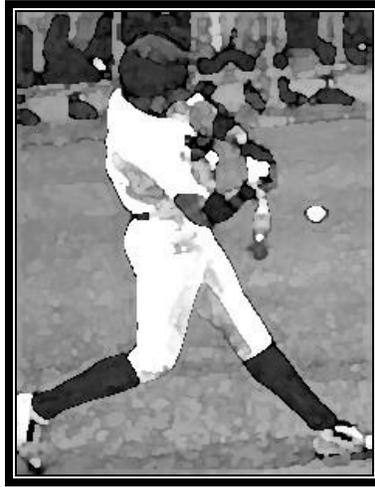


Ticket to Legend

Playing Rules



Ticket to Legend is a dramatic baseball simulation meant to be played only rarely. Pour yourself a beer, kick back for a while, and indulge.

First of all, resist the urge to read through the play results in the Swing booklet before you start with the actual game. **Don't ruin the many surprises that are in store!**

Pick any two teams, past or present, to come up with the biggest, most monumental showdown you can possibly think of. On the scoresheet provided, fill in both lineups and assign starting pitchers. There are no individual player ratings in this game; you never know who the heroes and goats will turn out to be. *Anything* is possible.

When you roll the dice to get the result of a play in *Ticket to Legend*, the colored die is read first, followed by the white die. So if you get a 3 and a 5 on the dice, for example, read it as a 35, not an 8.

All you have to do to play the game is roll the dice and consult the proper situational charts according to the current situation. Each batter will start off by rolling the dice on the First Pitch to the Batter chart. You'll progress through his at-bat, using the proper chart according to the updated pitch count, until the batter walks, strikes out, or achieves a SWING result. A SWING result is your cue to go directly to the Swing booklet, roll the dice again, and find out what happened when the ball was put in play.

Always have the correct situational chart open for viewing in the Swing booklet before a batter steps into the box. This will keep the flow of the game nice and smooth. For example, if a batter comes up to the plate with men on first and third with one man out, flip to that chart in the Swing booklet and have it ready to go *before* he takes his first pitch.

Sometimes a dice roll on the Pitch charts will result in a PITCHING EVENT. In this case, simply refer to the proper situational chart in the Swing booklet, where the current pitch count will correspond directly to a specific result on the Pitching Event chart. No extra dice roll is necessary.

Keep track of base runners and statistics on the scoresheet and/or on the playing diamond. You don't have to concern yourself with many real managerial decisions. Advancing runners on hits and fly outs, making throws, playing the infield in....these factors are already included and resolved naturally on the charts. You don't have to do much of anything but roll the dice and watch it all happen. You can, if you wish, issue an intentional walk whenever you see fit, even in the middle of an at-bat, by using the Intentional Walk chart to go pitch by pitch through the free pass. Also, you may call for a sacrifice bunt or a steal attempt by consulting the proper charts. Sacrifice bunt situations have their

own Pitch chart, so be sure to use it when you're calling for a bunt. And substitute at will to get your favorite stars into the game!

Every time you use a result in the Swing booklet, check it off with a pencil mark. **If you roll the dice and get a result on the Swing charts which you've already used during the game, don't use it again.** Instead, go vertically up the current play chart line by line until you get to the first unused play result, and use that one instead. If you go vertically up the play chart and you never come to a result you haven't used already, start at line #66 and go up from there. **If you roll the dice and get a result on Pitching Event charts which you've already used before,** simply use the result printed below each chart.

Results on the Pitch charts may be used an unlimited number of times. The same goes for the results on the Steal Attempt, Sacrifice Bunt, Intentional Walk, and Desperation Throw charts. Only results in the Swing booklet are to be used just once.

Whenever a pitcher comes up to the plate, his weakness with the bat is simulated in this way: every SWING result that he rolls with an **odd dice number** is instead a swinging strike! This rule does not apply on sacrifice bunts.

When calling for a steal, wait for just the right pitch. Announce your intention to steal just before that pitch is thrown. Then roll the dice. On balls or strikes, the runner goes! Roll the dice again and consult the Steal Attempt chart. On foul balls, the runner takes off but he must return to the original base, there's no steal. On SWING and PITCHING EVENT results, the batter does not swing; instead he takes a **strike down the middle on an odd dice number** and a **ball outside on an even dice number**, and the runner takes off. Ignore all Pitching Events when a runner tries to steal. You may only send a single runner on a steal attempt—double steals, if they occur, will occur naturally on the playing charts.

For realism's sake, a starting pitcher should be sent to the showers when he gives up his **sixth** run of the game—or, if he makes it to the ninth inning, remove him as soon as he gives up a single run, whether it be his first or his tenth. Relievers should be taken out after giving up **two** runs.

You may at some point get a chart result telling you to consult the contents of the white envelope that comes with the game. It's a doozy of a play, but don't look at it unless directed to!

On a play in the bottom of the ninth or the bottom of extra innings where a fielder absolutely *must* make a play at the plate to stop the winning run from scoring, disregard the portion of any play which tells you that a throw was cut off or that the ball was thrown anywhere but to home plate (unless the result as written would end the inning without a runner scoring). In the event a play like this comes up, keep the initial single, double, ground ball, or fly out, but decide the rest of the play by rolling the dice and consulting the **Desperation Throw** chart. **A throw to home plate may only be attempted if the Swing result is followed by a ▲ symbol. If no symbol is shown, the run scores without a throw—the defense just didn't have a chance!**

One more rule: It would not be realistic to simply bring in someone to replace a starting pitcher just to grab a very early offensive edge, so both starting pitchers should bat no less than twice before being removed. A starter should be taken out of the game sooner than this only if he has given up six runs or more before he comes up for his first or second at-bat.

That's all there is to it! If the game's announcers toss a trivia question out to you, you'll find the answer on the last page of the Swing booklet. And remember, the game can be played over and over again, but your first duel will always be the best. Make it a momentous one!

Ticket to Legend

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● First pitch to the batter ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|---|
| 11 | The pitch is in the upper part of the zone for a strike. | The batter swings late and misses. |
| 12 | The batter swings and fouls the pitch straight back. | Strike on the outside edge of the plate. |
| 13 | The pitch is inside for a ball. | The pitch is inside for a ball. |
| 14 | Strike right down the middle. | The pitch is just a little inside, ball. |
| 15 | High and inside, that's a ball. | The pitch is in there for a low strike. |
| 16 | Batter takes a huge cut but misses, strike! | The pitch is a tiny bit high, ball. |
| 21 | PITCHING EVENT | A curve ball is low, called a ball. |
| 22 | Strike looking on the inside edge of the plate. | Right down the middle for a strike. |
| 23 | Outside, ball. | The pitch is fouled off into the opposite field stands. |
| 24 | A fast ball is in for a called strike. | The batter checks his swing, but it's still a strike. |
| 25 | A swing and a miss, strike one! | The batter checks his swing, a ball is called. |
| 26 | That one just misses outside, ball. | The batter swings and misses, strike one! |
| 31 | Strike right down the middle of the plate. | The pitch is outside, ball. |
| 32 | The pitch is high for a ball. | A high pitch for ball one. |
| 33 | The pitch is in the dirt for a ball. | In there perfectly for a strike. |
| 34 | Batter tries to check his swing but can't, it's a strike. | The batter takes a slider for strike one. |
| 35 | The pitch is way outside, a ball. | That one catches the inside edge, strike. |
| 36 | Pitch is a little low but in there for a strike. | The batter takes a ball way inside. |

41-43 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 44 | The pitch just misses the inside edge, a ball. | High and outside, a ball. |
| 45 | Strike called on the outside edge of the plate....a dubious call. | The batter swings and misses one right down the middle of the plate! |
| 46 | In for a called strike. | The pitch is up, called a ball....questionable. |
| 51 | The batter hits a long foul into the left field corner. | The pitch is knocked foul down the left field line. |
| 52 | Inches high, a ball. | Right down the middle for a strike. |
| 53 | Batter watches a strike go right down the middle. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 54 | The pitch is just barely low, a ball. | The batter watches strike one go by. |
| 55 | The pitch is low and outside, ball. | Outside for a ball, curve misses. |
| 56 | The batter takes all the way for a strike. | The pitch is up but in there for a strike. |
| 61 | A breaking pitch is outside for a ball. | The batter swings and misses at an outside pitch. |
| 62 | Right in the heart of the plate, strike. | The batter takes a ball way high. |
| 63 | Batter swings and misses at a low pitch! | The pitch is low and inside, a ball. |
| 64 | Just a little low, a ball. | Right in the heart of the plate, a strike. |
| 65 | Strike looking on the outside edge of the plate. | The pitch barely misses outside, ball. |
| 66 | The pitch is low for a ball. | The batter takes for a strike. |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 0-1 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|--|--|
| 11 | The pitch is fouled into the opposite field stands, the infielder chases it but has no chance. | The batter takes a huge cut but misses! |
| 12 | PITCHING EVENT | The batter watches strike two go by! |
| 13 | The batter takes all the way for a strike! | The pitch is fouled along the right field line. |
| 14 | The pitch misses low, ball. | The pitch is up and in for a ball. |
| 15 | Strike right down the middle! | A breaking ball is ripped foul over third base! |
| 16 | The pitch is low and inside for a ball. | The pitch is called low for a ball, but it definitely looked like it was a strike! |
| 21 | A weak swing hits nothing but air! | Strike looking, it catches the inside edge! |
| 22 | The pitch barely misses high, ball one. | Inside by inches, a ball. |
| 23 | A swing and a miss, strike two! | The pitch is inside for a ball. |
| 24 | The pitch is way inside for a ball. | The batter takes low and outside, ball. |
| 25 | The pitch is inside, ball. | The batter misses a blazing fast ball, strike two! |
| 26 | The batter misses a pitch right down the middle! | The pitch is just off the outside corner, ball. |
| 31 | Ball one is high. | A slider misses low, ball. |
| 32 | The batter checks his swing, it's a ball. | The pitch is....just high. Ball. |

33-44 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 45 | Called strike on the inside edge of the plate! | The batter tries to check his swing....but he went around, strike two! |
| 46 | Ball one is just a little inside. | The pitch is in the dirt for a ball. |
| 51 | The batter misses an outside pitch, strike. | The pitcher misses high and tight, a ball. |
| 52 | The pitch is crushed, pulled deep....but foul! | The pitch catches the outside edge, strike two! |
| 53 | The pitch sails way high, ball one. | The batter takes outside, ball. |
| 54 | A changeup is in there at the knees for a strike! | The batter swings and misses an inside pitch! |
| 55 | The batter swings at a pitch in the dirt and misses! | A fast ball misses just low, ball. |
| 56 | The pitch misses outside, ball. | The pitch is way outside, ball one. |
| 61 | Pop fly into foul territory in right....it'll drop, strike two. | The pitch is at the knees for strike two! |
| 62 | The pitch is just barely outside, ball one. | The batter swings over a low pitch, strike two! |
| 63 | The batter twists away from an inside pitch but it's called a strike! | The batter swings....and misses! |
| 64 | An offspeed pitch misses low by an inch, ball. | The pitch is up in the zone but in there for a strike! |
| 65 | The batter swings and misses a high pitch! He steps out of the box and takes a nice long stroll, getting himself together. The umpire finally has to tell him it's time to play ball! | The pitch is up, a ball. |
| 66 | The pitch is high and outside for a ball. | The pitch is fouled straight back. |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 1-0 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|--|
| 11 | Strike looking on the inside edge of the plate. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 12 | The batter swings hard and misses, strike. | The pitch is inside for a ball. |
| 13 | The batter tries to check his swing, but it's ruled that he went around, strike. | The pitch is outside, called a ball. |
| 14 | The batter pops it up in foul territory. The catcher runs after it, but it's out of play. | The pitcher throws one right down the middle but the batter misses it, strike! |
| 15 | The pitch is outside for a ball. | The pitcher comes low and inside and misses, ball. |
| 16 | The batter takes a curve ball for a strike. | The pitch catches the outside edge of the plate for a strike. |
| 21 | The batter holds off on a pitch just outside, ball. | The batter watches a strike right down the middle. |
| 22 | The batter takes a huge cut but misses! | The pitch is a little low, ruled a ball. |
| 23 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitcher sends a slider low, ball. |
| 24 | The batter watches one go way outside for a ball. | The pitch is just barely outside, called a ball. |
| 25 | The pitch is....in there at the knees for a strike. | The pitch is fouled into the opposite field stands. |
| 26 | The batter fouls the pitch straight back. | The pitcher comes inside and gets a strike call, perhaps a generous one! |
| 31 | The batter is tempted by a low pitch, just barely ruled a ball. | The batter swings at a high pitch and misses it! |
| 32 | The batter swings at an inside pitch and misses it! | That one's a fast ball high, ball two. |
| 33 | The batter takes inside for a ball. | The pitch is fouled down the right field line. |

34 – 51 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 52 | The batter checks his swing....and a ball is called. | The pitcher throws high and outside, ball. |
| 53 | There's a pitch in the dirt, swung on and missed! | The batter takes a fast ball for a strike. |
| 54 | The batter fouls the pitch into the opposite field stands; the infielder chases it but he has no chance at it. | The batter swings at an outside pitch and can't get to it, it's a strike. |
| 55 | The pitcher misses low with a changeup, ball. | A beautiful pitch eludes the hitter's bat, a swinging strike! All kinds of movement on that fast ball! |
| 56 | The pitch is in the upper part of the zone, strike. | The pitcher lets the pitch sail way high, a ball. |
| 61 | The batter takes one high and inside for a ball. | The batter gets way out in front of the pitch and dribbles it foul. |
| 62 | The batter swings early and misses the pitch, strike. | The batter swings under a pitch, strike! |
| 63 | The batter knocks it foul down the left field line. | The batter rips the pitch into the opposite field stands, foul! |
| 64 | The pitches comes inside and just misses the edge of the plate, ball. | The pitch is high, a ball. |
| 65 | The batter swings....and misses! | The batter misses a low pitch, strike! |
| 66 | That one's high, ball two. | The batter swings at one way outside, strike! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 1-1 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|---|
| 11 | The pitch is chopped foul off to the first base side. | The pitcher comes inside, the batter takes a ball. |
| 12 | The batter swings and misses! | The pitch is....just barely high, a ball! |
| 13 | A curve ball is inside, ball two. | The batter takes a huge cut but misses! |
| 14 | A strike catches the outside edge of the plate. He just painted the side of it on that one. | The pitcher goes for the inside edge of the plate and barely misses it, ball two. |
| 15 | The batter swings and only catches a sliver of the ball, it's in there for a strike! | The batter swings at a high pitch and misses it! He backs out of the box after that one, taking a moment to settle himself. |
| 16 | The pitcher throws outside, that's a ball. | The batter takes a changeup low, ball. |
| 21 | An offspeed pitch is low, ball two. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 22 | The pitcher uncorks a blazing fast ball and the batter's swing has no chance, strike two! | The pitcher throws one low, but in there for a called strike! |
| 23 | The pitch is fouled away into the opposite field stands. | The pitcher's slider catches the inside edge of the plate, called strike two! |
| 24 | The pitch is....just barely inside, a ball! | The batter chops a foul off to the first base side. |
| 25 | The pitch is a good one....oh, it's ruled a ball just high, not a very good call! | The batter is tempted by a pitch off the outside edge of the plate but doesn't swing, ball. |
| 26 | The pitcher sends one low, and the batter swings and misses! | The batter swings and misses, jammed in at the fists! |

31 – 52 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 53 | There's a strike right down the middle! | The pitch is high for a ball. |
| 54 | The pitch is high, called a ball. | The batter fouls the pitch straight back. |
| 55 | The pitcher loses it way outside, ball two. | The pitcher comes inside with the pitch and brushes the batter back! Ball two! |
| 56 | The batter swings and misses an outside pitch! | The batter swings but just dribbles the ball foul on the third base side. |
| 61 | The pitch is low and inside, the batter has to hop out of the way, ball two. | The pitch is high and outside, not even close, a ball. |
| 62 | The ball is knocked foul down the right field line. | The batter is fooled by a beautiful offspeed pitch, a called strike! |
| 63 | The pitcher sends one low....it misses by an inch, ball! | The batter swings and misses at a weak pitch up in the zone, he missed a great chance to clout one! |
| 64 | The batter checks his swing, but the pitch is in for a called strike. | The batter hits it hard to left field....it's drifting foul....and the left fielder can't get to it, it drops foul. |
| 65 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitch is....just outside, a ball. |
| 66 | The ball is hit hard and long into the right field corner....but it's foul, skipping up into the stands on one hop! | The batter swings late, strike two! He steps out of the box and takes a moment to recover from that one. |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 2-0 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|--|
| 11 | The batter takes a strike. | The batter swings and misses! |
| 12 | The pitch is outside, ball three! | The pitch is way up, almost above the catcher's grasp! Ball three! |
| 13 | A breaking pitch shows all kinds of movement but winds up low and inside, ball three! | The pitcher can't get the call on the inside edge of the plate, it's 3 and 0! |
| 14 | The pitcher paints the inside edge of the plate for a strike. | The pitcher delivers a blazing fast ball and blows it right past the batter for a swinging strike! |
| 15 | The batter checks his swing, but the pitch catches the inside corner for a strike. | The pitcher tries to get a low strike but misses, ball three! |
| 16 | The third pitch is a curve ball in the dirt! Ball three! | The pitch is right down the middle of the plate but the batter misses it, strike one! |
| 21 | The pitch is chopped foul off to the third base side. | The pitcher throws a changeup at the letters but loses it high, ball three! |
| 22 | The pitcher comes inside....and it's called a ball! A replay shows it was anything but! | The batter checks his swing on an outside pitch....the catcher appeals it to the third base umpire....the call is overturned, a strike is ruled! |
| 23 | There's a called strike right down the middle. | There's a strike right down the heart of the plate. |
| 24 | The pitch is low, ball three! | A slider is....just outside! A ball! |
| 25 | The batter swings at an inside pitch and can't catch up with it, a strike! | The batter swings and crushes it deep, pulled into the corner and....foul! Foul by ten feet! |
| 26 | The pitch is just barely high, three balls and no strikes! | The pitcher gets the outside edge of the plate for a called strike. |
| 31 | The pitcher throws one over the plate, strike one. | The batter fouls the pitch off his foot. He's okay. |
| 32 | The pitcher misses high with a fast ball, ball three! | The batter takes a strike. |
| 33 | The pitcher throws one way outside, missing the plate by a mile, but the batter chases it! Strike one! | The batter swings at a low pitch and misses it, strike one. |
| 34 | The batter takes a monster swing at the ball but misses it! | The pitcher catches the inside of the plate for strike one. |
| 35 | The pitch is called a high strike, and the batter doesn't like the umpire's opinion! He is visibly upset! | The pitch misses outside and it's 3 and 0! The pitcher blows into his fist, stares at the mound for a moment, then looks in for the next sign. |

36-53 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 54 | The batter fouls the pitch straight back. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 55 | The pitch is ripped foul down the third base line, missing by no more than three feet! | The batter is taking all the way on 2 and 0, and the pitch is in there for a strike. |
| 56 | The pitch is inside, ball three! | The pitch is popped foul out of play to the opposite field. |
| 61 | The pitcher gets a called strike on the outside edge of the plate. | The batter is fooled by a terrific pitch and swings right through it, strike one! |
| 62 | The batter swings early at an offspeed pitch, strike one! | The pitcher throws a breaking ball for a strike at the knees. |
| 63 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitch is high and outside, ball three! |
| 64 | The pitcher throws low and gets it in the zone for a strike. | The ball is lined foul off into the opposite field lower deck. |
| 65 | The pitch is fouled off into the opposite field stands. | The pitcher gets a called strike at the letters. |
| 66 | The batter swings and misses, strike one! | The pitch misses inside, ball three! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 0-2 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|---|
| 11 | The pitch is fouled off into the opposite field stands. | The pitcher comes with a devastating fast ball and the batter can't catch up to it, strike three! |
| 12 | A ball is called off the outside of the plate. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 13 | The pitcher just misses outside, ball one. | The pitcher comes inside but misses, ball one. |
| 14 | The batter swings and misses a pitch right down the middle! Strike three! | The pitch comes high and inside, a ball is called. |
| 15 | The batter knocks it foul down the left field line. | The batter holds on a high curve ball, ball one. |
| 16 | The pitcher can't quite paint the inside edge of the plate, a ball is called. | The pitcher throws one right down the middle and the batter takes it! Strike three called! |
| 21 | The pitch is low, ball one. | The pitcher throws high, it's a ball. |
| 22 | A blazing fast ball is just low, called a ball! | The pitcher tempts the batter with a pitch outside but he holds up, ball one. |
| 23 | The pitcher throws low and inside, ball. | The pitch is low and outside for a ball. |

