to be a self starter. The coaches don't play the game. The players who get it, understand that they have to live up to their accountability.

*The coach puts us in the lineup, so we have to produce.*

This attitude does not begin when the 9 players take the field. The proper approach commences when a player has an honest conversation with himself about how good he wants to be. The proper attitude is cultivated from having mentors who back up this

notion. Mentors who have been in the trenches of baseball. Those who have loved, lost, and gained a new appreciation for this amazing game. They care about this game so much, that they openly give back.

This is a motivating force that resonates with so many young players who want to be the best. They crave knowledge from people who have made it to levels where they want to be. Direction is everything. Teenagers are very impressionable, for the better, the indifferent, and unfortunately, for worse.

### **Where do you find these Mentors?**

A telling characteristic of a solid mentor in any walk of life, is someone who has a high level of experience/authority, and is not over consumed with their own self interests.

In baseball, it means a person who has played or coached at a high level, learned from others at the top of the game, and is sincere in his message. They genuinely care about promoting the game and will not give a hyped up, fluff filled response that *anyone can do this*. They deliver on realistic promises, due to the fact that they understand how the game works. These mentors will tell you like it is, whether it is favorable or not at the moment.

Baseball is a game played in actuality. Either you can produce at a certain level, or you cannot. This is why solid baseball mentors acknowledge that everyone will get to where they are supposed to

be as a player. Whether it be in Cooperstown, or a utility player on a Division III College team.

Everyone who puts on the uniform and competes will come to grips with who they are as a player and what they are capable of achieving. There is no shame in this reality. It's about getting the most out of your ability to help your team win and enjoying the experience of being a ball player. Everyone of us has a small window in life as to how long we can play the greatest game on Earth. So it is essential to take pride in playing the right way.

***Baseball is a very rewarding game for those who fully dedicate themselves.***

Baseball opens many doors in life to those who respect the opportunity that they are given. The beauty of baseball is that the entitlement seekers get flushed out. You have to put the work in and be willing to go to battle *with your* teammates and *for your* teammates, every time out. Those who point the finger at others in failure or don't want to put in the work, do not succeed. Baseball moves on without them. It's been doing so successfully for 150 years.

## THE COST EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES

With all this said, there are still many proven, cost effective alternatives to private coaching. There are many solid Online resources and memberships that one can join for pennies on the dollar compared to private lessons. The strengths of these programs are they promote the concept of being self taught. As well as being the self starter. The downloadable tools of these programs, (Video, Audio, & Text) can be reviewed as many times as necessary to master the craft. The player can work at his own pace to assure he can grasp the coaching.

The downside to membership sites are they may lack feedback and follow ups. If you are teaching yourself the wrong way, no one is there to correct your flaws. If you are struggling in competition, with whom are you able to contact? Some of these programs can leave you wondering and wandering on your own. Quite often, a simple conversation cures a lot in baseball.

Undoubtedly, many ball players in recent years have gotten to the levels of the game that they desired with the aid of the multimedia training products. They are the Self Starter ball players who absorbed the knowledge, put it into use, and made the adjustments where needed. Thus, the Results followed. The concept of baseball training is rather simple.

One can argue, that players who went this route, surpassed many of their peers who invested a healthy equivalent to that of a down payment on a house, to be more coddled by baseball.

Whereas the cheaper alternative, runs less than the going price of 2 private lessons from any baseball training facility.

This is why it is very important to realize that a great deal of accomplishments by baseball players, begin with what is already in them. On an individual level, you cannot buy success in baseball.

## SLIDER DOMINATION

Slider Domination is the **Only** training product and baseball community of it's kind available on the market today. We are created by former professional pitchers, for **Today's Pitchers**. We understand how the game is played and have learned from Major Leaguers, even World Champions!

We are dedicated to teaching the next generation of pitchers how to Dominate Hitters with the Slider. This electric pitch embarrasses even the best of Major League hitters on a daily basis, yet most amateur coaches don't know or don't care how to teach the Slider. Because of this lack of knowledge from coaches, many pitchers don't realize soon enough that the Slider is the pitch that can take their Mound Game to new Heights.

Many pitchers assume that the curveball is the breaking pitch of choice. Unfortunately, it is not for everyone! Physical make up, natural arm slot, and pitching mentality factor into what pitches are best for each individual.

Along with teaching pitchers to master the Slider, our main goal is to make your son, a more Complete & Dynamic Pitcher.

## AUTHOR'S BIO



Brad Kirsch is the Owner and Creator of Slider Domination. Before having a standout senior season at Wilmington University (DE), Brad never made 1 appearance his first 3 years of college baseball. It all changed for the better when he transferred to Wilmington, and learned how to throw the Slider. From there, everything took off for him, and very quickly!

He transformed from being just a thrower into a pitcher as the results spoke for themselves. Brad lead the team and conference in several pitching categories. ERA, Strikeouts/9 IP, Games Pitched, & Games Finished.

The greatest impact the Slider had was helping his team excel in the postseason and getting the Wildcats to within 1 win of the NAIA World Series. After college, Brad Played 3 seasons in the Independent Professional Leagues and 1 season professionally in Europe. He went from being a college baseball nobody to signing multiple professional contracts. He has played the greatest game in the world in 6 different countries and heard it spoken in 5 languages.

He made himself into a successful college pitcher and was able to fulfill every boyhood dream of playing baseball professionally. And None of this would have ever been possible without learning the Slider.

Brad has created Slider Domination through the inspiration of which everything that baseball has given to him. The goal he has for everyone of his pitchers, is to be able to *throw the Slider BETTER than he ever has!* Having a platform to enhance the next generation of pitchers is his contribution of giving back to baseball. Brad's strongest passion is getting the very most out of a pitcher's ability. The reward for on field accomplishments is that no one can ever take them away from the pitcher. They are his to keep, Forever!

Lastly, word travels very fast around baseball when it comes to Dominant Pitching Performances. When the important baseball people begin to take notice, the hard work is showing it's payoffs. Success is the Bottom Line. Therefore, no one is concerned with how a pitcher accomplished his feats. All that matters is that he can help his team win, and push himself to the next level.

**KEEP DOMINATING!!!**