24-41 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 42 | The batter checks his swing, but it's overruled on appeal and ruled a strike! He's out! | The pitcher throws some serious heat outside, ball one. |
| 43 | The pitcher tries for the low strike and it looks like he nails it....but it's called a ball! Questionable! | Strike three called on the outside edge of the plate! A replay shows it may have missed by a few inches! Tough call! |
| 44 | The batter fouls the pitch straight back. The catcher chases it for a few steps but it's out of play. | The batter takes a huge cut but misses the pitch, strike three! |
| 45 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitcher misses just outside, close call, a ball! |
| 46 | The pitcher comes way inside with a curve, ball one. | The pitch is fouled into the opposite field stands, chased by the infielder but it's ten rows back. |
| 51 | The pitch is dribbled foul to the third base side. | The 0-2 pitch is low, ball one. |
| 52 | The batter takes a breaking ball high, ball one. | A pitch inside just misses the edge of the plate, ball. |
| 53 | The pitcher unleashes a powerful fast ball for a called strike, the batter just watches it! He's out! | The batter swings, catches just a piece of the ball, it's fouled back low and slams into the backstop. |
| 54 | The pitch sails outside, ball. | The batter checks his swing and a ball is called. |
| 55 | The pitch misses just a little high, ball one. | The batter chops the ball foul to the third base side. |
| 56 | The pitch goes high and outside, ball one. The batter steps out of the box and takes a few practice swings, then gets back in. | The pitcher sends one way outside, and the catcher has to get to his feet to snag it! Nice play! Ball one. |
| 61 | The pitcher tries to fool the batter with a very high pitch but no dice, it's a ball. | The offspeed pitch is fouled straight back. |
| 62 | The batter swings and misses a high pitch! Strike three! | The pitcher throws one outside and the batter misses it, strike three! |
| 63 | The pitcher throws outside for a ball. | The pitcher misses low, ball one. |
| 64 | The pitcher throws one in the dirt for a ball. Tried to get the batter to go fishing but it didn't work. | The pitcher comes up and inside with a little chin music! Ball one. |
| 65 | The pitch is inside for a ball. | The pitch is....just low on a delayed call! Close! |
| 66 | There's a called strike on a slider on the outside edge of the plate! Strikeout! | The pitch is in the dirt, it scoots away but the catcher picks it up quickly and no one advances. |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 2-1 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|---|--|
| 11 | The pitch is hit foul into the stands in right. | The pitcher loses it high, ball three. |
| 12 | There's a terrific pitch that freezes the batter for a called strike! | The batter takes a mighty swing but misses the pitch, strike two! |
| 13 | A breaking pitch is outside, three balls, one strike. | The pitcher sends one low and inside, it's called a ball. |
| 14 | The pitcher overthrows the pitch and it sails high for a ball. | The batter tries to check his swing on a pitch inside but can't do it, strike two! He backs out of the box and takes a deep breath. |
| 15 | A swing and a miss, strike two! | The batter checks his swing but the pitch makes contact with the bat and ricochets foul, two strikes. |
| 16 | The pitcher comes in low and misses the zone, 3-1. | A fast ball is lined hard into the opposite field stands, foul. |
| 21 | The batter swings but is fooled by a great pitch and misses it, strike two! | The pitch is inside, ball three. The pitcher kicks at the rubber several times, then resets. |
| 22 | The pitch is called outside, and the pitcher can't believe it. That one looked in there! | The bottom drops out of the pitch and the batter swings at it in the dirt, strike two! Nice one! |
| 23 | The batter swings but just dribbles a foul up the first base line. | The pitcher misses just inside! A ball. That was a wicked curve! |
| 24 | There's a strike on the outside edge of the plate, 2 and 2. | The batter swings so hard he loses his balance but he misses the ball, it's 2 and 2! |
| 25 | The pitch is fouled straight back. It was right in the batter's preferred spot but he was overanxious. You could literally see his facial expression change when he saw it coming in so invitingly! | The pitcher gets a called strike on the outside corner. Looks like he got the benefit of hitting the catcher's target perfectly rather than getting the ball into the strike zone. |
| 26 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitch is knocked foul down the third base line, the third base coach jumps out of the way. |
| 31 | The batter swings and misses a low pitch, strike two. | The pitcher works the outside edge of the plate but can't hit it, it's 3 and 1. |

32-55 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 56 | The batter chases a pitch outside and misses it, strike two! | The batter is fooled by a pitch that starts high but winds up in the zone, he takes it for a strike! |
| 61 | The batter rips the pitch foul just a few feet wide of first base! | The pitcher misses just low with a curve, ball three. |
| 62 | The pitch is high and outside, ball. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 63 | The batter takes a changeup looking for a strike, it's 2 and 2. | The batter swings late and knocks the pitch hard into the opposite field dugout! Foul! |
| 64 | The pitch is fouled off into the opposite field stands. Strike two. | The batter chops one foul off to the third base side. |
| 65 | The pitcher throws one right down the heart of the plate but the batter misses it, strike two! | The pitcher throws one letters-high, that's in there for a strike. |
| 66 | The pitch is just a little bit high, 3-1. | The batter takes a strike right down the middle. |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 1-2 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|--|--|
| 11 | The pitch is fouled straight back and out of play. | The pitch is inside, a ball. |
| 12 | The pitcher's changeup misses inside, ball. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 13 | The pitcher comes at the batter with his hardest fast ball and he blows it by him, strike three swinging! | The batter fouls the pitch straight back, a completely defensive swing. He was over-matched by that pitch! |
| 14 | The pitcher tries to tempt the batter with something low and outside, but it's a ball. | The pitcher comes high and inside, maybe to get the batter off the plate a bit. It's 2 and 2. |
| 15 | The pitch is outside for a ball. The batter steps out of the box and takes a few swings. Then he gets back in and taps the plate with his bat, he's ready. | The pitcher shakes off one, two, three signs from the catcher, and now the catcher will have to come out for a talk. They couldn't get on the same page there. After a brief discussion, they reset. |
| 16 | The batter takes the pitch and it's in there for strike three! He throws his helmet away in disgust as he returns to the dugout! | The pitcher gets a called strike on a pitch at the knees, the batter is out! |
| 21 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitch is outside by a hair, ball two! Good eye. |
| 22 | The pitch is high and the batter holds off, a ball. | A fast ball is in the dirt. Ball two. |
| 23 | The pitcher comes way up and inside with the pitch and the batter swings with no chance to touch it, strike three! | The batter jumps all over the pitch and pulls a line shot into the stands in foul territory. He had the power, but not the timing. |
| 24 | The pitcher misses just low, 2 and 2! | The pitcher sends one low for a ball. |
| 25 | There's a little tap foul to the first base side. | The pitch is....just off the outside edge of the plate! The pitcher takes a deep breath, he thought he had the K, and it seems like the batter did too! |
| 26 | The batter turns on the pitch and drives it deep...but he pulled it a little too much, it goes into the outfield stands but foul! | The pitcher uncorks a weak fast ball right down the middle of the plate, and the over-anxious batter misses it completely! He's out! |

31-51 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 52 | The pitcher misses outside with a curve, ball. | The pitch is way outside, whoa, almost thrown away! Ball two! |
| 53 | The batter tears into the pitch but drives it foul into the lower deck in left. | The batter is too far out in front of the pitch and he just taps it foul. |
| 54 | The batter checks his swing on a bad pitch and just does hold up, 2 and 2! | The pitcher's slider tails away outside, a ball. |
| 55 | The batter is punched out on a strike on the inside edge of the plate! | The batter tries to check his swing but can't and the umpire calls him out! Strike three! |
| 56 | The pitch is low, it's now 2 and 2. | The pitcher misses just inside! Ball two. |
| 61 | The batter pops it up behind the plate. The catcher gives chase but it's out of play. | The batter fouls the pitch away into the opposite field stands. |
| 62 | The batter takes inside, and all the body language in the world from the pitcher can't get the strike call! He really, really wanted that one! | The batter rips a foul ball past third base! He got it just where he likes it best but was early! |
| 63 | The pitcher sends one well up and out of the zone, ball two. | The batter whiffs at a low pitch, strike three! |
| 64 | The pitch is just barely outside, close call but a ball! | The batter takes a golf swing at a pitch in the dirt and misses it, strike three! The catcher tags him with the ball, runners hold. |
| 65 | The batter takes a huge cut but misses, strike three! | The pitch is outside for a ball. Good eye by the batter on that one, good judgment. |
| 66 | The ball is knocked into the right field corner, but it's going to drop foul. | The pitcher throws high....but it's called a strike! Batter out! A very iffy call! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 3-0 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|--|--|
| 11 | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. |
| 12 | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. | The pitch is....just a hair outside, he lost him, walk! |
| 13 | The pitch misses inside and the batter walks! | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. |
| 14 | The pitcher gets one over for a strike, it's 3 and 1. | The batter watches a strike go by. 3 and 1. |
| 15 | The batter takes a strike. | No doubt about this one, a called strike, 3 and 1. |
| 16 | The batter takes a hard fast ball for a strike. | The batter tries to check his swing on an outside pitch but can't do it, it's 3 and 1! |
| 21 | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. |
| 22 | A strike right down the middle, 3 and 1. | The pitcher finally sends one in for a called strike. |
| 23 | No doubt about this one, a called strike, 3 and 1. | The batter takes a strike on the inside edge of the plate. |
| 24 | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. |
| 25 | The pitcher gets one in near the top of the strike zone, it's 3 and 1. | The pitch is in there for a strike at the knees but the batter doesn't like the call. He has a word or two with the umpire about that one! |
| 26 | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. | The batter takes a strike at the letters. |
| 31 | The batter tees off on the pitch and pulls a line shot into the seats just a few feet foul of a homerun! | PITCHING EVENT |
| 32 | The pitcher finally sends one in for a called strike. | The batter takes a hard fast ball for a strike. |
| 33 | PITCHING EVENT | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. |
| 34 | The pitch looks in there for a strike but it's called high! The batter takes first! | The batter swings for the fences but gets nothing but air! Strike one! |
| 35 | The pitcher gets one over for a strike, it's 3 and 1. | No doubt about this one, a called strike, 3 and 1. |
| 36 | The pitcher just catches the inside corner for a strike. | The pitch is in there for a called strike. |
| 41 | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. | The batter swings and fouls it down the left field line. |
| 42 | A changeup sails in for a strike. | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. |
| 43 | The pitcher finally sends one in for a called strike. | The pitcher finally sends one in for a called strike. |
| 44 | A strike right down the middle, 3 and 1. | The pitcher just does hit the upper part of the plate, it's 3 and 1. |
| 45 | The pitcher throws it right down the middle, the batter swings but misses! Strike one! | The pitcher gets one over for a strike, it's 3 and 1. |
| 46 | The batter takes a strike. | The pitch is high and outside, not close, ball four! |
| 51 | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. | The pitch comes in low but the pitcher gets the call, strike one. |
| 52 | The pitcher gets a call at the knees, strike one. | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. |
| 53 | No doubt about this one, a called strike at the letters, 3 and 1. | The batter takes a big cut but can only foul the ball straight back. |
| 54 | The pitch is in the dirt, not even close, ball four! | No doubt about this one, a called strike, 3 and 1. |
| 55 | The pitcher gets one over for a strike, it's 3 and 1. | The pitcher gets one over for a strike, it's 3 and 1. |
| 56 | The batter swings and misses a pitch outside! Instead of ball four, it's 3 and 1! | The batter falls for a high pitch and whiffs at it, strike one! |

61-62 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 63 | The batter takes a called strike, a perfect pitch. | The pitch is in there for a called strike. |
| 64 | There's a strike right down the middle of the plate. | No doubt about this one, a called strike, 3 and 1. |
| 65 | The batter fouls the pitch back into the seats. | The pitch is just low and he walks the batter! |
| 66 | The batter takes all the way and a strike is called. | Ball four outside....no, wait, it got a piece of the plate, strike one! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 2-2 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|--|---|
| 11 | The batter takes a huge cut on a curve ball and misses, strike three! | The pitch is in the dirt. Ball three. The batter still almost bit on it. |
| 12 | The pitch is inside, that'll make it a full count! | The batter swings but fouls the ball straight back. |
| 13 | The batter fouls the pitch straight back. He was totally overpowered by that fast ball and was just swinging to keep up. | The pitcher goes for the inside edge of the plate and it looks like he's got it....no, it's called a ball, he missed by a couple of inches at the most! |
| 14 | The batter takes outside and the count is full! | The pitch is ripped over the first baseman, but it hits in foul territory! Almost extra bases! |
| 15 | The pitcher throws one right down the middle and the batter misses it, strike three! | The pitcher comes inside and gets the batter to swing, he misses it and he's out! |
| 16 | The batter chases an outside pitch and misses it, he's out! | The bottom drops out of the pitch and the batter swings over it, missing by a mile, strike three! |
| 21 | The batter takes a big cut but fouls it straight back into the seats. | The batter swings at an offspeed pitch, loses his balance, chops it foul. |
| 22 | PITCHING EVENT | The batter swings early at a changeup, he's out! |
| 23 | There's a called strike on the inside edge of the plate, and the batter is out! | The pitch is chopped foul off to the third base side. |
| 24 | The pitch misses just a little low, it's 3 and 2! | There's a strike looking in the lower part of the zone, the batter is out! |
| 25 | The pitch is....called a strike, the batter is out! It looked like it was a little inside, but the umpire gave it to him! | The batter takes outside, ball three! The catcher set himself up to take that one way outside, they were trying to cheat the batter, didn't work. |
| 26 | The pitch is in the dirt but the batter goes after it and misses, strike three, he's tagged out! | The pitch looks in there for a strike, but the umpire calls it high for a ball! The pitcher is visibly upset! |
| 31 | The pitch is high, it's 3 and 2! | The pitch is grounded foul down the right field line. |
| 32 | The batter swings late and pops the ball toward the opposite field stands, the infielder chases it for a few steps but it's foul, out of play. | The batter watches one go straight down the heart of the plate and he's called out on strikes! Oh, that pitch was a gift but he was fooled by it! |

33-55 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 56 | The pitch is popped foul, the catcher throws off his mask but it's going out of play and he gives up pursuit. | The batter swings and the catcher snags the foul tip, strike three! |
| 61 | The pitcher throws way high, that'll load up the count. | A huge breaking curve ball starts well high but lands low and inside, 3 and 2! |
| 62 | The pitcher sends a slider in at the letters, and the batter takes it for strike three! | The pitch is lined into the opposite field stands for a foul. |
| 63 | The batter swings and misses a low pitch, strike three! | The pitch is a curve ball that dips low, that'll load up the count! |
| 64 | The batter swings and misses....no, he got a little piece of it and the catcher can't hang on to it, he will get another pitch! He steps out of the box for a bit, savoring the extra life he's been given, and looking a little humbled. | The pitcher nails the outside edge of the plate in the upper part of the zone, a beautiful pitch, strike three! The batter had almost no real chance to even get good wood on the ball, it was just perfectly located! |
| 65 | The pitch misses just inside, a close one, full count! | The pitcher blows one past the batter who swings late, strike three! |
| 66 | There's a slow roller down the third base line, and it's going to roll off into foul territory. | PITCHING EVENT |

With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging strikes.

● 3-1 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|----|--|--|
| 11 | The batter swings at ball four low and misses it, that'll fill the count! | The pitch is fouled straight back into the stands. |
| 12 | The pitch is way inside, not even close, almost hitting the batter! Ball four! | The pitcher hits the inside edge of the plate for a called strike. |
| 13 | The pitcher brings the heat and blows a pitch right by the batter's swing, strike two! | The pitcher misses just low and can't believe he lost the batter, he walks off the mound mumbling! |
| 14 | The pitch is fouled off high into the opposite field stands. | The pitch is lined foul into the stands beyond third base. |
| 15 | The pitcher goes for the outside edge of the plate and just misses, ball four! | The hitter keeps the bat on his shoulder and takes a strike right down the middle. |
| 16 | The pitch catches the outside of the edge of the plate and it's 3 and 2! | A curve ball is low, ball four! |
| 21 | The pitch is high and inside, the batter jerks back out of the way and then trots to first base! | The batter chases a low breaking ball, that's strike two. |
| 22 | The ball is knocked foul on the ground behind third base. | The batter takes a defensive swing at a pitch inside and misses it. Two strikes! |
| 23 | The batter chases a changeup way up high, strike two! | The pitch looks low....but it's ruled a strike! Just in there! |
| 24 | The batter checks his swing on the pitch, but it's in the zone for a strike! | The pitcher just gets one in at the letters, strike two! |
| 25 | The batter checks his swing but catches part of the pitch, it ricochets foul into the opposite field stands. | The batter reaches way out for a bad pitch and taps it foul to the opposite side. Bad decision! |
| 26 | The pitch is high, ball four! | The pitch comes in low....and the umpire rules it too low, ball four! |
| 31 | The batter tries to check his swing but it's not even close, he goes around and it's 3 and 2. | The batter swings and fouls the ball straight back, out of play. |
| 32 | The pitch is fouled straight back. | The batter swings and misses, strike two! |

33-56 SWING!

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 61 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitch is just inches off the inside corner, the batter takes first! |
| 62 | The batter is taking on 3 and 1 and the pitch is thrown right down the middle for a called strike. | The batter lifts one foul toward the right field line, the right fielder chases it....it'll drop foul after a long run, he missed it by ten feet! |
| 63 | The pitch is fouled into the third base dugout! | PITCHING EVENT |
| 64 | The batter swings early and misses, strike two! | The batter swings for the fences and misses, a huge cut! |
| 65 | The pitch is called inside, ball four! | The batter swings at a high pitch and misses, strike! |
| 66 | The batter takes a fast ball right down the middle, filling the count! | The pitch is outside, ball four! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

● 3-2 count ●

| | No runners on base | Any runners on base |
|-----------|--|---|
| 11 | The batter swings at an inside pitch and can't get it, he's out! | A breaking ball is fouled straight back. The batter needs a new bat and takes his time getting it. |
| 12 | The pitch is chopped foul off to the first base side. | PITCHING EVENT |
| 13 | The batter tries to check his swing on a high pitch....and he succeeds! The call stands on appeal, he goes to first! That was a borderline call, could have gone either way, but the umpire down the line was not in a forgiving mood! | The pitcher goes for the outside edge and there's a delayed call....the batter starts to go to first but he's called out, strike three! He turns around, incredulous, but the call stands, and it's a good one! |
| 14 | The batter misses one right down the heart of the plate! Strike three! Agony! | The batter waves at a pitch way high and fouls it back. |
| 15 | The pitch misses low and away! The batter takes first! | The batter swings and misses a slider, strike three! |
| 16 | The batter swings at a pitch way outside and misses it, he's outta there! | The pitcher comes inside....he doesn't get the call! That's ball four! |
| 21 | The pitch is skied foul toward the third base side....the third baseman runs toward the stands...it's going to be....off the top of the dugout, out of his reach by five feet! | The pitcher throws one high and hard and the batter swings and misses! Strike three! That one made the radar gun jump! |
| 22 | A fast ball misses outside! Ball four! | The pitch is hit hard and long to the left field corner, it is....just foul, into the cheap seats! |
| 23 | The pitch looks low but the umpire signals for a strike! The batter can't believe it! He walks back to the dugout baffled! | The pitcher can't hit the outside corner with a fast ball and the batter trots to first base with a walk! |
| 24 | The pitch is fouled straight back. The catcher chases it, but it's ten rows deep. | The batter swings....and fouls it off the catcher's mask. No harm done. |
| 25 | The batter desperately tries to check his swing on a low pitch....but the third base ump punches him out! Strike three! | The batter swings late at a fast ball and can't catch up to it! Strike three! |
| 26 | The pitch is high and inside, he lost him, ball four! | The pitch comes in high, that's ball four! |

31-56 SWING!

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 61 | The pitch is lined foul into the stands beyond first base. | The pitcher fools the batter with a terrific slider and he misses it, strike three! |
| 62 | PITCHING EVENT | The pitcher nails the inside corner with a terrific curve ball and the batter is out! |
| 63 | The batter takes an enormous cut but misses a changeup, he's out on strikes! | The batter fouls a fast ball just over the dugout to the opposite side. |
| 64 | The ball is ripped on the ground down the first base line....foul! Foul by a foot! | The batter takes a mighty swing but only gets a piece of it, it's chopped straight down, foul ball. |
| 65 | The pitch is well inside, that's ball four! | The pitcher misses with a curve low and inside! The batter takes first! |
| 66 | The batter knocks a foul ball off his foot. Still 3 and 2. | The pitch is just low! The pitcher shakes his head, mad at himself for missing! |

*With a pitcher up to bat, all odd-numbered SWING results are instead considered swinging **strikes**.*

Bases Empty, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! The batter glares at the pitcher, he obviously feels that was no accident! The umpire points for him to take first base and he goes grudgingly! It looked like a straight fast ball with something taken off it, so the batter has good reason to be suspicious of that throw. It started way inside and stayed there, and the pitcher's face didn't register any great surprise when it plunked the guy. |
| 0-1 | The pitch is way low and outside, the catcher takes a swipe at it but that one's headed for the backstop. It's 1 and 1. The pitcher shook off a couple of signs from the catcher and then delivered the pitch he wanted to right into the ground and way wide. A little embarrassing. |
| 1-0 | The pitch sails inside and hits the batter on the hand! He takes first base! He clasps and unclasps his hand a few times to shake it off, he's okay. The pitch was not a terrible one; the batter was leaning in over the plate and was just a little slow in reacting. |
| 1-1 | Whoa, the batter is hit in the head by the pitch! It gets him right in the helmet but it didn't have a whole lot of velocity on it, and he's okay! He tosses his bat aside and trots to first base! That was obviously unintentional, but a little scary all the same. The pitcher looks disgusted with himself. |
| 0-2 | The pitcher tries to come up and in and the batter has to hit the deck! Way high and inside! The batter acts quickly and hits the dirt in a split second. He has to get up, dust himself off, and get back in. A very close call! There may have been a little bit of a message in that pitch, as the batter has been crowding the plate pretty intently. He doesn't seem to take the throw personally though, and we're ready to go again. Tough to get right back into the box and not give up at least a couple of inches of the plate, but the batter boldly takes the exact same stance, unafraid. |
| 2-0 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, and he takes first! It didn't get much more than the jersey, but it counts. That ball was very nearly in the strike zone! |
| 1-2 | The pitcher completely loses control and sends one in at the batter's feet. He has to hop over the pitch to avoid getting smacked and it bounces toward the backstop. 2 and 2. |
| 2-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He hasn't looked comfortable since he came up to the plate. Lots of movement in his stance, lots of eye movement. |
| 2-2 | The pitch is in there for a called strike but the catcher drops it! He spins around, picks it up and he'll have to make a throw to first....the batter is hustling....and the throw is just in time! One out. The pitch broke severely at the very end and bounced off the bottom of the catcher's mitt, but it didn't scoot far enough away to give the batter first base. |
| 3-0 | The first baseman jogs over to the pitcher's mound for a moment, leans in, speaks just a couple of words to the pitcher, and then runs back to position. Interesting, maybe he had a little insight into the hitter and wanted to share it. Tough to tell what that was all about. Defensively, everything stays the same. Let's see if what he said makes any difference. |
| 3-1 | The batter is grazed in the knee by the pitch and takes first! The catcher was asking for the ball low and in and the pitcher didn't miss by much, but it was enough to hit the batter. It got him right on the kneecap, another inch or so inside and that could have caused serious injury. As it is, the batter is fine as he stands on first. |
| 3-2 | The batter pops it up very high on the right side, the first baseman calls for it, drifts into foul territory....he's under it....and he drops the ball! It hit his mitt awkwardly and he had a second chance to grab it with his bare hand but he couldn't make the play, that's an error! The path of the ball was a simple one, he just muffed it entirely! He walks back to first shaking his head. Oh, a golden opportunity for an easy out is botched, and the batter gets right back into the box, given new life. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11) The batter rips the ball right at the shortstop and he spears it effortlessly without even having to move. One out on the line drive! That ball came at him right at chest level as if he were playing catch!

12) The batter puts a charge into the ball and it sails deep to center field, it's hanging up there, it looks like the center fielder will be able to get under it at the track....and he does. One down. That ball was well hit but the batter got a little too much loft on it.

13) The ball is hit hard on the ground to third but it should be an easy play. The third baseman scoops it up on two hops, sets and throws....and gets the runner in plenty of time, with the added stylish twist of having blown a bubble as he threw the ball! Talk about taking it easy! There was no sign of the gum when he fielded the ball; he went through the whole process of bubble-blowing in the middle of the play, popping it just after he released the throw. Nice!

14) The batter swings at a high pitch and gets all of it, it's a long drive to left field, going way back....and this one's going to hit the wall on the fly! The left fielder fields it cleanly, turns, and hurls it back into the infield, but the batter will go into second base with a stand-up double! Another six feet and a run would have been on the board!

15) The ball is grounded up the first base line, the first baseman gets there to cut it off well behind the bag....he turns and after a split second of indecision he decides to make the play himself, and he's going to get into a foot race with the runner....and he just does beat him there! It probably would have been a better idea to toss it to the pitcher, he must have wanted that put-out for personal reasons. One out in the inning.

16) There's a slow ground ball to short, it looks like a fairly routine play, the shortstop comes up with it, throws....oh, it's a very short throw, a long one-hopper, and the batter beats it out! The shortstop put way too much finesse on the ball and the throw had absolutely nothing on it and was well short to boot! Charge an error to him, and there's a man on first! Seems like he just psyched himself out on that one somehow. Sometimes when a player has too much time to make an easy play, it becomes unnecessarily difficult and the fear of botching a simple out overtakes him!

21) The batter pops it up! The ball floats out toward shallow right field, it's drifting foul....the right fielder nears the stands, will it stay in...? He reaches up between the hands of a few fans and the ball comes down into his mitt, he's got it for the out! Two or three different people reached for that ball, but no one seemed to be able to get it and the glove emerges from the stands with the ball inside it, one down!

22) The batter hits a rocket toward short, and the shortstop snags it on what looks like one very short hop....he looks to the umpire for an out call, doesn't get it, and he has to throw to first....whoa, the throw is high and the first baseman has to make a nice play to jump up for it and come down on the bag for the out! The batter is out in plenty of time, but it looked like the shortstop was so surprised a line drive out wasn't called that he panicked a little and forced a throw nearly over the first baseman's head! On the replay, it looks like the ball pretty obviously bounced an inch or so shy of the shortstop's mitt, so he doesn't have too much to complain about. It's surprising that he even tried to get a call on it.

23) The ball is launched toward dead center field, this one's way deep! The center fielder runs back to the wall, but he's not going to have a play, he just looks up and the ball sails well over the fence for a deep, *deep* homerun!! He got every piece of that pitch, it was a curve ball that hung up on the high part of the plate. There was no doubt about it, that one went at least four hundred and thirty feet! The batter touches 'em all! Wow! That would have been out of any park in the league!

24) The batter makes solid contact and drives the ball well to left field, but it's right at the left fielder and he catches it for the easy out. One down.

Time for a trivia question as the next batter steps into the box. What modern day star was the first pitcher ever to record an All-Star game decision in three different decades?

25) There's a high chopper to the right side, it pulls the first baseman well toward second, cutting the second baseman off....he fields the ball, turns, and chooses to throw it underhanded all the way to the pitcher covering....and he rainbows the ball, getting way too much on it so that the pitcher has to leap high into the air to snag it....and he comes down right on first base a step ahead of the runner! They collide and both go down in foul territory! Does the pitcher still have the ball? Yes! He gets right back up, shows the ball to the umpire, and the out call is finally made, what a lovely catch to save a bad toss! That's as high as you'll ever see a pitcher leave his feet to get a ball, and his momentum was just perfect to bring him down where he needed to be! Now the batter gets to his feet too, disappointed but uninjured. One away! You never know when you're going to be called on to display a little athleticism!

26) The batter drops a surprise bunt at the last possible second and skies the ball over the mound! It hangs up there high enough for the second baseman to dash in and make an awkward two-handed basket catch as he crosses the mound and the batter is out! The batter didn't make good contact on that one, it looked like he was more concerned with breaking quickly out of the box. That was definitely one of the highest pop flies you'll ever see on a bunt! One away.

Let's go to a trivia question as we wait for the next batter to come up. What caused the Houston Astros to go on a twenty-six game road trip in 1992?

31) The ball is knocked to the left side and over a dramatically leaping shortstop, into left for a single! The shortstop got total extension on a terrific jump, his feet came way off the ground, but the ball skated over his mitt and the batter has a hit!

32) The batter jumps on a high pitch and cranks it toward center field, it's a deep line drive that screams off the bat and will sail over the center fielder's head! He waves his glove at it only as a formality, and the ball slams into the wall three feet from the top, rebounding to his feet! The batter is going to waltz into second base with a hard-hit double, he got all of that one, it just didn't quite have the lift to get out of the park, he had to reach a bit too high to make contact, but what contact it was! The pitch looked like a breaking ball that broke way too late, not a good one!

33) The ball is hit slowly on the ground up the first base line....the first baseman has to come in for it, he grabs it and spins and just does manage to tag the runner, who was streaking up the line for all he was worth, a close play but it's an out! All the first baseman was able to tag was the batter's arm as he flashed by him, he didn't even have time to go for the torso. Nice hustle by the batter, but it's for naught.

34) The batter swings at a low curve ball and lifts it toward shallow left, it'll hang up, the left fielder is charging hard for it, he's got a play, he makes a full-out dive....and can't hang on to the ball! The batter will round first with a single and think about going for two, but the left fielder, though sliding chest-first about ten feet forward on the slick grass, leaps to his feet quickly and hurls the ball to the second baseman to hold the batter to a single, frustrated that he couldn't hang on to the ball but alert enough to minimize the damage. On replay, it looks like he closed his mitt mid-dive before he really had it in there, so the ball was actually lost before he made contact with the ground. Even as he was sliding, though, he was reaching out to grab the ball, keeping his concentration nicely. Man on base!

35) The ball is knocked hard to first base on the ground, and it's past the first baseman for a hit down the right field line! This could be two! The right fielder comes in on a full gallop, grabs the ball bare-handed near the line, turns, and fires the ball into second all in one smooth motion, which will hold the batter at first with a long single! Oh, it looked like he had a very good chance of making it to second but he held up, not risking it! The first baseman dove awkwardly after that ball, only his knees connecting with the ground, it was a bit of a tentative effort, but he might not have been able to get to his feet in time even if he had made the play.

36) It's a slow roller to the shortstop, he comes a few steps in, picks the ball up, throws it...oh, it's a short throw, the first baseman has to stretch forward to scoop it up....it dribbles out of his mitt, but he lashes out with the glove immediately and grabs the ball again, in time to put the runner out! Nice play! He could only trap the ball on the short throw but he didn't give up on it and he got the runner by a full step. That looked like he was swatting a bee in the dirt, his arm grabbed at the ball so fast. One down.

41) The batter knocks the ball hard on the ground down the first base line—the first baseman dives but he can't get a glove on it, and this one's going all the way into the corner! The right fielder charges in and plays the ball of a carom, and he'll have no chance to get the runner going into second base, it's a double! He went after a changeup that hung out over the plate and got every bit of it!

42) The ball is hit hard, a line shot down the third base line, the third baseman dives....and he stops it! He won't even have time to get to his feet to make a throw, so he unleashes it from his knees....and he gets the runner by half a step! The runner's last stride was about as long as a compact car, he really threw himself into trying to beat that one out, but the throw had just enough on it! What a terrific play, and what an arm to be able to get the ball all the way across the diamond from a kneeling position! A double is thwarted! Whew! That defensive gem had a part one and a part two!

43) The ball is hit on the ground past the mound, the pitcher tries to snag it but can't....the second baseman runs toward second, he's got the ball, he sets his right foot against the base as if he's starting a double play, turns, and fires to first to get the runner out by half a step! Now there's a nice use of a base! He used it to stop himself, bringing his weight to a dead halt so he could get a better turn and more on the throw. The batter is out and whatever ghost-man might have been on first is forced at second!

44) The batter swings and lifts it high in the air down the right field line, he got way under it and the right fielder will have time to run it down....he gets under it right on the foul line in fairly deep right....and he finally makes the catch only after having a little trouble locating the ball at the very end, his footwork was a little uncertain but he recovered and there's no disaster. One out.

45) The ball is topped and it dribbles straight forward between the mound and home plate. The pitcher and the catcher both go after it....the pitcher gets to it first but the catcher's in his way! The pitcher has to step forward, go around the catcher, and then hurl it to first....just in time, the runner is out! The pitcher chose not to step back toward the mound and fire but rather take two more steps toward home, and it worked. For a moment they looked like strangers trying to pass each other on the street! The catcher didn't seem to know which way to go, and he never just ducked like he probably should have.

46) The batter hits it high and deep to left, this one looks like it's going to be good for extra bases, it's back, back....the left fielder chases it to the track....and he leaps and catches the ball before it can come down against the wall! He slams into it and bounces back holding his glove up in the air, what a play to steal a double and maybe more!

51) The batter knocks a long fly ball toward the right field corner, the right fielder is running hard, a play is going to be made right at the foul line, the fielder slides and tries a backhanded grab....but the ball is out of his reach, it hits just inside the line and bounces into the corner! The batter rounds first and he's going to have an easy double and probably more! The right fielder gets to his feet and chases the ball down in the corner, then throws it to the second baseman as the runner rounds second....whoa, he stumbles going around the bag and goes down hard into the dirt, only to get right back on his feet and charge toward third! Here's the relay throw into third....the batter, never regaining his balance from the fall, lurches in, dives headfirst, the tag is put down....and he's safe! Safe at third with a triple! His uniform is covered with dirt from his fall at second, where he basically did a somersault, wound up on his feet, and just kept going! It was one long ugly stumble to third but he did a swan dive and made it in safely! Incredible! That's the kind of eventful journey from one base to the next that gives birth to a nickname or two!

52) The pitch comes in on the batter's fists and he blooms it toward dead center field....the center fielder comes running in hard, and he's not going to be able to make a play, he fields it on one hop and it's a single! There's a nice little display of the batter's strength, he made something out of nothing with that swing.

53) The ball is stroked well to right field, the right fielder barely has to move....but the ball knuckles on him and he has to make a sly basket catch at the end, coming forward just a couple of steps and securing the problem line drive for the out! As the say, it's the fly balls that come right at you that are the toughest to judge, and he made that putout on sheer instinct, that was very nearly a costly error!

Here's a trivia question as the next man comes up to the plate. In 1991, this Chicago White Sox pitcher was knocked out of the first inning in his first ever major league start. Then, in his second start, he threw a no-hitter against the Baltimore Orioles. Who was he?

54) It's a bounding ball into the hole between first and second, the second baseman runs to his left, scoops it up, and he drops it! He picks the ball right up again and hurls it to first....in time to get the batter out, and the batter can't believe it! He spreads his arms pleadingly, then turns away, disgusted! His manager won't come out to fight the call, but he does say a few words from the dugout. Replay shows that the throw did maybe come in a hair late....maybe a little bit of extra credit was given to the second baseman for making such a nice recovery. There's one away in the inning.

55) The ball is well hit to left center field, the outfielders converge, the ball is falling....and the left fielder runs right in front of the center fielder and snags the ball by reaching his arm way out, leaving the center fielder jogging in the other direction. A bit of miscommunication, but no damage done. The left fielder probably shouldn't have chased the ball that far, as he had a tougher play, and they discuss it a bit after the ball is tossed back in, one down.

- 56)** The batter lays down a bunt! It's a pretty good one toward third, but the third baseman got an excellent jump on it....he makes a bare-handed play on the ball, fires to first, and gets the runner! Nice alertness there by the third baseman, and on the replay you can see that the batter went into his bunting stance just a hair early so that the surprise factor was reduced just the tiniest bit. The third baseman was able to break before the pitch, and that made all the difference between an infield single and the first out of the inning.
- 61)** The batter beats the ball into the grass toward third base, the third baseman will have a long run in to get it....he bare-hands it and fires over to first....just in time, he beat him by half a step on an absolutely perfect, off-balance throw! The runner grits his teeth, sure he had an infield single but rejected in the end! One out!
- 62)** The batter rips the ball right back through the box, a screamer that misses the pitcher's head by inches! He shrinks out of the way of the ball, which runs into center field to give the batter a single, and he's extremely lucky that one didn't get him in the head—in fact, on the replay you can see that the ball literally skimmed his cap and turned it about thirty degree around! The pitcher takes it off calmly and puts it right back on his head, unshaken.
Nerves of steel!
- 63)** The ball is hit harmlessly toward short....the shortstop picks it up, starts to throw....oh, he double-clutches, unable to get a good handle on the ball at first, but he still gets it over to first in plenty of time for the out. An easy play almost turned into something more!
- 64)** The ball is dribbled slowly toward the gap between first and second and it has just enough juice to make it through into right field, that's a single for the batter! It looked like the pitcher hung a curve ball and the batter swung mightily but topped it, yet it was still enough to push it through for a hit.
- 65)** The ball is blooped into straightaway center field, the center fielder is going to have to come in hard and fast to get to it....he keeps chugging as the shortstop gives up on the play....and the center fielder reaches out and makes a nice one-handed basket catch for the out! He keeps jogging all the way to second base, gives it a tap to make it official that he ran a very long way, turns around and returns to center. Good hustle.
- 66)** There's a bounding ball to the shortstop, he's right in front of it, doesn't have to move much....and he uncorks a wicked throw that it would have been good to have the radar gun trained on, he throws the runner out by about half a mile! He decided to make a statement with that one, auditioning for a spot in the rotation! It's not often that an infielder shows up a batter by gunning him down with such authority, but one could understand if the batter took a tiny bit of offense there.

Bases Empty, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitch sails so high that the catcher has to stand up to grab it. Ball one. |
| 0-1 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch by a hard fast ball and takes first! Despite an intense grimace upon contact, the batter is okay. |
| 1-0 | The batter squares to bunt, taps the ball into the dirt, and starts to run, but it's ruled a foul ball, it bounces once and hits him as he breaks out of the box. That'll wake up the third baseman; if that bunt had been fair, it was a mighty long patch of green real estate between him and the ball. |
| 1-1 | The batter swings so hard, missing an outside pitch, that his helmet falls off! Chuckling a little and shaking his head, he puts it back on. There's something you don't see that often outside of tee ball! |
| 0-2 | The batter swings at a pitch in the dirt and misses it, but it scoots between the catcher's legs toward the backstop! The batter gets a late jump but he's going to make it to first base safely! A strikeout is wasted! It was a wicked pitch, too difficult for either the batter or the catcher to get. |
| 2-0 | The batter swings and pops the ball up beyond third base, drifting foul into shallow left field....the left fielder will give it a chase toward the stands, it's really hanging up there for him, he sets himself right next to the wall and....a fan grabs it before it can descend all the way to him. That looked like it probably would have been an out! The left fielder looks a little perturbed. He certainly thought the ball was coming down to him. Boy, does that play remind you of anything from the past...? There's no Cubs cap on this fan's head, though. |
| 1-2 | The batter swings and fouls the pitch straight back. The catcher gets a late start on the ball, misjudging it, and now he tears off his mask and chases it....and it's going to fall about seven or eight feet beyond his grasp! Oh, if he had just made an immediate dash for the ball, he probably would have gotten to it, but at first he thought it was easily out of play! The batter gets another shot. The catcher knows he botched that one. He won't get charged with an error, but that's not very alert defense. |
| 2-1 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! He takes a long look at the pitcher as he walks slowly to the base; he obviously thinks there was something intentional in that throw. But the catcher asked for the ball up and in and it really looked like the pitch just got away. |
| 2-2 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 3-0 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first! The pitcher shakes his head, not understanding why his control has abandoned him so suddenly. That's not an acceptable 3-0 pitch. There was nothing complex about it, it was simply a fast ball that got lost. |
| 3-1 | The pitcher starts his windup....and then stops right in the middle of it. He has to reset. Tough to tell what went wrong there. Oh, that's the kind of thing that can throw off your timing, let's see if it does. |
| 3-2 | The batter tries to check his swing on a slightly high pitch....and as the umpire pauses just slightly before making his call, the batter is able to hold his bat firmly in place to show him that he hasn't gone around, and he'll be awarded a walk! He held the evidence out there, his entire body completely immobile, until he got the call, nice job of becoming a statue to try to influence the ump! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11) There's a fly ball into right field toward the corner, let's see if it hangs up enough for the right fielder to have a play on it....he's charging toward the line, his cap flies off, and he slides to try to make a backhanded catch, but he comes up short! The ball bounces in fair territory and he can only smother it! The batter is digging for second, he should make it easily, but the outfielder gets to his feet in a split second, turns, and releases a cannon shot toward the bag, here's the slide....the batter is safe, the throw is just a little late! It shouldn't even have been close, but the right fielder never gave up on the ball after he short-armed it and he turned it into a nice play. A head-first dive was really the only way to get at that ball, he never made a decisive move on it.

12) There's a high chopper hit toward the second baseman....he's got it and throws to first for the out. Two down. You could hear the batter's expletive pretty clearly all the way up in the press box, he was really unhappy with himself for that swing.

13) The ball is hit hard and it's going to carry impressively to center field, but it's not going to be far enough to land. The center fielder runs back and makes the catch on the edge of the warning track, two out. Time for a trivia question during our pause. Can you name the New York Yankee pitcher who in 1990 took a loss even though he pitched a no-hitter?

14) The ball is smashed on the ground in the gap between third and short, the shortstop dives for it....and he makes the play! He gets to his feet in a split second and fires to first....in time to beat the runner by a step and a half! Terrific play! Most impressive was the way he was getting up off the ground within a millisecond of stopping the ball, there was absolutely zero delay in relaying it over to first. He barely even had time to get his uniform dirty, great control shown there.

15) There's a hot shot to the right side....and it gets past a diving second baseman into right field for a single! Oof, the second baseman's face hits the dirt hard but he's okay, he made a great effort at the ball but it was just hit too hard. A broken nose would have been a most unpleasant way to end that play and he nearly came away with one.

16) The batter goes after a low fast ball and strokes it into left center field, it lands safely in the gap and may have enough juice on it to squeak through for extra bases! No, the center fielder gets to it quickly and turns to fire it in, and the batter takes such a wide turn around first that he's now committed to going for second, but he's got no chance to make it, the throw in is too strong! The batter is caught between first and second, and there's going to be a rundown! The shortstop has it and throws to first, making the batter dash for second, but then he turns when the first baseman throws back to second....the next throw back to first to chase the batter is....knocked down by him! He knocks the ball down and the umpire is going to call him out for interfering with the throw! He was looking back toward the shortstop when the throw was released, and the throw was a poor one, very close to the batter's shoulder, and it looked like the batter just tried to finesse his right arm out there to "accidentally" hit the ball, but the umpire wasn't fooled. It goes down as a single and an out, and there's one down! Not much argument about that one.

21) The batter crushes the ball toward third, the third baseman dives toward the foul line—and he's got the ball, he caught it! He gets up with a dirty jersey and with the ball in his mitt, it's a sweet dive to rob the batter of extra bases! He didn't quite have to go into full extension to get that one, playing tight toward the line. If he was in a normal defensive set out there, that was going for a double.

22) The ball is stroked hard into right center field....it's going to fall in for a single, and it's headed toward the gap....and cut off by the speedy right fielder. The batter takes a very, very wide turn around first and draws a throw, but he gets back in time. He really wanted that double, but came to his senses at the very end and settles for a base hit.

23) The batter hits a slow ground ball into the hole on the left side, the shortstop runs over, reaches a glove out, and makes a nice back-handed stop, but he's already on the edge of the infield track and he'll have no play at first, he just palms the ball, it's an infield single! Just perfect placement on that one, leaving no chance for anyone to get to it in time. That's the sort of thing that'll really frustrate a pitcher. He made a nice pitch and the batter didn't get much of it, but it went where it needed to go.

24) The batter skies the ball near the stands in shallow left. It hangs up a long, long time, we'll see if it manages to get out of play....the left fielder puts an arm out to steady himself against the short wall....and at the last second he backpedals and makes the catch in foul territory five feet clear of the seats! Two outs. A lot of people were waiting for a souvenir that never came.

25) The ball is hit slowly to the shortstop, he's going to have to come in on this one to make sure he has enough time to make the throw....the batter is hustling....the throw is short and a little wide toward right field but the first baseman makes a nice two-handed basket catch to get the batter out! He made it look easy! Two away!

26) The batter swings at a pitch delivered right down the middle of the plate and he cranks it high and deep to center field! The center fielder turns, chases it, chases it....but it's going to bounce over his head and go over the fence on one hop for a ground rule double! A powerful straightaway shot by the batter to the deepest part of the park, it almost got out of here! The batter trots into second with a double and the pitcher, fortunate to have gotten away with giving up only a two-bagger, goes back to the mound. That pitch made the radar gun jump pretty impressively, but the location was just too much of a gift.

31) There's a ground ball toward third, up the line....the third baseman has to backhand it, then turn to make a long throw with his right foot in foul territory....the throw is a little short but the first baseman scoops it up nicely and the batter is out! That throw had all kinds of velocity on it, it was just aimed a little low. But it's no problem and there are two outs.

32) The ball is chopped off the plate and it launches itself high into the air toward the mound! The pitcher is under it, but he can only wait for it....now it finally comes down and he has to spin and make a hurried throw to first....it's right where it needs to be and the batter is out by a step! He absolutely rifled that ball with dead aim right into the first baseman's waiting glove, he didn't even have to move and there are two out in the inning! Another half second in the air and the ball would have been palmed for an infield single. It really took a mighty bounce off the plate.

33) The batter takes a big swing but merely drives the ball directly into the grass in front of the plate. There it spins like a top and the catcher, upon touching it, finds it spin off his hand and escape him by about twelve inches! Now he picks the ball up, throws to first, and gets the runner by a step! Two down! The laws of physics taught the catcher a little lesson there: a rapidly spinning object, unless firmly grasped, will spin away from something which touches it. He'll certainly put that one in his memory bank, not that it's likely to happen again anytime soon. The pitcher must have had some impressive rotation on that curve to make the ball react like that off the bat.

34) The batter over-swings and gets under the ball a bit too much. He slams his bat on the plate as the center fielder stands under the lazy fly ball and waits for it to come down. No problem, two outs. Time for a trivia question as the new batter settles in. In 1984, this team led the National League in earned run average, and allowed the fewest runs in all the majors – yet amazingly, they managed to finish in last place in their division. Who were they?

35) The batter lines one hard into center field, and there's no doubt about this one getting in for a hit. The pitcher left one right over the plate and it gets hammered for a single with a nice, smooth swing. Perfect mechanics on display by the batter. He even took off running for first without looking at the ball's path even for a second.

36) The batter strokes the ball hard toward the second baseman, and it rips past him so fast he has no time to do anything but throw up his bare hand at the ball, unable to stop it before it goes into right for a single! It looked like he may have brushed that ball with the tips of his fingers, but he luckily didn't sustain any injury on a frozen rope base hit! It was pure instinct to throw his hand up, there was no time to even turn and leap up with the mitt extended, that pitch didn't fool the hitter at all!

41) The pitcher leaves a curve ball out over the plate and the batter knocks it deep to left field, way back, way back, you can forget about this one already, it's going, going, GONE! HOMERUN! Twenty rows back, an impressive shot! He got the pitch he was probably expecting and the pitcher didn't get anything on it and got punished! A fan wearing a cap supporting the wrong team caught the ball on the fly, but he seems happy and he's keeping it!

42) The ball is driven deep to right center field, the right fielder gives chase, he's going to have to hustle to beat this one....and he makes a running catch with his body extended as he crosses the border between the grass and the warning track! His momentum carries him up to the wall, where he turns and hurls the ball back with authority, a lovely play! He got there just in time to kill an extra base hit!

43) The batter hits a ground ball right at the second baseman, he breaks in on it and it should be an easy play...but the first baseman, moving backwards toward the bag to receive the throw, stumbles over his own feet and goes down, and the second baseman, double-clutching and aborting his toss, is suddenly in a foot race to the base! After a slow start, the batter turns on the afterburners and it's going to be close as the first baseman rolls out of the way of the charging second baseman....and the batter can't get to first in time, he's out on the unassisted ground out! The second baseman stomps on the bag with authority as he crosses it, then turns to help the first baseman up to his feet! The first baseman smiles a little, shaking his head; it was just one of those things, maybe his cleats got stuck in the dirt, and he fell in just such a way that taking a throw was impossible! No harm done in the end.

44) The batter hits a rapidly sinking line drive out toward left field, the left fielder takes a few running steps in, goes for the basket catch—and the ball bounces off his mitt and then off his chest, hitting the ground! The batter will reach first on the error! It was an awkward fly and the left fielder actually overran the ball, he could have made a regular catch and he got caught trying to make the basket play! He shakes his head and lazily tosses the ball into second. You can shag fly balls out there all day, but not much can prepare you for those in-betweeners.

45) The ball is popped into left field....it's dying fast, the left fielder comes charging in, will he have a play?—he dives head-first and gets a mitt on it but can't make the catch! His momentum smothers the ball underneath his chest and the batter rounds first with a single! A great attempt by the left fielder, who tosses the ball in to second disappointed and shaking his head. He lost his cap, his shoe came halfway off, and his mitt even came partly off as he slid forward and got his arm trapped beneath him. He's a mess as he re-takes his position with nothing at all to show for his dive.

46) The batter reaches way out for the pitch and taps it back through the mound....the pitcher can't get a glove on it with a desperate swipe and the shortstop won't get to it either, it's a cheap infield single! He was fooled by the pitch, swung defensively, and managed to hit it where nobody was. He takes the turn at first with a guilty little smile. It all looks the same in the box score.

51) The ball is hit toward the right side, the second baseman will have to chase it toward right field....he ventures onto the outfield grass to make the play, and continuing to move to his left after he picks up the ball, he flares a throw to the first baseman and gets the batter out! There's a nice little effort. He would have gotten more on the throw had he turned all the way around and then fired it in there, but he had the batter in his sights all the way and was able to judge exactly how much time he had to close it out. Two gone.

52) The ball is hit slowly toward third....the third baseman comes in a couple of steps, fields it, turns to first, throws....oh, his throw is way off-line, making the first baseman stretch way, way out toward home plate....but he catches the ball and manages to keep his right foot just barely in contact with the bag and the umpire calls the batter out! As soon as he does, the first baseman topples over, his body stretched to the limit! Give him an asterisk on that put-out for a fine extra effort! He gets up smiling, knowing he must have looked a little comical at the end there, but all that matters is the out!

53) There's a hot shot back to the mound, the pitcher spins to his left to try to get a glove on it and he does, but it bounces right off it....and directly toward the second baseman, who grabs it on two more hops and throws quickly to first for the out! The ball was hit so hard that the pitcher, getting a fair bit of leather on it, was just a momentary disruption for its momentum, and the second baseman was in the right place at the right time. Two away!

54) Here's a long fly ball to deep right field, the batter got a lot of it but it's on a high arc and the right fielder is going to have a chance to get under it, the question is how far will it go....it's still going, *still* going....finally the right fielder stands with his back to the wall and the ball comes down after its seemingly endless trip just a couple of feet short of getting out of here, and it's nothing more than a well-struck out! That ball just didn't want to give up!

55) The batter knocks the ball high in the air toward right center field, it's drifting into the gap, a long run for the center fielder who shows some impressive wheels, at the very last second he has to stretch and dive for it....and he's got it for the out, slamming into the ground hard, banging his face into the turf but holding on for a sensational play!! He gets up, hurls the ball back in, and jauntily puts his cap back on his head with an almost "So what?" expression on his face! That makes the catch even more impressive somehow! It was quite an effort just to get to the ball and he had to really lay out for it, snagging it ten feet shy of the track and going down with full impact. That's some defense to rob the batter of extra bases!

56) There's a well-hit ball to center field, this one may have a chance to get out of here! The center fielder runs back, back, he's at the wall....and it comes down safely into his mitt, he makes the catch for the out, two men down! The batter certainly looked confident that the ball was gone, he wasn't running very hard toward first, and he actually started to lift his right arm over his head in triumph, but he dropped that arm halfway to the base and seemed to sense he had misjudged his stroke! The crowd did too, they were obviously tensing for a four-bagger, and it just didn't happen!

61) There's a high chopper to the right side of the diamond, the second baseman gets in front of it...oh, he bobbles and drops it, then picks it up and makes a hurried throw....it's a bad one, off line and behind the runner, it'll go all the way to the dugout! The catcher, backing up the play, gets to it before it rolls all the way in but the batter is going to make it into second base standing! The second baseman still had a shot to throw out his man after the bobble, but he definitely rushed the throw, it was a full step ahead of the batter but way off. Charge him with an error!

62) The ball is hit on three bounces to the shortstop.....the last bounce is a bad one and he has to trap the ball against the upper part of his chest! He gets a quick right hand on it, throws to first, and beats the runner by a step! Balls don't get much more routine than that, but you never know what they're going to hit on their way out to the infielders. Good recovery.

63) The batter beats the ball into the grass and it bounces weakly toward second, but the pitcher jumps off the mound quickly and gets to it first. With a nice burst of speed he continues toward the first base line and tags the batter out as he tries to weave his way around the glove as if it were a hot poker. Can't fault the effort there. Two away.

64) The ball is lifted down the right field line, it's a lazy fly but the location is going to be tough, the right fielder runs, runs....and he finally slides and makes the catch right on the foul line, kicking up dirt! His speed got him there and he made a pretty slide to secure the out! Two gone, nice play!

65) The batter pops it up! It drifts over the bag at third and the third baseman backpedals down the line into shallow left....still backpedaling.....*still* backpedaling....and finally he makes the grab as the left fielder steps out of his way, not having given up on the play till the last second. That was one of the longest reverses ever! The third baseman retreated without turning more than an inch for about ninety feet! He obviously didn't expect the ball to keep floating.

66) The batter tears into the ball and it's a one-hop rocket right back into the pitcher's glove! This is going to be an easy out. The pitcher turns and lobs the ball over the first, one down. A well-hit ball, but the pitcher's glove was in the perfect position to spear it.

Bases Empty, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter tears into the ball and laces it on the ground along the first base line....the first baseman makes a terrific dive and snags it, but it's ruled foul! He gets to his feet confused, that ball looked fair! He was thinking about putting a quick end to the inning, but the batter will get another chance. The replay shows that the ball just barely did hit the line, so a great defensive stop goes for naught and it's strike one! |
| 0-1 | The pitch comes way inside, but the batter swings at it, missing it...and the ball grazes him on the bicep! He looks around, confused as to what to do, then starts to walk toward first, but the umpire calls him back after only a couple of steps, he's going to be charged with a strike. An unwise swing saves the pitcher from having the batter go to first! It's 0 and 2! |
| 1-0 | Whoa, the batter is hit in the head by the pitch! It gets him right in the helmet but he's okay! He tosses his bat aside and trots to first base! The pitcher started to walk forward apologetically but the batter wasn't having any part of it, he just jogged off to first as if he were intentionally walked. That's a very forgiving attitude for such a terrible pitch! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher loses his balance during his delivery and throws the ball completely behind the batter! It's so wild that he doesn't even have to move at all and the ball bounces toward the backstop. The pitcher, frustrated with himself, resets, it's now 2 and 1. Looks like he got his left heel caught awkwardly on the mound and everything went haywire. |
| 0-2 | Consult the white envelope containing the result of the play. |
| 2-0 | The pitch sails inside and hits the batter on the wrist! He takes first base! The batter shakes his hand painfully but only once or twice and he waves the trainer off. |
| 1-2 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! He did everything he could to get out of the way, spinning so that he wound up facing the backstop, but he couldn't get out of the way. |
| 2-1 | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! Oh, the batter may have leaned into that one a little bit. Not only did he not make much of an effort to get out of the way, but the replay shows his elbow flinched downward just a hair into the path of the ball. A sneaky play but the umpire didn't catch it, so there'll be a man on first! |
| 2-2 | The pitcher throws the ball about fifty-eight feet, well short of the plate. The catcher fields it on one hop and it's 3 and 2. A total loss of grip on that one. |
| 3-0 | After that last call for a ball, the pitching team's manager says something from the bench about the strike zone, and the umpire steps away from the plate to warn him about his arguing! The manager says nothing more and it's still 3 and 0. |
| 3-1 | The batter swings and pulls a long, high fly ball toward the corner, the outfielder runs back, back, and the ball is....fair or foul? Foul ball! It's ruled just foul! It was tough to tell just looking at it which side of the pole it landed on! Even the replay shows that it was almost to close to call! It looks like it went about six inches to the foul side of the pole, five rows back into the stands, but oh, was that close! |
| 3-2 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! The ball ricochets right into the catcher's mitt and actually winds up in the strike zone, but that one's not fooling anyone and there'll be a man on with two outs. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11) The ball is hit to right center field and deep....but not deep enough to get over the right fielder's head, he charges fast into the gap and gets there quickly enough to jog the rest of the way, making the catch for the final out of the inning a few steps shy of the warning track.

12) There's a deep drive to left field, it could be deep enough, it could be fair enough, it's drifting, drifting....and it's off the foul pole for a HOMERUN! It hits the foul pole about thirty feet up and the batter will round the bases! He stood at home plate after he swung and then leaned and leaned, putting as much body english as he could on the flight of the ball, and it paid off! He dropped the bat, clapped his hands, and began his homerun trot! That was so close, but a run is on the board! You could hear the clink of the ball striking the post from up in the press box!

13) Ground ball to the shortstop, this is going to end the inning. The shortstop goes down on one knee, uses both hands to corral the ball, sets, fires to first, and gets his man in plenty of time. A little old-school fundamentals displayed there, like the shortstop was making a training video for little leaguers! Three outs!

14) The ball is hit to short on three bounces, it should be an easy play....whoa, it takes a bad hop and darts under the shortstop's glove into left field for a single! Settling in for the last bounce, the shortstop had his glove down at his knees, but the ball hit something in the dirt and just plain died, shooting forward low to the ground. Bad luck and there's a man on first base! No error is charged.

15) There's a well hit ball to center field, it's carrying, the center fielder runs back, back....he gets turned around the wrong way on it....and at the last moment he snares his glove out and makes a one-handed grab as he hits the track! Part skill, part great luck to secure the out! Wow, he just never seemed to have a perfect bead on the ball but it was just good enough to get his mitt on it! That's the third out and the inning is over!

16) The batter drills the ball toward the gap in left center, and nobody's going to get to this one! It'll land well short of the track but roll all the way to the wall, and the batter is going to jog into second with a double! The pitcher hung a slider and the batter got all of it!

21) There's a ground ball to the left side of the mound, it's past the pitcher and toward center field, the shortstop chases after it, just manages to get to it, does a full-body spin behind second, fires to first....in time, the batter is out diving head-first into the bag! The dust flies everywhere but the inning is over, nice defense! The batter is slow getting up, but it looks more like frustration than injury.

22) The pitch is low but the batter swings and hits it very hard and deep to left field, and it's going to sail over the left fielder and slam off the wall on the fly! He grabs it bare-handed on one hop and hurls it back into the infield quickly, and the batter will be held to a very long single! He probably should have left off that pitch, but he went for it and got every bit of it, very nearly taking it all the way out of the park. That ball left a lovely dent in the wall.

23) There's a hot shot on the ground up the middle just to the right of second base, the second baseman dashes over, dives for it on the edge of the infield dirt....and stops it! From his knees he throws to first base....in time, he beats the batter by a step! The inning is over on a fantastic defensive play!

24) The ball is hit deep toward the left field corner but very high, the left fielder should have a play on it, it's curving toward the line, he's got a long way to go, and he doesn't seem to have a very good read on it....but he makes the uncertain grab on the track for the third out of the inning! Not the most confident defense, but it gets the job done!

25) There's a deep drive to center field, this one's way back there, way back....is it gone?....no, the center fielder leaps at the track but the ball is over his head and he hits the wall hard! The right fielder is going to have to come over and pick up the ball, he hurls it into the shortstop, there's going to be a play at third, here's the throw....it's high and the batter slides feet-first into the bag with a triple! The center fielder almost, almost had it, but the ball just sailed inches beyond his leap, and once he missed it there was no chance to hold him to a double! He wound up off-balance and hobbling. He's okay, but he took a tremendous hit against that wall. Meanwhile, the batter didn't hesitate for a moment, rounding second base at full gallop, wanting that triple.

26) The pitch comes in very low and way inside, and the batter turns on the pitch awkwardly and pulls it on the ground down the base line---and it's going to get quickly past the corner infielder and roll into the outfield, hopping down the line! An iffy swing on a terrible pitch results in extra bases! The outfielder gets to the ball pretty quickly, but the ball has rolled far enough into the corner to guarantee a double! The throw comes in hard and on only one bounce, a nice one, but the tag is dropped late on the batter sliding in feet-first! Man on second, two down! A pitch that should have been left alone turns into a big opportunity for the offense!

31) The batter leaps on the pitch and strokes it hard....but right at the second baseman, who puts his glove up and snags the line drive as he involuntarily leans his body backwards in self-defense, taking two stumbling steps backwards! Wow, you could hear that contact out in the bleachers and an audible gasp went through the crowd in the brief second before the second baseman took it to make out number three! Inning over!

32) There's a ball lifted into right field, the right fielder charges it but then gives up on it, realizing he has no shot at a catch, and he'll field it on one hop.....whoa, it bounces off his mitt and scoots away, the batter takes a wide turn at first.....but he won't go anywhere from there, the right fielder recovers quickly. He simply took his eyes off the ball and very nearly gave the batter an extra base.

33) There's a high chopper toward short, the shortstop has to come in on it....after several steps he gloves the ball and throws on the run....the throw is short but expertly scooped on one hop by the first baseman, the batter is out! The first baseman makes it look effortless, and that's the end of the inning!

34) The pitcher leaves the ball out over the middle of the plate but the batter can't do much with it, he pops it up into fairly shallow right field. The only question is who will take it. ...the second baseman is running back, but the right fielder comes on strong and shouts loudly that he's got the ball. He takes it and it's an easy play for the third out of the inning!

35) There's a line shot into right field, this one will drop for single, and maybe more unless the right fielder can get to the ball on one hop....he speeds over toward the line and makes it happen as the batter turns the corner at first and charges for second, and the right fielder spins and fires almost blindly toward the bag, it's a laser throw that will reach the second baseman on the fly and come in right at his feet---he snags it, lays the tag down, and the batter is *out!!* The right fielder nailed him! A terrific defensive display! He galloped over toward the line and make a lovely stop on the ball, and knowing he couldn't waste any movement whatsoever if he was going to have a chance to get the batter, he spun and let it go all in one fluid motion, his throw hitting the target to perfection! That's the end of the inning! The batter dusts himself off and can only sigh without a trace of bitterness; he must know he simply got outplayed on that one!

36) The batter launches the ball high and deep to center field, it could be out of here if it has just a little more juice, it's going, going, the center fielder runs back, gets there quick...and he slams hard into the wall before the ball comes down, misjudging the distance to it, but he catches the ball anyway as he bounces back, fillings jostled by the blow! The ball sails firmly into the center of his mitt and he is none the worse for wear and the inning ends! You could see the breath knocked out of him as he hit the fence and the ball landed for the out a split second later! He runs back into the infield looking just fine, as if it were just a routine fly ball. Anything but!

41) The ball is hit hard to left center, it's going to fall in for a long single as the left fielder dashes over to cut it off....and the batter is charging around first and it headed for second! The left fielder throws there, it's going to be a close play, the second baseman makes the catch, turns to put down the tag....and the batter slides under it! He's safe with a double! As the second baseman turned, he made more of a play to touch the batter's shoulder than his foot, and the batter limbo-sticked right under the mitt!

42) A stray curve ball comes way inside and the batter flinches back in self-defense....and the ball strikes the bottom nub of his bat and ricochets into and out of the catcher's glove! He bobbles it, then lunges forward across the plate to pursue it, reaching his free hand out to grab the ball....he has it for a split second but goes down into the dirt and can't hang on, the ball dribbles away and it'll go down as a foul tip! The catcher winds up splayed across home plate, frustrated that he just could not hang onto the ball! That would have been a most fortunate strikeout, considering the awfulness of the pitch! The catcher just wasn't expecting the ball to suddenly shoot right into the strike zone and into his mitt and he couldn't close it in time. The batter, having gotten both a scare and a new lease on life, takes a moment to collect himself and then steps back in. Play ball!

43) The batter swings and lifts one high and shallow into right field, the second baseman starts to run back, it might be shallow enough for him to take it, he's running fast, the right fielder runs in too, this might actually be trouble....the second baseman jumps and flails at it, but no dice, it falls in for a single! The right fielder takes it on one hop. The second baseman's momentum takes him all the way out to medium depth right field, it's going to be a bit of a jog to get back into position!

44) There's a laser shot right back at the mound, the pitcher ducks and turns away defensively, putting his glove up at his shoulder, and he knocks it down purely out of reflex! He recovers himself, picks the ball off the mound, and throws to first for the third out of the inning! He shrunk away from that one like it had the plague on it, but it was hit so hard he didn't have to time to get out of the way and he managed to stop it. Give him credit for a very timid assist!

45) There's a drive to deep right field, this one's got a chance to get out of here, the right fielder dashes back, it's going, going....*he leaps at the wall and steals the ball from the seats for the out!* A homerun is stolen! That ball was clearly good for four bases and the right fielder's leap was just perfect! He happily trots back toward the infield with the ball in his hand, examining it as if wondering just why he's even holding it! A magnificent play! You could almost hear the scorer adding a 1 to the scoreboard, but it wasn't to be!

46) The ball is tapped weakly in front of the plate, the batter throws his bat down hard and starts to dig for first. The catcher jumps up, runs forward, picks up the ball, and throws toward first....oh, it skates the top of the batter's helmet, is slowed down a little, but comes down right in the first baseman's glove as if it were a designed play! Out at first! Give the batter an assist on his own put-out! The throw just grazed him but the path of the ball visibly changed when it came off the helmet; unfortunately it was only enough to give him an extra step before the first baseman caught it. The inning is over!

51) The ball is popped up toward the left side, it's got enough carry to get into shallow left center, the center fielder will have to hustle, the shortstop drifts back out, it may very well fall between them....no, the left fielder, losing his cap, chases it down and takes it for the out, taking away a bloop single for the third out of the inning!

52) The ball is lined toward right field, the second baseman leaps to try to get it....he gets a glove on it and knocks it down, then picks it up alertly and throws to first for the put-out! He beats the runner by a step and the inning is over! The second baseman got full extension on that one and closed his glove a bit too early to make it a line drive out, but he'll gladly take the assist instead.

53) The pitch breaks the batter's bat into three pieces but the ball sails over second base and into center for a single! It was a wicked slider but the batter caught up to it, and they'll be picking the bat up from all over the left side of the infield. It's a two-out single, a good pitch but an even better piece of hitting.

54) The ball is grounded slowly down the third base line, the third baseman charges it, picks it up bare-handed just inside foul territory, makes a long, arcing throw to first....yes, he got him! He beat the runner there, says the umpire, and this one is going to draw an immediate argument from the manager! Here he comes on a quick trot, he's already really yelling out there, and he's joined by the batter, who starts jawing in the umpire's face as well! They're really ganging up on him! The defense is leaving the field, and now the replay shows that yes, the batter did in fact beat that one out—in fact, there's no real question about it, that was actually quite a poor call! The batter and the manager both get their shots in, and the poor umpire can't turn in any direction without having one of them right in his face! They'd better be careful....now when the home plate umpire joins the group and levels a finger at them both, they back down somewhat, but the argument continues. The manager stands on first base to make his point. It looks like he's going to hang around out there until he's just on the verge of being ejected. Now, at long last, he turns and he takes the batter's arm and pulls him away. The batter closes his eyes and tilts his head skyward, disbelieving. Yes, the umpire really blew that one. It was a very nice play by the third baseman but that throw did not have enough to get his man. The box score will show otherwise. Play on!

55) The batter shatters his bat in several places and the ball strains to get to the second baseman. He takes the ball and tosses it over the first for the easy out, leaving the bat boy with a lot of clean up; there are pieces of the bat everywhere!

56) The batter golfs the ball high into the air in right field, it's going to be an easy out for the right fielder if the ball ever comes down, it was really skied impressively. Now he's got it, and there's the inning.

61) The ball is knocked down the first base line, it's a high hopper, the first baseman quickly backs up several steps, then makes an awkward one-handed play on it—and all he does is knock it down. He bends down, grabs it off the dirt, and throws it very hard to the pitcher covering....and the batter is out! He got him by a full step! Boy, that throw was about as strong as you want to make at that short a distance, and it was right at the pitcher's face, and he had only a split second to react to it. Good job. That's the third out of the inning.

62) The ball is grounded past the mound toward the second baseman, he has to move quickly toward center to get to it, he backhands it, straightens, and still moving toward center field he spins and releases his throw....and the batter is out by two steps as the second baseman keeps jogging casually, making a fairly difficult play look like a day in the park, not even stopping to see the result. No one will ever accuse him of having too little confidence! Inning over!

63) The ball is lined right up the middle and it hits the pitcher in the leg! It ricochets off toward third base and the third baseman is there to pick it up with his bare hand and fire to first....in plenty of time to get the out! The pitcher walks off the mound looking no worse for the contact, the ball hit him right in the shin but didn't do any damage at all, and the inning is over!

64) There's a tapper to the right side of the mound, it's just barely going to make it that far....the pitcher picks it up....and he slips as he goes to throw, unable to release the ball! He falls sideways, holding onto the ball but falling into the grass, and the batter is going to be safe at first with an infield single! The pitcher either hit a wet patch or he didn't get his right foot planted correctly; either way he went down and the batter, who was only jogging toward first, suddenly took off on a gallop and made it there safely without a throw. The pitcher rightfully thought it was better to pocket the ball than risk a wild toss from the ground. Bad luck!

65) The ball is smacked to right field, curving toward the gap, and the right fielder starts charging at full speed toward the wall—but then slows to a sudden halt, overrunning the ball and having to make an awkward catch reaching back and taking the ball right at his face! Ugly but effective, and that's the third out of the inning. The outfielder created much more excitement than was necessary by tearing after that ball at top speed!

66) The ball is hit hard on the ground but right at the third baseman. He sets, throws....whoa, the throw sails on him and goes over the leaping first baseman's head! Not even close! The batter is going to round first and charge for second! The catcher, backing up the play, fires over there....it's a perfect throw and it meets the batter at second with flawless timing, the second baseman lays an easy tag on him and he's out of there! An error on the third baseman turns into a tough out as the batter dares to try to get into scoring position! No question about the call, the ball was thrown exactly where it needed to be, a great play by the catcher.

Runner on 1st, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitcher throws suddenly to first and the runner has to dive frantically back to the bag, he just does make it, losing his helmet! He was seriously caught off guard on that one. |
| 0-1 | The catcher can't seem to call for a pitch that the pitcher really wants to give him, so he comes out to the mound to talk it over. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 1-0 | The pitcher makes a quick move to first, the runner has to dive back in head-first to make it back! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 0-2 | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher makes no throw, only looks the runner back. It didn't look like he was going anywhere. The count will be 1 and 2. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 1-2 | The pitcher spins and fires to first base...and nails the runner, who can't get back in time! He was totally fooled by the pitcher's motion! The runner is tagged cleanly on the shoulder and he'll walk back to the dugout! One away! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 2-2 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! That was a curve ball that just completely got away from the pitcher. Two on and nobody out! |
| 3-0 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher was taking an awfully long time to deliver the 3-0 pitch, and that may not be a good sign. There shouldn't be a whole lot of question about what's going to get thrown on this count. Now the batter steps back in and waits. |
| 3-1 | The pitcher commits a balk! The runner goes to second! Whoa, that looked like a phantom call if there ever was one! The replay shows that the pitcher didn't seem to do anything wrong! There was a slight twitch just before he went into his windup, and the umpire jumped on it! |
| 3-2 | The pitcher throws the ball way low and inside, it's in the dirt, the catcher can't block it, it bounces away! The runner on first dashes to second and takes a wide turn, but will hold up, the catcher recovers the ball quickly, making a nice play. The batter goes to first on the walk. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

- 11)** The batter checks his swing but makes too much contact and sends a dribbler right back to the mound! The pitcher picks it up, spins, fires to second for the first out, and the relay to first is in plenty of time to complete the double play! The batter couldn't resist a curve ball but never followed through.
- 12)** The batter knocks a high chopper over a leaping pitcher, the shortstop dashes toward center to cut it off, he takes it, touches second, jumps up to avoid the runner's slide and throw the ball toward first....no, he'll hold onto the ball, no throw to first! The batter is safe on the fielder's choice. That would have been a tough one, good choice by the shortstop to just hold onto it, he just didn't have the balance to make a serious throw.
- 13)** The runner on first is moving with the pitch, and the ball is hit perfectly into the hole on the right side as the second baseman moves over to cover the bag, it's going to be a textbook hit and run play, a single to right with the runner moving easily to third! The batter did an excellent job of making contact and hitting the ball into the sudden gap, great play! Runners at the corners and nobody out!
- 14)** The batter hits it well out toward the left field corner, the left fielder is hustling toward it but he's got a ways to go, he dives at full speed toward the foul line....and he makes a sensational catch, hitting the ground hard but holding onto the ball, the batter is out and the runner on first will have to retreat! The left fielder went all out and that's one to remember! What a grab! He couldn't have extended his body any more than he did, another couple of inches and that was extra bases!
- 15)** The ball is hit on the ground right at the second baseman! He picks it up, turns, tosses it to the shortstop for the first out, and the ball is delivered to first quickly to finish the double play; the batter barely gets halfway up the line before he's called out! Textbook work there, the batter couldn't have made it any easier on the defense, and the runner on second wasn't even close to being able to go into a slide that might have broken that one up.

16) The bottom falls out of a sinker and the batter tops it, sending a high chopper to the shortstop, He scoops it up on two bounces, throws to second to get the first out, and then it's on to first to complete the double play! That was just a terrific pitch that started right in the middle of the zone and then nose-dived at the last second, fooling the batter.

21) The batter knocks an awkward little grounder to the first base side of the mound, the pitcher dashes off to make a play, snatches it easily, and will take it himself over to the bag....but two steps away from touching first he drops the ball! It rolls and taps the side of the base as the batter crosses first, that's an error! The runner on first, having slid into second, stands there amazed, not quite sure what happened, taking the cue from the crowd to look over and figure out that everybody's safe! The pitcher didn't have any particular problem with the play, the ball just fell out of his glove, held a bit too loosely in there, and the batter was wisely hustling all the way down the line!

22) The batter tries to check his swing but can't and he gets some good wood on the ball, knocking it hard at the shortstop, but he takes a step towards center field and snags the line drive for the out. The runner on first hustles back to the bag and there'll be no chance at a double play.

Let's go to some trivia....what was the biggest gap, at season's end, between a first-place team and a second-place team in major league history?

23) There's a single over short into left center field! The left center will move over to cut it off, and the runner moving around second is going to try for third! The left fielder spins, fires—and it's in there on one hop just in time to nail the runner sliding in, he's out! A terrific throw! The third baseman fires the ball to second to make sure the batter can't go anywhere beyond first base, and there's one out in the inning! That was a great throw by the left fielder, right on target, and the third baseman got the tag down in one fluid motion, no doubt about the call! You can't fault the runner too much for going for it, even the slightest flaw in the throw would have let him reach safely, but no flaw was detectable in that one!

24) The ball is hit on the ground toward third but slowly, this one will be a tough double play attempt....the third baseman throws in a hurry toward second, and the throw pulls the shortstop off the bag toward the mound a bit, and that's all it'll take to break things up, there's no throw toward first. The runner is out on the fielder's choice and the batter is on base safely.

25) The batter hits a long, high fly ball to right center, it's carrying, it could get out of here....no, it bounces just shy of the wall! The runner on first dashes to third and should get all the way around to score....but the center fielder, in reaching to bare-hand the ball on the single bounce off the track, knocks it over the fence instead! He turns and points to it, and the umpire is going to rule it a ground rule double! The batter will have to stop at second and the runner moving from first will have to retreat to third! There was probably not much chance that he was going to score anyway, as he had to hold up to see if the fly ball would be caught. There's no argument from the offense's manager over the call. The center fielder simply took his eye off the ball as he went to grab it, and he just gave it a good push right into the stands! It's a little surprising there's not going to be an argument over the call, since it could be said that the outfielder had a lot to gain from 'accidentally' knocking the ball over the fence and making sure no one went more than two bases. Looks like the opposing manager is going to trust that it was an honest mistake, which it did in fact look like. So it'll be runners and second and third with nobody out!

26) The batter knocks a hard line drive to the right side, the first baseman comes off the bag and dives dramatically toward the gap between first and second....and he can only knock the ball down, but it goes off his glove right to the second baseman, who reaches down bare-handed, grabs it, and throws to first, where the pitcher is covering with quick thinking, and they get the batter out at first by a half a step! He charged down the line madly and reached out with his last stride with such determination that his helmet fell off with the force of his foot's impact on the bag, but he's out of there! The runner on first advances to second on the pretty dive by the first baseman, the nice one-handed stab by the second baseman, and the mad dash to the bag by the pitcher, the combination of three strong efforts resulting in a key out!

31) It's a high chopper into the hole between second and first, the second baseman chases it, catches up to it on the edge of the outfield grass, turns and throws to the shortstop covering second....just in time for the force out! The batter is safe at first but there's one down. A close call at the bag but a good one by the umpire.

32) The ball is drilled low down the third base line, the third baseman dives....it's off his mitt and into foul territory! He gets up right away but he's going to have to chase the ball down, it's rolling toward the stands! The runner on first took off as soon as the ball was hit and he rounds second and heads to third! The third baseman picks the ball up, turns, and holds onto it, there won't be a throw as the runner dives head-first into third and kicks up a cloud of dust! The batter slides into second with a double that never actually got beyond the infield! Almost but not quite a great defensive stop, and some impressive, aggressive base running!

33) The batter hits the ball hard on the ground right at the first baseman! He takes it, pivots, throws to second....the throw is high! The second baseman jumps and it goes off his mitt into left field! Everyone's going to be safe on the error as the left fielder scoops it up and holds it! A good double play opportunity turns into a disaster! The ball just sailed on the first baseman, he might have been thinking he had to throw it a bit high to allow the second baseman to avoid the hard-charging slide of the batter on first. Trouble on the bases for the pitcher with nobody out!

34) The batter pops the ball up to straightaway center field. The center fielder starts to jog in towards it....he has to put on a little burst of speed at the very end because he was a bit too nonchalant about that one but he does make the grab, and that's one out.

35) The ball is knocked toward the first baseman, he moves away from the bag, reaches out and stabs it slightly off-balance as he moves toward second, throws the ball there, gets his man, and the relay throw back to the pitcher covering first is....in time! Great execution for a double play!

36) The batter beats the ball into the grass, it's a high chopper headed into the gap on the right side....and it squeaks through, a base hit! This one is going to enable the runner on first to high-tail it all the way to third! The throw from right will be cut off by the shortstop, it's men on first and third with nobody out!

41) The batter hits to ball to deep right field, it looks like this one might be gone....it's carrying....no, it dies in the outfield and the right fielder, running fast toward the track, pulls up and takes it just shy of it, one out! The batter obviously thought he had put a huge charge into the ball, and he looks confused as to why it came down so short. It certainly looked like much more trouble than it really was! The runner on first goes back to the bag.

42) There's a slow roller toward third, the third baseman comes in hard to get it, he chooses to pick it up with his mitt instead of bare-handing it....but he delivers a pinpoint dart to the first baseman and gets the batter running hard down the line! It looked for a second there like his decision not to bare-hand the ball might cost him too much time, but there's one out and the runner on first moves into scoring position.

43) The ball is hit well toward left center field, but it's not going to cause any problems. The center fielder moves into the gap, drifts back several steps, and secures it for the out. The runner on first holds.

44) The ball is hit hard on the ground right past the mound, the second baseman is playing up the middle and will have to come in for the difficult high chopper....the ball, the runner moving from first, and the second baseman all converge at about the same time; the ball is gloved off the third bounce and the fielder takes two steps toward the runner to try to tag him, but the runner gets down with the slide a step early and the desperate tag misses him! He's under it with a long slide into the base! No play! The second baseman went for the lead out but couldn't quite get there in time even though the path of the ball was taking him right into the runner! It'll be ruled an infield single, a nice play by the runner to avoid the tag!

45) The ball is smashed low on the ground right back at the pitcher, who stabs down at it with his glove and gets just enough leather on it to slow the ball down and knock it off course! The shortstop was headed toward the hole up the middle to field it but now he has to take an awkward step in the other direction to do it....he has to bare-hand it and make a hurried throw to first....oh, it's a good one and he gets the batter by a step! They get the out and the runner advances! Oh, if the pitcher hadn't touched the ball at all, the shortstop was in great position to take it and start an easy double play, so the pitcher's alertness may wind up costing him....give credit to the shortstop on that one, when he saw that the catcher was asking for the ball away and the batter wouldn't be able to pull that changeup, he made a sudden shift in position to give him a better shot at turning two. When that didn't develop, he had to stop on a dime and jerk his body unnaturally to reach back for the ball, after which he shifted his weight quickly enough toward first to get a good throw off. That won't make many highlight reels, but he did everything right on that play. One down but the runner is now in scoring position.

46) There's a line drive into left field, it's sinking fast....but the left fielder puts on the afterburners and comes in hard to make the play with a nice stab at waist-level, the batter is out and the runner on first retreats. The left fielder got a really good jump on the ball, otherwise that had base hit written all over it.

51) The batter bloop one into left field, it looks like it'll drop in....and the left fielder holds his glove up as if he's got an easy play on the ball but it falls well in front of him, and his move dekes the runner on first, who'll have to recover quickly and run hard to second! The left fielder takes the ball on the second hop, fires it in....it's just a little bit late, the runner is in sliding on the single! Wow, he nearly got completely fooled by a nifty little deception play out there in left, it would have been a most embarrassing force out. As it stands, there are two men on and nobody out! That was some quick thinking by the left fielder to first determine he had no play on the ball and then to realize he might have a shot at a force play if he could freeze the runner with a little theatrics.

52) The ball is knocked down the first base line and won't get to the first baseman until it bounces several times....the first baseman fields it right at the bag, touches it, spins, throws hard to second....but his throw is not in time to get the runner going to second! Just shy of a double play, the batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice.

53) The low pitch is drilled hard to left field, whoa, an absolute rocket with plenty of distance on it, and it jumps out of the park for a HOMERUN, a line drive that slams hard into the bleachers and ricochets back onto the field! Wow, that one got out of here in a *huge* hurry! The batter completely ripped that ball, he wasn't a third of the way up the baseline when the umpire signaled for four bases, and the left fielder barely had time to turn and watch it disappear! He walks over to the ball when it comes back onto the field and dejectedly tosses it back into the stands. The pitcher just accepts a new ball from the catcher and returns to the mound calmly as if his pitch wasn't absolutely destroyed! It's a two run shot!

54) The batter beats the ball into the grass and it's a slow bouncer toward the second baseman, he's going to have to charge in for this one, he grabs the ball with his bare hand, throws to first....just in time to get the out! The runner on first goes into second standing. Nice defensive play!

55) The ball is topped and it's a weak bouncer toward the mound, the pitcher dashes off it toward the first base side and scoops it up with his mitt, and with the only play being at first base, he's going to chase down the batter himself....he's going to have to seriously hustle....he does catch up to the batter and he tags him out with an off-balance lunge....and the runner on second is turning and heading toward third! The pitcher doesn't realize it at first and now he plants and throws over there....the throw is wide and the third baseman can't get a full glove on it, it's up the foul line a bit into left, but the runner will be happy sliding into third with a terrific heads-up play to take two bases on the ground out! He knew as soon as the ball hit the bat that he would be safe at second, and after a split second of hesitation, he saw that the pitcher was in no position to turn quickly and make an accurate throw, so he went for it! If he was out going to third it would have been a disaster, but the results justify the means on that one!

56) The ball is hit high in the air toward the right field corner, if it's fair it could be trouble....it hangs up there for a long time, long enough for the right fielder to drift all the way into foul territory, into the very corner, he's at the wall....and it just barely stays in play for him, he makes the catch with his back to the wall! The runner on first alertly tags and advances to second on the foul out, the right fielder has no chance to make the long distance throw. One down on what winds up being a sacrifice fly! It was just shy of being fair, just shy of getting out of here.

61) The ball is hit on the ground and right at the third baseman, he takes it, throws to second to get the first out, and the second baseman leaps high in the air to avoid the runner's slide while delivering a perfect throw to the first baseman to finish the double play! The batter is out by a step! The second baseman went way up in the air to get away from the runner's attempt to break that one up, reaching into the reserves of his vertical leap and giving himself plenty of clearance!

62) There's a hard-hit ball to the left side, it could bounce through for a single....no, the shortstop dives to his left and stops it! He gets to his knees and throws to second for the force out....it's in time! A terrific stop and there's one down as the batter crosses first!

63) There's a line drive off the bat, the second baseman dives to his left but he can't get it, it's into right field for a single! The runner on first is going to try for third, and he takes a very, very wide turn around the bag as he turns his head to look into right, he goes off course and now he's going to draw a throw! The right fielder fires across the diamond....it's a weak throw, the third baseman has it on two hops and the runner is safe! It'll be men on first and third with nobody out! It was almost a disastrous base running error; the act of turning to look into right field really threw the runner out of his stride and his arc covered much more ground between second and third than expected. No harm done luckily, and the offense has something cooking here in the inning!

64) There goes the runner....and the ball is lined to center field with a little loft on it, the center fielder doesn't have to move much to make the out....whoa, the runner on first was very late in realizing that the batter was out and now he has to turn around and run almost the full ninety feet back to first, the center fielder makes the throw....but it's well off line and a little late. For a second there it seemed like the runner was convinced the ball was going to fall in for a single, he didn't slow down one iota when the ball left the bat!

65) The ball is popped up on the right side. The first baseman and the right fielder are going to have to converge; the ball floats in shallow right near the foul line. The right fielder finally calls for it and makes the grab. The runner on first walks back to the bag. One down.

66) The ball leaps off the bat and sails out to left field, the left fielder turns and starts to chase it, it's pretty deep....he reaches up and makes the grab for the out, a nice play! He actually had to leave his feet to get the leather on it, that ball was hit like a rocket, and a little more loft would have given the batter extra bases. One away.

Runner on 1st, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|--|
| first pitch | The batter squares around to bunt—no, it's only a decoy move, and he pulls the bat back at the last second, taking a called strike. Looks like he just wanted to see what the defense would do. |
| 0-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 1-0 | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher makes no throw, only looks the runner on back. He took an enormous lead but didn't go for the steal. |
| 1-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 0-2 | The pitch is in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep the runner from advancing! Wild pitch! |
| 2-0 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 1-2 | The batter fouls the ball off into the left field stands....and it arcs into one of the pedestrian tunnels, knocking the beer right out of an unsuspecting fan's hand as he emerges! He looks up, baffled and laughing, and the crowd gives the batter a nice round of applause! Hey, why not? Hopefully an usher will be kind and offer than man a refund on his beer. |
| 2-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 2-2 | The pitcher makes a quick move to first, the runner has to dive back in head-first to make it back! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward first base, but the runner gets back just in time! The tag comes in on his foot; if it had been higher, the first baseman may very well have gotten him. Close play, and nice deception by the pitcher! |
| 3-1 | The pitcher looks in long and hard for the pitch. He sets. The batter waits. And waits....and finally the pitcher takes a step off the rubber, concerned with the runner on first. The whole process will have to start over. |
| 3-2 | The pitch is low and it goes right through the catcher's legs! He gets up, throws off his mask, and chases it! The runner on first takes a wide turn around second and he's going to try for third on the wild pitch! The catcher picks the ball up, turns, fires....it's a one-hopper nicely fielded by the third baseman but the runner is going to be safe at third, after losing his shoe about twenty feet short of the base! He was running so fast that it doesn't seem like he even noticed! He calls for a time out, walks over, and puts his shoe back on. It's not very embarrassing to lose your footwear if you take two bases on the play! Charge the pitcher with a wild pitch! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11) The batter strokes a line drive to right field for a base hit! The runner on first charges toward second and he's going to try for third, oh, this might be a mistake! The right fielder fires it to the shortstop, who spins and relays it on to third—the throw is a little up the base line, but the third baseman snatches it, sweeps his arm all the way around, and he gets the runner sliding with a tag to the back just before he can make it safely in! Now the batter has ideas about heading to second on the throw, and the third baseman slings it over there still in a crouch position....oh, the second baseman gets the tag down but the umpire is going to say it was late, and that might be a bad call! It looked like that was a double play, 9 to 6 to 5 to 4, and the replay pretty much confirms it! The throw from third was amazingly strong considering the third baseman was still crouching from his tag to the back of the runner, and it was right on target, but the umpire got generous! So the batter will be credited with a single and wind up on second base with two outs!

12) The ball is chopped toward short but it doesn't have the momentum to even get there....the third baseman cuts it off, throws to second for the first out, but the relay to first is not going to be in time, it's well late, the batter is safe on the fielder's choice. That grounder bounced one too many times for a double play possibility. It looks like the third baseman's decision to chase after that one came a hair too late; his jump on it was a little awkward after he decided that the shortstop wouldn't be able to get it, and this turned it into a two-hopper instead of a one-hopper. We'll see what develops and whether the lack of a double play possibility there really hurts.

13) The ball is hit into the gap in left center, no one's going to get to it in time, it falls in for a single, and this one could keep going....the left fielder shows impressive speed and he literally dives for the ball, and he manages to cut it off before it can get past him! He dives like a shortstop going after a grounder and stops a sure double! He gets to his feet quickly and throws the ball back into the infield to stop the runner on first from going home! It'll be men on first and third with one out, and what a play by the left fielder to leave his feet to cut that one off! When you're willing to throw away your vanity out there and do anything to stop the ball, you're sometimes rewarded!

14) There's a drive to deep right center, it's going to divide the outfielders, the right fielder has the best shot at it, he runs back to the track, he lifts an arm up and jumps....and it's off his mitt! It's off his mitt and it hits the wall a split second before he goes crashing into it himself! The center fielder alertly picks the ball up, turns, and makes a beautiful throw back into the infield, the ball is caught by the second baseman on one hop near the mound, and the runner moving from first will have to hold at third as the batter slides into second with a double! It's a near miss in the outfield, almost a great play, and a heads-up bit of defense by the center fielder to be there and snag the ball as his partner out there hit the wall off balance; he would have had no shot to recover and hold the batter to a double, so a run was certainly saved!

15) The ball is hit high and deep toward the left field corner, this one doesn't look like it quite has the gusto to make it out of here, but it's at least going to touch the track....the left fielder is under it and he makes the play just a little shy of the wall—and the runner on first is going to try to dig for second! The left fielder makes a throw into the bag, but the runner is sliding easily! Nice hustle to turn a meaningless out into a sacrifice fly! Either he or the first base coach did a great job figuring the distance on that ball and deducing it wasn't going to be a hit. Now they've got a man in scoring position with two away.

16) The ball is hit on the ground toward second, the second baseman takes one step toward the foul line to make the play, and he dives and stops it cleanly! He gets to his feet instantly, spins, and fires to the shortstop covering second, and the throw is in time! They get the force out! Lovely reaction time on that grounder as the second baseman had to go into a dive almost instantly to have any chance at stopping the ball! Two down!

21) The ball is hit slowly on the ground right in the gap between the third baseman and the shortstop, the shortstop runs to cut it off, just does get his mitt on it before it gets into left field, he turns and throws off-balance to second for the force out....and he got his man, the umpire calls him out! The runner bounces right up after his slide and spreads his arms in wonderment at the call but it'll stand! Let's look at it again on replay...it definitely looks like a tie, and the umpire maybe gave a little advantage to the shortstop for making such a dead-aim throw from deep in the hole. So instead of men at first and second with no one out, there's one down and the batter stands at first on the fielder's choice.

22) The batter fights one off and it floats out toward short, it's got a little lift under it, the shortstop runs back to the outfield grass, jumps up....and he can't get to it, it's out of his reach and it falls in for a single! The runner on first will hold up at second as the left fielder comes in to scoop it up, there'll be two men on! The ball wasn't hit very well at all, but the batter stands on first, more than happy with the result.

23) The batter lifts the ball to center field, and it's going to be an easy out. The center fielder is under it and he makes the grab, two down. The runner on first retreats to the bag.

24) The batter knocks a high, long fly ball to dead straightaway center field, the center fielder runs back, he's going to wind up right at the distance marker, he looks up....and that ball is *gone!* A homerun hit on a direct invisible wire straight to center field! The pitch was a changeup that the batter seemed to be waiting for, and he got all of it! Put two runs on the board! That ball has absolutely no hook or slice on it, it was just long, straight, and powerful!

25) The ball is smashed on the ground at the first baseman, taking one sharp hop and a high skip into his chest, and all the first baseman can do is knock it down! The ball ricochets off his mitt and rolls forward, he has to chase it, there's going to be a foot race....he picks the ball up with his bare hand just before it taps the bag and he lashes his foot out to make the put-out a half-step in front of the runner! Boy, that was a good play by the first baseman to defend himself from that hop; he nearly toppled entirely backward, and he surely didn't expect the ball to bounce off his mitt so far forward. Nice recovery to get one out. The runner on first moves up on the play.

26) There's a ground ball to the left side, it's got some legs, the shortstop has to chase it into the hole, he winds up all the way beyond the infield dirt, stabs out at it—and it's under his glove for a single! He gets just a little bit of leather on the ball to kill the momentum and he'll be able to chase it down himself in shallow left. The runner on first will hold up at second. He probably would have held up anyway, but the shortstop made sure of it with a nice effort.

31) The batter swings and knocks the ball high and long toward the left field corner, if it's a fair ball it's going to be extra bases, and it's....fair by three feet! Into the corner it goes on a high bounce! The runner on first was moving with the pitch and he's going to score with minimal difficulty! The ball comes back into the infield and the batter is in standing with an RBI double! If it didn't drop in, the runner moving from first was going to have a big problem getting back to the bag, but there was nothing to worry about. Put a run on the board!

32) The ball is hit to right field, not too deep, this is going to be the second out of the inning....uh-oh, the right fielder spreads his arms like he can't find the ball! Now he recovers, takes two quick steps to his left, and makes the play—but for a good full second, he had lost it entirely! Two outs, and the runner on first heads back to the bag.

33) It's popped up on the left side. It looks like this one might make it into the seats, but the third baseman seems to think he has a bead on it...he drifts toward left field a bit...his footwork is a little uncertain as he gets closer to the stands, he checks the territory in front of him and looks back up...he has to lean into the seats, and he disappears! Let's see if he comes out with the ball....yes, he's got it! The batter is out! He holds his glove high to show the umpire—and the runner on first is going to try for second, and he might make it! Here's the throw....oh, it's a perfect strike, and the second baseman gets the tag down on the runner's shoulder and he's called out! *It's a double play!* The runner took off from first the split second the third baseman re-emerged from the stands, probably figuring he'd be a little unprepared to make a throw, but he was wrong! The first thing the third baseman did as he held his glove up was cast an alert eye toward second! You can't fault the runner for trying to make a great play; the throw was just perfect and the inning is over! Chalk one up for the defense!

34) The ball is hit on the ground down the first base line, the first baseman has to back up on it a bit to field it...he turns and makes a long throw to second, did he get the runner?...yes, the runner is called out sliding! No throw back to first, it would have been an almost impossible double play and the shortstop chose not to risk it, satisfied with the force out.

35) The ball is hit fairly hard to left field, but this is going to be the second out of the inning. The left fielder sees the ball very carefully into his mitt, using two hands. Looks like he was trying to show good fundamentals to the kids out there, he got awfully delicate with that routine fly ball. Two down.

36) There's a blooper to shallow right field, it's going to be a problem for the right fielder, he's hustling in, he slides.....and he scoops the ball up just off the surface of the grass for the out! Great play! Ouch, he got his ankle caught under him awkwardly on that slide, but he doesn't seem to be in any pain, he walks it off and he's fine after that terrific little catch. The runner on first heads back to the bag. Two down!

41) The batter takes a beautiful swing and rips the ball—right at the first baseman! With sharp reflexes he gloves the line drive at his waist and it's just a matter of taking two steps to the bag to complete the double play! The runner on first had no chance to get back! Inning over!

42) The ball is popped up into shallow left. The shortstop backpedals and he's going to take this one. He grabs it for the second out and the runner returns to first base.

43) A soft roller is hit along the third base line, the third baseman moves toward the bag, backhands it, turns, it's going to be a close play at first, and....the throw is a little late! The batter hustles and he gets to the base a half-step ahead of the throw! It's an infield single! Two men on!

44) There's a ground ball toward the shortstop, he'll take it, throw to second for the first out....the second baseman has his legs taken out from under him as he turns to make the relay throw to first but he gets it off, it's low, a one-hopper, but the first baseman stretches forward and grabs it for the second out, double play! The runner moving from first did an excellent job of breaking that one up, you couldn't ask him for anything more, but the second baseman was able to get just enough on the throw as he leapt to complete the DP! The inning is over!

45) There's an easy fly ball to left field, this is going to be out number two. The left fielder makes the catch and tosses the ball back into the second baseman. The second baseman then spins and fires a dart to first in order to catch the runner trotting gently back into the bag, and he just does make it back before the first baseman whips his glove around and smacks him in the rear! The runner was utterly unaware that any sort of play was being made on him, he was waltzing back to first without a care in the world and there's a nice little wake-up call, oh, what a base running blunder that would have been! Two outs. The potential 7-4-3 double play doesn't quite go all the way through. You have to wonder what went through the runner's mind when he felt a sharp thwack on his behind—was the first baseman congratulating him way too late for getting on base?

46) The runner is moving with the pitch, and the ball is slammed right past the first baseman, who barely has enough reaction time to reach a glove out, it's past him in an instant down the line! The ball rolls into foul territory and the right fielder chases it down beside the stands, and the runner moving from first will hit third and be waved in! The right fielder unleashes a throw with all his might, it's strong enough....but it's up the first base line, and the catcher can only field it and take two steps back toward home before the runner slides in feet-first with a run! And now the batter heads for third on the catcher's attempt to make a tag, and he's going to get in there safely, the throw is plenty late! It's a double and an RBI, and the batter winds up at third base!

51) The ball is topped and sent slowly down the third base line, this one may very well go foul....but the third baseman won't take the chance, he gets in on the ball quickly, takes it, and fires to first to get the runner out by a couple of steps. If he had been feeling lucky, he might have chosen to see if that ball drifted over the line, but he was taking absolutely no chances. Two down, that gets the runner into scoring position.

52) The ball is tapped weakly up the first base line, and it's going to be the catcher's play....he throws off his mask, scoots up the line, bare-hands the ball, and he's throwing to second instead of first! The throw is going to be a little late, the runner slides in ahead of it....but he over-slides the bag, and the shortstop alertly slaps a tag down! The umpire is in perfect position to see it and the runner is called out! His slide was more of an effort to break up any possible double play and he only got his right foot on the base, sliding wide, and the agony there is that there was absolutely no need to try to break anything up; a double play was an impossibility, and even getting the out at second was fortunate, as it was not a good decision by the catcher to throw over there. The runner wasn't able to keep an eye on the ground ball though, so he went down hard and it costs him. Two outs, and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice.

53) The ball is knocked on the ground toward center field but the second baseman may have a chance to get to ithe turns the motor on, reaches out and grabs it, and instead of throwing to first with his hand he flings the ball back-handed to the shortstop with his mitt! The shortstop takes it with his bare hand, taps the bag, turns, rifles it to first....*just in time to turn the double play! Wow!!* Two terrific defensive maneuvers on the same play! The second baseman's only chance to start something serious was to get rid of the ball as soon as possible, and his shovel pass with the glove was perfect, leading the shortstop toward first base. Even so, the shortstop decided to gamble as well and make a desperation grab and throw to first which he made seem anything but desperate. Fantastic stuff! The inning is over!

54) The batter goes right back up the middle with the ball, it's a hard single through the mound! The pitcher can't get a glove on it and it's into center field! The runner moving from first is going to try for third! The center fielder, charging in, scoops the ball up, stops and throws the ball in to third....the throw is very wide, way up the line, the third baseman can't get a glove on it and the runner jumps up instantly from his head-first slide and dashes home to score! The batter turns at first and he'll go to second on the error! An ill-advised throw! There wasn't much chance to get the runner out at third, but from the second the ball was hit the center fielder obviously wanted to gun him down, he came running after the ball like his life depended on it. Bad move!

55) The runner takes off with the pitch and the batter swings weakly and taps the ball to the right side, this is at least going to get the runner over flawlessly. The second baseman tosses over to first and there are two down as the hit and run works. It was not a good pitch and the batter pretty much sacrificed himself to hit it where no double play could be possible.

56) The ball is hit on one hop toward the mound! The pitcher comes off the dirt toward the third base side, secures the ball, turns, fires hard to second, it's a perfect strike and the shortstop relays it to first....is it in time? Yes! The umpire makes a delayed call but punches the batter out and the double play is complete! The runner was hustling all the way, sensing, and rightfully so, that the ball had pulled the pitcher too far off the mound to give him a good chance at turning two, but both the pitcher's and the shortstop's throw were absolutely perfect. The inning ends!

61) The runner is moving with the pitch and the ball is hit on the ground right at the shortstop, he'll take it and throw to second....the runner beats the throw with his slide, but the relay throw does get the batter at first, so there's one down and a man in scoring position. The hit and run saved the runner there, that ball had Textbook Double Play written all over it.

62) The ball is hit lazily to right center field. The center fielder takes a few steps, gets right under it, and has it for the second out; the batter, frustrated, snaps the bat over his knee as he leaves the box and tosses it aside. The pitcher threw an ineffective curve that the batter just got over-anxious on, and his poor bat has to pay the price for his mistake. Now the bat boy can't find the bottom part of the bat, he's looking around for it and nobody's helping him spot it....oh boy, he's just lost out there, somebody's got to be a second pair of eyes....the camera sees where the bottom part is, but nobody else does! Finally he spots it and jogs over to take it away. They're not paid to do investigative work like that. The pitcher was very nearly ready to go with the first pitch to the new batter and the bat boy was still trying to put the pieces together!

63) The batter rips the ball down the third base line past a diving infielder! It's just fair inside the bag, and it's going to take a long roll into the left field corner....and it hits the stands and ricochets awkwardly back into fair territory! The left fielder overruns it a bit and has to backtrack! The batter rounds second and whoa, he's going for third! The left fielder picks the ball up, turns, fires....it's a one-hopper into the bag, and it's going to be late! The runner on first comes home and the batter hangs on for dear life at third, just barely keeping one hand on the base after his head-first slide! Finally he asks for time, and it's granted. He gets up to brush himself off, having benefited from a tough carom off the stands! He was guaranteed of nothing more than a double before the ricochet kept the play going! ▲

64) The ball is popped up into shallow center field, it has a chance to drop in, the center fielder is running hard....he can't get to it, it's in for a single, but he picks it up on one hop and throws quickly to the second baseman covering second and *they get the force out on the runner moving from first!* He got stuck in between the bases, not knowing if the ball was going to drop, and was essentially a sitting duck! It'll go down as a fielder's choice as the official scorer gives the center fielder credit for intentionally letting that ball drop so he could keep the runner from getting into scoring position! Looking at the replay, it didn't look like that was his intention; he probably just couldn't get to the ball but was alert enough to realize he had a chance to get the force. The batter takes first, and there are two down.

65) The batter chops the ball off the plate! It takes a high bounce and the catcher throws off his mask and moves forward to wait for it....it comes down and he has to hurry a throw to first base....it's low and off the mark but the first baseman stretches toward center field and picks it up on one hop and they get their man by a step! Nice play on the end there! The runner on first moves into scoring position. It looked like the catcher became overly conscious of the angle he had to throw by, and very much didn't want to risk hitting the batter as he moved up the line, so he pulled the throw, very nearly into right field, but the first baseman bailed him out nicely.

66) The ball is grounded hard toward center field but to the shortstop side of second, the shortstop gallops over, scoops it up, runs to second, tags the base for the first out, leaps and throws to first....and he nails the batter in plenty of time to finish the double play! Nicely done to end the inning!

Runner on 1st, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher makes no throw, only looks the runner back. He had a serious lead that was getting bigger and bigger every second, but couldn't be duped into running. |
| 0-1 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 1-0 | There's a strike called on the inside corner, and the catcher leaps to his feet and fires to first to catch the runner leaning! The throw is in time and the runner is out! <i>Got him!</i> The inning is over! He took too big a lead and paid the price for it! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher makes a lightning move to first and the runner has to frantically dive head-first to make it back to the bag, just barely getting a hand on it! The first baseman keeps his mitt firmly on the batter's shoulder to try to influence the umpire's call, but he won't get it! He's safe by a hair! |
| 0-2 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 2-0 | The batter swings and grounds the ball weakly to second, but the umpire waves the play off and calls the catcher for interference! He got his mitt too far out over the plate and the batter's swing made contact with it! The batter takes first! Looking at the play again, the umpire made the right call. The runner on first broke for second on the pitch and the catcher got a little bit too aggressive, trying to snag the pitch a split second sooner. Two on, two out! |
| 1-2 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. The pitcher then takes the ball behind the mound, gives it a good going-over, takes a deep breath, and gets back into position on the mound. |
| 2-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He just does not seem terribly comfortable up at the plate for some reason, displaying an unusual amount of fidgeting and adjusting. Not a good sign, maybe. |
| 2-2 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 3-0 | After that last ball outside the zone, the pitcher tells the umpire there's a problem with the mound. He comes out and the pitcher points out that it's muddy. The umpire signals for the groundskeeper, who comes out with an assistant, and after a few moments of digging and re-arranging, the pitcher is ready to go again. We'll see if this has any effect on his control. Still 3 and 0. |
| 3-1 | The pitcher spins and fires to first base...and nails the runner, who can't get back in time! Inning over! He knew he was out as soon as the ball was sent over, he didn't even make an attempt to dive back to the bag! The pitcher completely fooled him! |
| 3-2 | The batter jumps on the pitch and pulls it....just inches foul about twenty feet beyond the bag! That had extra bases written all over it, but it landed just on the wrong side of the line! The runner walks back to first and the batter turns around and heads back to the box, shaking his head over how close that one was. He takes a few practice swings, resets, and waits for the next pitch. Here it comes....he turns on another one and pulls it to the same exact place, and this one is....foul again by less than a foot, and landing within a yard of the previous foul!! That ball had the exact same velocity coming off the bat and it broke the batter's heart in exactly the same way! Wow! He just can't get the geometry right! He's up there smashing pitches but he has nothing to show for it except a nice instant replay of his first effort! It's still 3 and 2! Look at all the fans in disbelief over seeing not one but two doubles disappear, the first on a fast ball, the second on a curve! Boy, if the video of those two plays were superimposed over each other, you'd see that the balls landed almost identically. What are the odds?? |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

- 11) The ball is hit on the ground up the middle on the shortstop side of second, the shortstop dashes toward the bag and he takes the ball behind the base, then makes a nice little back-handed flip to the second baseman....and the toss beats the runner sliding in! The force is made and the inning is over! Nice play!

12) The ball is beaten into the infield grass on the left side, it takes two hops as the pitcher leaves the mound and moves toward third to make a play, he grabs it on the third hop, turns, fires to first....and the batter beats the throw with a head-first slide into first! He was hustling all the way and despite a hard, accurate throw by the pitcher, there was one bounce too many and now there are two men on with two out! The batter gets to his feet a little shakily; he went in very hard and came off first rolling on his side. Despite the fact that a runner seems to gain no advantage by diving into first, you just can't keep them from the habit, but this time at least the ultimate result was a good one!

13) The batter swings at a pitch up and out of the zone and he pops it up! This is going to end the inning! The ball carries out into short center field, and the second baseman is going to make the play....he secures it and that's three outs!

14) The ball is shot right back at the pitcher, he throws an arm up to try to stop it....and the ball pops off the top of his glove! He spins around, not knowing where it went, and finally sees it fall midway between the mound and first base! He runs after it, it's going to be a close play at first....he grabs the ball bare-handed and underhands it desperately to the first baseman and falls to the ground, and the throw is in time! The batter is out! Wow, that was an exhausting play for the pitcher, but he finally got the job done and wound up in the grass! He gets up and walks to the dugout with the satisfaction of job well done.

15) The batter pops the ball up behind third base, the third baseman backs up, turns, and has to chase it down the line as the left fielder charges in, this one might fall between them, and....it does! Neither fielder can get to it and it drops just inside the foul line in shallow left! The left fielder grabs it bare-handed and throws to third to try to nail the runner moving from first, but the throw is low and fielded on one long hop! The third baseman then fires to second to try to get the batter, but he slides in safely with a double! That ball fell exactly between the fielders, a few feet either way and one of them would have caught it! The better decision would have been for the left fielder to throw directly to second, but he had an outside shot to get the man at third and just sent the ball in way too low.

16) The batter pulls the ball deep into the corner, it's a line drive that might just get over the wall if it stays fair, and it....slams off the foul pole three rows into the stands for a HOMERUN! It's gone! No, wait! Wait, the umpire is calling it foul! He's calling it a foul ball, but it definitely looked like it hit the foul pole and ricocheted sharply into the stands! The umpire claims otherwise, and both managers run out onto the field to state their individual cases! Looking at the replay, the ball started off in fair territory and kept hooking and hooking until it struck the foul pole....but no, it didn't hit the pole, it missed it by about two feet! The thing that it hit so hard, causing it to ricochet, was the top of a spectator's seat! The young fan, who looks to be about eight years old or so, ducked out of the way and the ball struck the seat and shot off elsewhere into the stands, looking very much like a carom off the foul pole. And now the call is in fact being upheld, it's a foul ball! That is a great, observant call, or maybe just a good piece of guessing by the umpire, but it will go down accurately as a foul! The aggrieved manager continues to talk calmly to the group of umps before him, and he finally shakes his head angrily and walks back to the dugout. He'll realize he's wrong later on. The batter must step back into the box and we'll start again after that near-miss!

21) The ball is hit on the ground toward short, the shortstop backhands it....and drops it! It falls out of his glove and he'll have to make a hurried throw toward first to get the runner....the throw gets there on one hop and the first baseman can only block the ball, he can't hang onto it! It bounces forward, the batter is safe, and the runner moving from first is now going to try for third! The first baseman picks the ball up, sets to throw over there, he's got a chance to get him....no, he dropped the ball! No one can hang onto it! He picks it up again and fires over there way too late....and the throw is bad, well short, it hits the runner in the foot as he slides head-first into the bag and kicks off into foul territory....the third baseman chases it down, and now the batter has gotten trapped rounding first base too wide! He started to go for second on the throw to third base and all the defensive ugliness is going to be wiped out because he's not going to get back to first in time! The third baseman throws to the pitcher, who has alertly gone to an empty first base and now takes the throw and gets the tag down for the third out of the inning! Let's see how the official scorer is going to sort that one out! It'll be an error on the shortstop and that's it. Three outs and no further harm done!

22) The batter swings and drives a foul ball out into the stands in shallow right...and a fan in the front row catches the ball in his cap and has the cap torn out of his hand by the sheer force of the liner, it sails deeper into the stands, and good luck finding that one again! Wow, that cap took off with the ball still in it and went into another section entirely! The fan laughs, needing some help in locating his cap. Many rows behind him, someone holds up the cap with the ball still in it! He leaves his seat to go give it back to its rightful owner.

- 23)** The batter sends a high chopper right up the middle, nobody's going to get to it, it bounds over second base and the runner is going to move to third on this one! There'll be no throw from the center fielder, he tosses it back in to the shortstop. Men on first and third with two outs! The batter swung at a low pitch and muscled it through the box!
- 24)** There's a high chopper deep in the hole at short, the shortstop's got it but it's going to be a long throw and a tight play at first, he lets it go....it's a wide throw up the first base line and the first baseman dives for it while keeping his left foot on the bag, and he catches the one-hopper as he goes down! The umpire calls the batter out, he's saying that the first baseman kept his foot on the bag just long enough after he made the catch, and the inning is over! A fantastic play by the first baseman, he just refused to let that one go, did a great balancing act, and wound up on his chest with the dirt stains to prove how far he laid out for that throw!
- 25)** The batter hits a laser shot toward the second baseman, he can only dive wildly to his right....and he knocks the ball down! He gets up, runs a few steps, picks up the ball, turns, throws hard to first....just in time, the batter is out! A terrific play to end the inning! That ball absolutely leapt off the bat and seemed like a sure hit, but the second baseman was there to deny the batter!
- 26)** It's a bouncing ball up the first base line with not a lot on it, the first baseman has to charge in, he grabs it just as the batter passes by him, has to turn and throw to the pitcher covering....and the throw is just in time, the batter is out! The batter was seriously hustling down the line, but he just didn't have the wheels to beat that one out. The pitcher got over there in a hurry.
- 31)** The ball is hit hard and high to center field, it's carrying deep, the center fielder breaks on it, if it falls a run's going to score....the center fielder nears the track....and he jumps on the run and makes the catch! His momentum carries him into the wall and the ball pops out of his mitt and hits the track, but the umpire has already ruled it a catch and the inning is over! No question about it, he made the play, took two more off-balance running steps, and only then did he cough the ball up. Terrific defense! Inning over!
- 32)** The batter pulls a line drive into the outfield for a single! The outfielder gets right in front of it and fields it on one hop, so the runner on first will have to hold up at second! The batter wasn't fooled by that slider, he ripped into it and there are two men on.
- 33)** There's a deep drive to right center field, and nobody's going to get this one! It's going, going....and it's off the top of the wall in right center, only a foot below the stands! It caroms back and the center fielder overruns the ball and can't get it by lashing his mitt out, he'll have to run back in a few steps to pick it up and toss it back into the infield, it'll be a standup double and the runner from first will score easily on a line drive off the wall!
- 34)** The ball is ripped on the ground down the third base line, the third baseman dives....and the ball caroms off the bag right into his mitt as he hits the ground! His dive was short but the ball flies into the glove anyway! Still on his knees, he hurls the ball all the way across the diamond....*and the throw beats the runner by half a step!*
Oh, what an incredibly lucky play! The third baseman had no chance to keep that ball from going for extra bases, but the angle at which the ball bounced off the side of the base was absurdly perfect, it shot two feet directly into the glove, a gift from the baseball gods! He did the rest, making a lovely throw from his knees, so give him at least half credit for a sensational defensive play! Inning over!
- 35)** The batter slaps a line drive to left field but it's got too much air under it and the left fielder is going to make the grab. A nice shot, but for naught, and that's the third out of the inning.
- 36)** The batter takes a mighty swing....and completely tops the ball, it shoots straight down and dies in the grass just in front of the plate. The catcher jumps up, picks the ball up....and delivers a high, arcing lob toward first, getting all kinds of air under the throw as if he were playing catch in the back yard with his grandfather! The ball does come down eventually and the put-out is made easily. The first baseman obviously wasn't expecting such a lob; he had held his glove out in front of him to receive a hard throw and had to re-adjust to catch what was practically a pop fly! Three outs!
- 41)** The ball is hit hard but the second baseman is right in front of it....oh, he almost drops the easy line drive, it smacks his mitt perfectly but it squirts out and he has to palm the ball for the out! The inning ends, no harm done.

42) The runner is moving with the pitch and the ball is knocked into left field, it's a single! This one's headed to the gap! The center fielder cuts it off with a nice backhanded stab, but his momentum carries him deeper into the outfield and the runner on first isn't going to stop at third, he's being waved in, he's coming home! The center fielder chucks the ball in to the shortstop, the shortstop turns, fires home, the runner dives head-first...the catcher falls backwards but he gets the tag down, blocking the plate perfectly, *and the runner is out!* The catcher holds the ball up triumphantly as he lies in his back, and the umpire punches the runner out with a flourish, inning over! A great relay play ends it! The center fielder did a nice job getting to the ball and making a hurried throw to the shortstop, who in turn delivered a dart just where it needed to go. It was a good call sending the runner, as it took a bang bang play to gun him down, and he was just a step or so late!

43) The batter tears into a fast ball right down the middle of the plate and he rips it right at the shortstop, who makes a flashy back-handed grab on one fast bounce! He sets himself and chooses to make the throw to first base after waiting a beat, perhaps in amazement that he got that one, and the batter is out by several steps! That was all reflexes and instinct, and the shortstop did not fail. The inning ends!

44) The batter skies the ball out toward the left field line and fairly deep, the left fielder runs over, takes a few steps toward the outfield fence, and he's going to make the play just inside fair territory. The catch is made for the third out.

45) The batter knocks a high chopper right at the third baseman. He takes it and throws to second in plenty of time to get the force out, no problem. Inning over!

46) The batter chases a pitch practically in the dirt and the ball is grounded at the shortstop, who moves to his left, takes it after a few very low bounces and shovels the ball to the second baseman, who in turn makes the easy tag at second for the force out to end the inning. Not a good swing by the batter, and it results in an easy out. He undoes his batting gloves slowly and meditatively, looking mystified as to why he took a crack at such a lousy pitch.

51) There's a deep drive to right center field, this one's going to be trouble, the center fielder dashes toward the wall...the ball hangs up, the fielder jumps, and....he comes down with nothing! The ball is gone, it's a HOMERUN! It looked like the center fielder jumped too soon! The ball barely cleared his mitt, it sailed over as he was coming back down! If he had timed his jump correctly, we would probably be looking at a terrific catch and the end of the inning instead of a homer! He shakes his head in frustration, knowing he missed his chance! Two runs come home!

52) The batter hits a bouncing ball toward the gap between second and first, the second baseman hustles over, grabs it, spins and fires to the shortstop to try for the force out....but the throw is way short and off line, hitting the runner in the back as the shortstop dives for it in futility! Everybody's safe, and the second baseman will be charged with an error! The play he should have made was to first; fielding that grounder forced him to make a quick full-body turn and throw hard to second, while he had an easier play at first. He pays for his mistake, and now there are two men on and two out!

53) The ball is blasted on the ground right up the middle....and the pitcher spins and back-hands the ball effortlessly! He's going to have all kinds of time to throw the ball to first and he takes most of it, trotting several steps in that direction and finally letting the ball go. The first baseman makes the put-out and the inning is over. The pitcher helps himself with some nice defense!

54) The pitch is way up in the zone and the batter swings anyway, connecting but sending it high beyond third base on a pop-up, this one's going to send the third baseman running out into shallow left near the line, it could drop....with his back to the infield he reaches a glove out but the ball drops! It comes up off the ground and bounces off his chest, he'll have to run after it before he can pick it up, and that'll give the runner moving from first plenty of time to go to third, he's in there standing on the single! The ball fell just out of reach for a cheap single on a bad pitch. The batter holds at first.

55) There's a high chopper to the right side in the hole, the first baseman dives for it with full extension but can't get it....the second baseman charges in and bare-hands it, and after a late start toward first, the pitcher is in position to take the throw....the second baseman whips it sidarm to him, and the pitcher makes the grab and gets his foot down on the bag for the put-out! The inning is over! The first baseman gets up slowly, having made a valiant effort on that one, diving so far that the second baseman had to leap over him immediately after making his throw to first, as if the first baseman were a runner trying to break up a double play!

- 56)** The batter is jammed and he muscled a pop fly out to center field, pretty shallow but it's not going to drop in. The center fielder runs in and catches it for the third out. The batter demonstrated a lot of strength on that swing but the result is not a good one.
- 61)** The batter laces a shot into the opposite field, the outfielder comes charging in, will he get to it?...Yes, he makes a nice running basket catch and makes it look easy! That's the third out!
- 62)** The ball is hit on the ground right at the shortstop but the runner on first was moving with the pitch, the shortstop may have to go to first with it.....no, he tosses it to the second baseman, it's a high throw but it just does beat the runner! The inning is over!
- 63)** The batter reaches down low and knocks a lazy single over the second baseman! The right fielder was playing in and the runner on first will have to hold up at second.....no, the right fielder overruns the ball and it squirts under his mitt! He turns and chases the ball a few steps, and that's going to allow the runner on second to go easily to third while the batter holds at first on the single and error! Looks like the right fielder thought the runner might try for two bases and he took his eye off the ball at the last second, botching the pickup!
- 64)** The batter clocks the ball hard to the left side, and it shoots through the hole between third and short in no time at all, it'll be a single! The runner on first takes a wide turn around second but he'll have to hold up, he's not going anywhere. He didn't get the greatest jump off first base and the ball was hit quite hard, so it'll be men on first and second with two men down.
- 65)** The batter rips the ball toward first, and the low line drive hits the runner there on the side of the foot before he even has a chance to break off the bag! The ball caroms off into right field, leaving the runner to simply stand there dejected as the umpire calls him out! He had absolutely no chance to get out of the way of that ball, it was a rocket shot, and that's how the inning ends! The runner doesn't seem to be in any physical pain despite the hard contact. He would have been to at least third base on that hit, and maybe even gotten all the way home if the ball had kept speeding down the line!
- 66)** There's a long fly ball to right field, it's going to be the third out of the inning....the right fielder has to do a lot of footwork to get under it, he's not quite certain of where this one is headed....look out, it's not a done deal yet....now it is, the right fielder finally snags it, but only after making it look interesting by changing his direction a couple of times.

Runner on 2nd, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|---|
| first pitch | Time is called and the trainer is coming out to the mound to take a look at the pitcher. He's grimacing a little and the trainer seems to be interested in the index finger on his throwing hand. The manager comes out as well, and there's a long meeting. The pitcher shakes his head several times, seeming to insist he's okay. It looks like the manager didn't like the way the pitcher's face looked after that last pitch. The meeting ends and the trainer and manager return to the dugout, the pitcher will go on without having to throw any practice pitches. |
| 0-1 | The pitcher is warned about taking too much time between pitches! He looks surprised, and indeed so is his manager. The umpire doesn't seem too pleased with the pace of play. The pitcher has been keeping the batters waiting and maybe someone in their dugout made a comment. |
| 1-0 | The batter swings and rips the ball past a diving third baseman....and it's ruled a foul ball! Foul! The batter looks very surprised indeed as he rounds first base! Instant replay shows that it may have sailed over the outside edge of third base as the fielder dove for it, but maybe not. Almost too close to call. The runner on second will go back to his base and the count is now 1 and 1. |
| 1-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. It gives the pitcher some time to cast an eye out toward second, where the runner's lead has seemed to increase with each pitch. |
| 0-2 | The pitch is in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep the runner from advancing! Wild pitch! |
| 2-0 | After that last call for a ball, the pitching team's manager says something from the bench about the strike zone, and the umpire steps away from the plate to warn him about his arguing! The manager stays silent for now. Still 2 and 0. |
| 1-2 | The batter swings at an inside pitch and misses it for a strikeout, but the ball gets away from the catcher! He has to dash to his right, pick the ball up, spin, and throw to first. He gets the batter in plenty of time but the runner on second goes to third! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher spins and fires to second base...and nails the runner, who dives head-first back to the bag can't get back in time! The runner can't believe the call, but his argument will fall on deaf ears! One out and nobody on! The throw to second was absolutely perfect, the shortstop didn't have to do anything but catch the ball! |
| 2-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 3-0 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. It looks like they're having a little trouble getting on the same page. |
| 3-1 | Here's the pitch....a swing and a miss, strike two, and the catcher leaps to his feet to throw to second to try to catch the runner leaning, but the throw is almost embarrassingly short, it gets there on two hops! He either lost control of the ball or it was just a very bad throw. The runner stands on second, unchallenged. |
| 3-2 | The pitcher commits a balk! He made a throw to second but he was too far into his delivery before he spun around and tried a pickoff move! The runner goes to third! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The pitcher sends a fast ball up and in the zone and the batter clocks it! There's a high fly ball to deep right field, it's going, going, the right fielder leaps at the wall and....did he get it?? Does he have it in his glove...?

No! His arm disappeared over the fence, but when it came back out, there was nothing inside the mitt!
Homerun!! It went about two feet beyond his reach, and two runs score! A valiant effort comes to nothing!

13-14) The batter sends a screecher into center field, but it's got too much lift to fall in for a hit. The center fielder catches the line drive and the runner on second will not advance. One down.

15-16) The ball is hit on the ground toward short, and the shortstop is going to throw to third with it! The throw is perfect, the third baseman lays the tag down, and they get the runner moving from second as he slides in! A daring play but it works to perfection! One down and the batter is safe at first! The key to that play was that the shortstop showed absolutely no hesitation in his decision-making, he seemed to know as soon as the ball left the bat that he was going to make a play for the runner!

21-22) The ball is hit to shallow right field, it's dying fast, the right fielder runs in, he dives head-first....oh, it's in his mitt but it pops out when he hits the ground! It's going to be a single! The runner on second is going to have to hold up at third, he had to wait and see if a play was going to be made, and it nearly was! The right fielder timed it perfectly, made a nice full-body dive, the ball sailed right into his glove....and then it came right out again thanks to the grass! Now the pitcher is in real trouble with runners at the corners!

23-24) The batter hits a high chopper to the right side, and this one's going to move the runner over flawlessly, the only play's at first. The second baseman makes the toss over to first for the out. The runner on second now stands at third, ninety feet away from scoring.

25-26) There's a hard shot on the ground down the third base line, the third baseman dives for it....and he's got it! He won't have a play at first but he gets to his feet immediately to try to outrun the runner moving from second....he's not going to get there in time, the runner slides in safely! An infield single moves the runner over! A great diving stop saves a run, though!

31-32) There's a fly ball to right field, it's plenty deep....it hangs up for the right fielder and he'll make the catch, but the runner on second will tag and have little difficulty advancing to third base on the sac fly. He draws no throw. One out.

33-34) The bat shatters and the ball sails into left center field for a single! The runner on second is thinking about home plate, the left fielder collects the ball, unleashes the ball toward the plate....and it's an absolute rocket that makes the runner stop almost halfway to home and retreat! The ball sails into the catcher's mitt on the fly right at chest level, and that would have nailed the runner with room to spare, what a throw! You just can't make one better than that! The runner slowed to a sudden halt as he glanced back to see the left fielder uncork it flawlessly, and he got back to third obediently. A good decision to hold up! Men on first and third, and nobody out!

35-36) There's a hot shot right at the third baseman, and he makes the play on one hop. He looks the runner on second back, throws across the diamond, and gets the batter by two steps. The runner on second fakes moving toward third on the throw but he's not going anywhere. One away.

41-42) The ball is hit slowly on the ground toward the shortstop, and the runner on second dares to try for third, running right past the ball! The shortstop picks it up, starts to throw to third, but decides to play it safe and go to first, and he'll have to hurry the throw....it's short but the first baseman scoops it up and they get the batter out by a step! They were very close to losing both runners on that one and getting nobody out, but there's one down. The runner stands on third, having been rewarded for his aggressiveness. He never hesitated and it paid off.

43-44) The batter knocks a slow roller to the left side, the third baseman can't get to it....and neither can the shortstop! It's a grounder with just enough on it to squeak through the infield, and the runner on second comes around third without slowing, and he will score on the play! The ball comes from the left fielder back into the shortstop, it's an RBI single! ▲

45-46) The batter hits a fly ball to left field, this one's got some distance....the runner on second retreats, he'll tag up and try to advance....the left fielder makes the play just shy of the track and he unleashes a throw, hitting the shortstop perfectly; he turns, fires to third....not in time, the runner slides in feet-first ahead of the tag and it'll go down as a nice sacrifice fly! One down but now the runner is ninety feet away from scoring!

51-52) The batter takes a big swing but only tops the ball and it dies in front of the plate. The catcher takes two steps forward, picks it up, takes one more step to get a better angle at first, fires over there....oh, it's a bad throw inside first base, it sails off into foul territory, and the runner on second rounds third and might be able to score! The right fielder gets to the ball quickly but just as he's about to make a throw to the plate he holds up, realizing he has no play, and the run scores on the error! The right fielder throws to first, trying to get the batter making a wide turn, but there's no play there either! The catcher was forced to take one more step toward the mound in order to make sure his throw wouldn't hit the batter, and seeing how fast he was hustling toward first, it may have caused him to force the throw!

53-54) The batter knocks it right back to the mound! The pitcher bends and takes the ball on two hops, looks the runner on second back, and turns his attention to first. But in preparing to make the throw, he drops the ball! He reaches down in a hurry, picks it up, and delivers a hurried throw to first that's luckily right on target and the batter is out! Oh, he wasn't exactly hustling down the line, and he's out in plenty of time, you have to wonder if he might have been able to force a close play if he had been moving faster. The pitcher avoids a near disaster and there's one down, while the runner on second holds.

55-56) The batter swings and delivers a hard, high chopper to first, the first baseman takes it....and he sees that the runner on second got a very late jump off the bag, and there's a chance to throw him out at third! The first baseman delivers the ball across the diamond....but it's a low throw and the runner slides head-first and gets his hand in before the third baseman can make the tag, everybody's safe! If that throw hadn't hit the ground first, it almost surely would have beaten the runner, but as it stands, there are men at the corners and nobody out! You can't fault the first baseman for trying to make that play, but the execution was poor. It'll go down as a fielder's choice with the batter safe at first—and still nobody out.

61-62) The batter swings and pops the ball up on the right side and fairly shallow....the right fielder runs in, angles toward the foul line....and makes the catch, spinning and throwing the ball hard all the way across the diamond into third base, but the runner on second holds where he is. Good thing, too, that throw was right on target and probably would have gotten him!

63-64) The batter swings and tops the ball, driving it right into the dirt, and as he breaks toward first, the ball spins into his path and hits him—and he's going to be called out by the umpire! He never had much of a chance to get away from it, just bad luck that the ball came for him. The runner on second will have to stay where he is.
One down!

65-66) The ball is tapped right down the first base line....the ball rolls and rolls, still perfectly on the line....and the first baseman will finally take it and step on first before the batter gets too close. The runner on second moves to third on a ball that walked the tightrope all the way, never wandering left or right more than an inch, threatening to go foul with every rotation but never quite making it.

Runner on 2nd, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitch sails inside and hits the batter on the hand! He takes first base! The replay shows that it just barely got him on the pinkie finger. It still counts and we have two men on and one out. |
| 0-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He looks to the third base coach for a sign. |
| 1-0 | The pitcher delivers a strike on the outside edge of the plate, but the catcher can't hold onto it! It goes off his mitt and he chases it toward the backstop, and he'll have no play to stop the runner advancing! Passed ball! |
| 1-1 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first! The pitcher yells something out to the umpire, probably complaining that the batter was crowding over the plate to such an extent that he was actually in the zone. But his argument won't quite wash. |
| 0-2 | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher makes no throw, only looks the runner on second back. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward second base, but the runner gets back just in time! Caught him taking a sizeable lead off the bag there, and he'll shorten it up a bit. |
| 1-2 | The pitcher makes a sudden and completely unexpected throw to second and the runner has to frantically dive head-first to make it back to the bag, just barely getting a hand on it! The second baseman keeps his mitt firmly on the batter's shoulder to try to influence the umpire's call, but he won't get it! He's safe by a hair! |
| 2-1 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! A fast ball clocks him! |
| 2-2 | There's a called strike on the outside corner, and the runner on second heads for third! The throw is....not in time, he's in there but the batter strikes out! Two down! |
| 3-0 | Time out is called by the umpire; a fan out in the left field bleachers has somehow gotten onto the field. He dashes toward center field, and eventually gets as far as the right field stands before security catches up with him. He's hauled away and play can resume. |
| 3-1 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 3-2 | The pitch is in the dirt, ball four, and it's going to get past the catcher! He tears off his mask and turns to run for it! It rolls slowly toward the backstop and the runner on second rounds third and charges toward home! The catcher picks the ball up, turns....the throw is high, the pitcher has to reach way up to grab it, and his tag is going to be late! The man scores! A two-base advance on a wild pitch! The catcher released that ball as soon as humanly possible, side-arming it, and the pitcher's stretch to get it was enough to cost him a critical half second! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The batter jumps on a pitch low and in and he pulls it into the outfield, deep and hard, it's going to divide the outfielders perfectly, neither one of them is going to get to it, and it slams into the base of the wall and dies there on the track! The runner on second will trot home with a run, and the batter jogs into second with a double! The ball almost wedged itself under the fence and stopped dead as soon as it hit the wall. The center fielder had positioned himself to play the carom, hoping to maybe make a good throw to second and nail the batter trying for two, but in the end, he had no play at all!

13-14) The ball is hit on the ground slowly toward the shortstop....and it goes right under his mitt into left field! The runner on second will trot to third, and the only reason he can't score is because he had to hold at second, figuring the shortstop had a very easy play! And it was; the shortstop barely had to move, but the glove just never got down far enough. Two on and one out!

15-16) The batter hits it hard and long to center field, if it has enough legs this is going to be for extra bases....no, the center fielder chases it down on the track! The runner on second will tag and move easily to third base. Put it down as a sacrifice fly that was very nearly much more than that.

21-22) The batter gets under the ball and knocks it deep to right field, it's drifting toward the corner....the right fielder is after it at full gallop....he reaches out, unable to quite get there....and it drops foul just a foot shy of the wall in foul territory, the right fielder trying to pull up before he hits the right field stands but unable, and he connects with the short wall out there good and hard, ouch! He trots back to position still in good shape. A valiant effort but the ball was just unobtainable. The batter steps back into the box to receive another pitch.

23-24) The ball is drilled into left field, well over the shortstop's head for a line drive single! The runner on second will stop at third.....and the batter takes a very wide turn around first, and this will draw a long throw from the left fielder! The ball is thrown over the second baseman and the first baseman fields it on one hop, having no chance to get the batter, he dashes back to first safely. That was a potentially dangerous throw by the left fielder; the runner on third maybe had a chance to take off for home on it, and certainly would have had he known that the throw would bypass the second baseman completely. Not a very smart move, but no harm done.
Men on first and third, one out.

25-26) The pitch is yanked to right field, and it's going to either be for extra bases or out of here! The right fielder races to the track, but it is.....*gone!* A HOMERUN into the fifth row out in right field! And the pitcher is absolutely beside himself, cursing and shaking his head! He missed his target badly, the catcher set up one way and he just plain mis-delivered! Two runs score on that blast! The catcher comes out to talk the pitcher down from the ledge, maybe it was a miscommunication problem. Either way, that ball's not emerging from the cheap seats any time soon!

31-32) The batter lines to ball to left field, it's well hit but the left fielder only has to move three steps and catches the ball. The runner on second was caught off base a little and the left fielder throws it behind him, but the throw is a little late and he gets back to the bag in time. Two men down.

33-34) The batter fails to check his swing, gets good wood on the ball, and sends it to center field, where it hits the grass just beyond second base for a single! This one will score the runner! The center fielder comes up with it quickly and attempts a throw home, but it's cut off by the shortstop, and the run scores! A check swing base hit and an RBI for the batter! ▲

35-36) There's a fly ball toward the gap in right, it's fairly deep, it's going to be a tough play, the center fielder chugs hard....he dives....and can't quite get enough of the ball to make the catch, it's in the webbing but it's jostled out of it when he hits the ground! The batter is headed for second and he's probably going for three! The right fielder is there to pick the ball up, he hurls it with all his might....it's a terrific throw that hits the third baseman's glove on the fly but the batter is already in sliding feet-first with a triple! Two great defensive efforts on that play, but in the end, a run scores and the batter is safe at third! The center fielder can't believe he couldn't hang on to the ball, he made an absolutely heroic dive but it just wasn't to be, and then the right fielder showed an awesome arm to get it all the way across the field!

41-42) The ball is tapped toward the first base side of the mound....the pitcher makes a play for it but can't get to it, and the second baseman has to charge hard for it....he bare-hands it coming in off the infield dirt and flips it hard toward first....in time, the batter is out! The runner on second goes to third on the play. Nice play by the second baseman.

43-44) The batter drives one toward first base, it's going to hit the ground and take one low hop....the first baseman knocks it down and keeps it in front of him, then picks it up and under-hands the ball to the pitcher covering the bag for the out. The runner on second goes to third. Good defense there, the first baseman might have made a backhanded stab at it but he chose to make sure the ball didn't get past him. Two down.

45-46) There's a high fly ball to right field....drifting toward right center....it should be long enough to at least advance the runner....he prepares to take off....oh, at the last second the right fielder runs forward just to give himself some momentum, and after catching the ball he gets off a beautiful throw across the diamond which takes one hop and is then fielded by the third baseman, who slaps a tag down and nails the runner sliding feet-first! *He's out!* A risky little fielding maneuver by the right fielder pays off, giving him some extra oomph on the throw, and boy did it come in handy! A 9-5 double play ends the inning!

51-52) The ball is hit hard toward the right side into the hole between first and second....and the first baseman backhands it on one unexpectedly low hop! It took a freakish low bounce but it's snagged! The first baseman turns and tosses a long underhanded throw to the pitcher covering and he's got it for the put-out, that's two down and the runner on second moves to third. Great reflexes by the first baseman—not only was the ball hit very hard but the bounce went a good twelve inches lower than it should have.

53-54) The batter hits a soft line drive up the middle, the shortstop darts toward second, reaches out and snags it with a nice lunge, and the runner on second has to spin and try to get back to the bag! The shortstop's momentum carries him right toward him, he holds the ball out with his bare hand, extending his arm so far he almost loses his balance, but the runner wins the race back to the bag, diving in head-first and narrowly avoiding the double play!

55-56) The ball is knocked on one long, high hop to the third baseman. He fields it easily, looks the runner on second back, and throws a bullet across the diamond in plenty of time to get the out. Two down and the runner is stuck where he is.

61-62) The batter grounds the ball toward the third baseman....it draws him in a step and this emboldens the runner on second to try for third! The third baseman picks the ball up and he instantly dives backwards to try to make the tag, sticking his glove arm out as far as it will go as he hits the dirt....*and he got the runner!* The tag is there, right on the runner's left foot as he slides in, and he's out! What a play! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice! The third baseman is used to diving for grounders, but it's not often you see him have to make a leap to apply a tag! That's a gutsy play, and it looked like the runner was definitely not expecting him to go anywhere but to first base with the ball!

63-64) The ball is grounded slowly into the hole between second and first....the second baseman runs after it and finally reaches down to grab it all the way on the outfield grass, then side-arms a throw as he falls away toward the right field line....and he nails the runner by a step! The first baseman stretched out toward right field to take the ball a shade earlier than he would have had he just waited for it, and the umpire rings the batter up, two down! The runner on second makes it to third on the play. There's an example of a first baseman sensing how close the batter was without looking and knowing he had to actively go after the throw instead of just waiting. Give defensive props to both of the men who touched the ball on that one.

65-66) The ball is hit into shallow left field, very high, not much more than a pop-up. It won't advance the runner. The left fielder jogs in casually and makes the catch on the run. Two down.

Runner on 2nd, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter swings and misses badly on an outside pitch and he lets go of the bat, it sails out to the mound and the pitcher jerks away even as he puts his free hand out—and catches the bat in mid-air! He gets both the strike and a souvenir! He tosses the bat back toward the box after an amazing little display of glove work, minus the glove! He had a choice to either knock the bat away or get hit with it, so he chose the more viable option and somehow wound up catching it cleanly. Never seen that happen before! |
| 0-1 | The pitcher commits a balk! The runner goes to third! He failed to set properly before he wound up! It's not called that often, but he got caught on that one! |
| 1-0 | A fast ball is in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep the runner from advancing! Wild pitch! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher throws almost immediately after getting the ball back from the catcher, and it's in there for a strike on the outside corner, a fast ball gets in there and the batter looks to the umpire as if to say, "What was that?!" But the batter was in the box and the pitcher had every right to throw the ball; that was obviously a pre-timed gambit worked out with the catcher, and it worked! It's now 1 and 2 on the sneaky quick pitch! Wow, that's the kind of thing that'll generate some instant bad blood! Like it or not, it was entirely legal, if completely bizarre! |
| 0-2 | The pitcher makes a quick throw to second and the runner has to frantically dive head-first to make it back to the bag, just barely getting a hand on it before the shortstop drops the tag down! Whew, what a move! |
| 2-0 | The batter steps out of the box and complains about a shiny object hanging beyond center field. It's a sign with a little too much reflectiveness to it, and the umpire orders it taken down. It takes a few moments for the groundskeeping staff to run out and remove it. Then the batter gets back into the box. |
| 1-2 | The pitcher sets....delivers....no, the umpire steps away and waves the pitch off, though the batter doesn't see it, swings at the pitcher's half-hearted curve, and drives the ball to deep center field, way back, way back....and out of the park for a homerun! But the umpire had something in his eye and he called time out just as the pitch was almost out of the pitcher's hand. The batter took five running steps toward first and now he has to come back. He just stands there for a moment, heartbroken, but he knows he has no complaint. The umpire's call for time out could be heard quite clearly and the pitcher reduced his velocity by about half. Many of the fans in the stands jumped up, not having seen the ump's call, and the stadium took on a very different atmosphere for a moment before everyone realized what had happened. A deep shot to center is nullified! Free batting practice! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher spins and makes a throw to second to try to get the runner leaning, but it hits him in the back and goes into center field! He will go to third easily! Bad luck! No error will be charged, as the throw was not a bad one. The runner just got between the ball and the shortstop's glove, and he's rewarded for it! |
| 2-2 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first base! If that weren't a two strike pitch, you might wonder if that was intentional, but there's no real reason for the pitcher to have suddenly decided to put the man on. |
| 3-0 | The pitcher spins and fires to second to try to pick off the runner, and he just barely gets back in with a head-first slide! That was extremely close! He'll think twice before taking such a huge lead off the bag. |
| 3-1 | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! The batter clenches his teeth but he doesn't seem to be hurt. He trots toward first without a glance at the pitcher. |
| 3-2 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is hit hard at the first baseman, he doesn't even have time to move, he turns to the bag and tries to backhand the ball....and it's off his glove, ricocheting high and toward right center, it'll be a single and the runner on second will score easily! The ball was headed toward the corner but the first baseman's try to stop it knocked it back into play into right field, where it died quickly! Nothing he could do. He did maybe manage to keep the hit to a single instead of a double, but a run does score on the line drive!

13-14) The ball is popped up to left field and shallow, the left fielder is going to have to use all his speed to get to this one, if it falls a run's going to score....he dives forward at full steam and catches the ball for the out! Inning over on a sensational play! He slides about ten feet on the outfield grass but holds his mitt high for the umpire to see! A run is saved!

15-16) The batter hits the ball to right field, it's curving toward the line and might wind up in foul territory....the right fielder runs over, gaining speed as he goes....and he makes the catch as he moves, the inning is over! He flips the ball into the crowd and trots back in, nice play!

21-22) The ball is tapped weakly up the first base line....the catcher jumps up and chases it, chases it, the pitcher comes over too but the catcher is going for it all the way, he picks it up and the throw is....not in time! The batter beats it out with good hustle....and now, as the first baseman barks something at the umpire in disagreement, the runner moving from second has come around third and he's trying to make it home! The third baseman has charged down to the plate and is waving for the ball! The first baseman fires it there, but the runner dives head-first into the plate and the tag comes too late! He scores on an infield single and a brief second of inattention by the first baseman! The pitcher wasn't covering home because he went after the slow roller, almost running into the catcher! The ball probably should have been fielded by the pitcher or maybe even the first baseman, it went far enough into their territory, and it was an awfully long run for the catcher. The runner moved from second without hesitation, took one stutter step around third, and when he looked over he saw the first baseman with his back turned, getting ready to protest the call, and that was all it took for the runner to take off at full speed. The third baseman alertly took off with him, but couldn't get home in time! A run scores!

23-24) The ball is hit on the ground to the third baseman, he fields it easily, and the runner moving from second stops in his tracks right in front of him, then retreats. Instead of throwing to first, the third baseman waves his glove at the runner to try to make the quick out, and the ball flies out of his mitt when he does it! It rolls toward second base and the runner dives back into second before the shortstop can pick it up and throw over there! Charge an error to the third baseman on the dubious decision to reach way out to try to make the tag on the runner in front of him rather than end the inning with a long throw to first! The shortstop gave up on the play as soon as the ball was fielded and he lost a step scrambling after the ball when it flew out of the third baseman's mitt, so he had no chance to make anything happen. The batter stands on first and now there are two on and two out instead of everybody headed for the dugout!

25-26) The batter swings and drills the ball down the left field line....it's fair, right off the foul line in shallow left, it's going to be extra bases as a cloud of chalk dust rises into the air! The left fielder cuts the ball off before it can get too deep into the corner, but the runner moving from second will score easily and the batter will make it into second standing with a clutch double!

31-32) There's a shot over the third baseman's jumping effort and it's down the line! It'll be at least a single! The runner on second is waved in, he'll score with ease, and the ball hits the stands in foul territory and is played off the carom! The batter will have to hold at first with an RBI single as the throw comes screaming in to second! ▲

33-34) The batter knocks the ball to the right side, the second baseman leaps into the air, lashes his arm upwards—and he catches the line drive for the third out of the inning! He comes down awkwardly and falls into the dirt but he's okay, a terrific leaping catch gets the pitcher out of the jam!

35-36) The ball is knocked hard on the ground just inside the first base line, the first baseman falls to his left to stop it....he has it in his glove for a split second but loses it when he hits the ground! It rolls away, he scrambles after it, picks it up, can't get a good grip on it, he bobbles it, and finally from his knees he resorts to slapping the ball toward the pitcher with his free hand—and the pitcher reaches up and catches it to beat the runner by a step, *he's out on the completely freaky play!* Total desperation by the first baseman led him to just slap at the bobbed ball at the last second and hope he was knocking it in the right direction, and luck was with him, it went just where he needed it to go as he fell forward one last time and kissed the dirt! The inning is over!

41-42) The ball is popped up on the right side. The batter yells at it to get out of play, but the first baseman has a line on it....he's joined over near the seats by the right fielder, the ball's really hanging up there....and at the last second the first baseman sticks his arm into the stands, snags the ball, and tears his arm right out again in one fluid motion, stealing the ball away from a waiting fan! Inning over! He stuck his arm in there like it was a hot oven and managed to make a lovely catch!

43-44) The batter takes a nice easy swing and knocks the ball into right field, it's a single, and the runner is probably going to score on this one! He's being waved home! The right fielder gets to the ball quickly, sets, throws....the throw is very low and it's cut off by the shortstop, and they're going to have the batter hung up between first and second! He decides to just dig for second base on a prayer....and the shortstop throws it over the second baseman's head into center! The batter wasn't even close enough to the bag yet to go into his slide and he'll continue on toward third! Oh, this is a mistake, he's gotten greedy! The center fielder takes the ball, hurls it to third, and it's going to get there before the batter will, he's going to be tagged out easily! His feet-first slide comes up well short of the bag! A run scores, charge an error to the shortstop on a short but nonetheless terrible throw to second, and give an assist to the center fielder! The batter should have counted himself lucky to get to second and not even thought about third. That'll end the inning! ▲

45-46) The batter hits a high chopper toward short....it's cut off by the third baseman moving swiftly in the direction of the mound. Still moving, he uncorks a perfect throw to first base and nails the runner smoothly. Three outs and the runner on second is stranded!

51-52) There's a ground ball right at the second baseman, this is going to end the inning....it's an easy throw over to first, and that's the third out. The offense strands a man on second.

53-54) The ball is hit hard in the air, carrying deep to right center field, look out....the right fielder chases it and makes a running catch in the gap, nimbly sidestepping the center fielder, who was running for the ball as well and never did get out of the way! A near collision, but no harm done, and the inning is over!

55-56) The batter is fooled by the pitch and has to reach way out of the zone for it, managing to get enough wood on the ball to knock it weakly up the middle. The shortstop runs over to cut it off, and moving toward first, he delivers a good hard throw to get the batter out. That's the inning!

61-62) The batter drills the ball up the middle....and it hits the runner on second on the hip! It caroms off into right field and the runner will be called out! He had barely even started to move toward third when the line drive smacked him! He hangs his head, defeated, and the inning is over! Oh, that screamer almost certainly would have scored him, it was definitely on its way into the outfield, but it was hit so hard the runner's reaction time was cut down to almost nothing. His quick attempt to evade the ball came up short. Whew!

63-64) The batter swings and knocks a high fly ball fairly deep into the left field corner, this one could very well be trouble if it's deep enough, it's curving toward the foul pole, and it is....GONE! A HOMERUN just a few rows deep into the left field corner! The left fielder chased it but he didn't have the wheels to get that far over and make a leap on the ball! Agony! One of the shortest homeruns you can hit in this park, it's still good for four bases and two runs!

65-66) The batter lifts a soft floater out toward short. The shortstop backpedals a few steps and makes the catch just on the outfield grass for the third out of the inning.

Runner on 3rd, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter tries to pull a surprise bunt toward third, but it's popped foul and lands near the dugout! |
| 0-1 | The runner breaks for home plate and the batter tries to lay down a bunt but he fouls it into the dirt behind the plate, immediately after which the runner comes sliding in hard! Oh, he had a phenomenal jump on the pitch, the pitcher completely forgot about him, and he would have been safe by a mile had the batter been able to get the ball into fair territory, but he was too aggressive with the pitch and didn't let it come to him! It'll be two strikes and the man on third has to go back! |
| 1-0 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward third base, but the runner gets back just in time! |
| 1-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 0-2 | The pitcher throws lazily over to third to check the runner, who walks back to the bag. |
| 2-0 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. It looks like that last pitch was thrown nowhere near where the catcher asked for it. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 1-2 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and resets himself. |
| 2-1 | The pitcher stakes out the runner on third base....they look at each other for a few seconds, but the runner doesn't decrease his lead. The pitcher glances at the catcher....and suddenly fires to third base, where he nails the runner, who can't get back in time! The third baseman slaps the tag on his leg and he's out! Disaster! The runner just never seemed to believe he would really come to third with the ball! |
| 2-2 | The batter swings and misses at a pitch in the dirt. The catcher does a good job of blocking it but it bounces up and away to the first base side! The catcher throws off his mask and, looking the runner on third back, picks up the ball, but he doesn't make a throw to first for fear the runner might come home and the batter is safe! A tough play, the runner on third was more than a few steps down the line and the catcher should probably at least have thrown in that direction to perhaps pick the runner off, but instead he plays it very conservatively, does nothing, and there are men on first and third with nobody out! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher makes a sudden throw toward third and he catches the runner off guard....but the throw is low and too far inside the bag and it gets away from the third baseman, who just barely manages to get a glove on it! The runner turns and heads for home, but the third baseman dashes over, picks the ball up, and delivers a hurried, off-balance throw directly to the catcher, who tags the runner out easily on a head-first slide! What a play! An iffy, pre-emptive decision by the runner to try for home, and a great, slightly crazy throw by the third baseman! |
| 3-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He actually closes his eyes briefly to summon up a reserve of concentration. Then he steps back in, ready to go. |
| 3-2 | The pitch comes in right at the batter's head and he has to duck out of the way, and the ball gets away from the catcher! It rolls toward the backstop and the runner on third will just jog home on the base on balls! Wild pitch! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is knocked hard on the ground and it bounces over the pitcher's head! The runner on third is going to score as the shortstop cuts across the diamond to get to the ball and make a running throw to first....just in time for the out! The batter gets an RBI and the bases are empty, one down! The pitcher offered up an impressive leap to get that ball, but it took a mighty first hop and his chance to make a play and maybe throw the runner out at home eluded him by just a couple of inches. ▲

13-14) The ball is hit in the air toward straightaway center field....the center fielder waits for it, not making a single move in any direction. The ball comes down, he makes the play, the runner tags, here's the throw home....it's off line to the third base side and a little short, and the catcher merely takes it and tosses it back to the pitcher, the runner on third scores! The center fielder didn't get any sort of power behind the throw; fielding it from a completely still position really cost him on that one. If the fly had been five feet shorter, he could have made the throw while moving forward, but it simply came right to him and it was a bit too much of a liner for him to play around with getting into a different position.

15-16) The batter knocks a line drive into right center field, it's carrying deep, and it's going to drop in for a hit, and the right fielder can't get to it! It's past him and it's going all the way to the wall! The batter loses his helmet going around first, he has a triple in mind, and the right fielder is very nonchalant in getting to the ball, he picks it up, makes a lazy, high throw into the shortstop, and the batter will go into third base standing, no play! He expended a full day's worth of effort rounding first and second, but the right fielder just didn't show much interest in making any kind of play at third, essentially conceding an extra base!

21-22) The ball is hit hard on the ground toward third, and the third baseman is right there to take it! He looks the runner back and throws across the diamond to get the batter out by several steps. One away!

23-24) The batter reaches way out for a low pitch and pokes it to the opposite field over everybody, it'll fall in for a single and the runner on third will score! It was a bad decision to swing but he got plenty of wood on the ball and got under it enough to sail it into the outfield! Give him an RBI!

25-26) The ball is topped and it rolls quickly down the third base line....the third baseman was playing in but the runner got a terrific jump on the play and the only play will be at first! The third baseman bare-hands the ball, looks at home plate for maybe a half a second, and fires it over to first standing half in foul territory....just in time to beat the hard-charging batter! He almost blew the play entirely by waiting too long, but made a fine throw.

One run in and one down, and the replay shows that the reason the runner made it home was because he started to go home even before the ball hit the ground, he took off almost simultaneously with the swing. That was either a display of complete confidence in the batter or an error in judgment! Either way, it worked! ▲

31-32) The batter knocks the ball to left field, high in the air, it may be deep enough to score the run....the left fielder makes the catch, and the runner on third bluffs but stays where he is. Just another few feet and he would have gone. That's a pretty conservative play by the runner. One down.

33-34) The ball is knocked right back to the mound, the pitcher takes it....and the runner on third is caught moving toward home plate, he's not going to be able to get back! The pitcher throws to third and the tag is put down on the runner's back easily as he tries to dive head-first to safety! The umpire makes the out call and there's one away! He was simply caught dead to rights after taking a long lead off third. The batter stands at first, safe on a fielder's choice, but the scoring threat is temporarily over!

35-36) The ball is slammed into the grass, it takes a high bounce over the mound as the pitcher leaps fruitlessly to try to grab it, the second baseman charges in, grabs it, and running toward the plate he delivers a hard side-armed throw to the catcher, the runner slides head-first....and he's safe! The catcher couldn't get the tag down in time! A terrific slide toward the outside of the plate gets the runner in, he just barely brushes the edge of it with his left hand! The only play was at home and the second baseman fired it in there from sixty feet about as hard as a normal pitch, but the runner had too good a jump coming home and a run is on the board! The batter stands at first on the fielder's choice!

41-42) The ball is hit to center field and high. The center fielder stands where he is and waits for it to come down. The runner will tag....the catch is made, and here's the throw....it's a good one, there's going to be a close play at the plate....the catcher fields the ball on one hop, sweeps his left arm out to try to nail the runner sliding home feet-first....and he missed him! The runner scores! He slid under the tag, a terrific bit of running! Looking at the replay, you can see it became a game of limbo stick, with the runner just getting in under the catcher's arm! One run is in with one man out!

43-44) There's a fly ball into right center, not too deep but curving into the gap, the center fielder is going to have to hustle to make a play, and he dives....and can't come up with it! It's off his glove! He has to chase the ball! He corrals it, picks it up, spins, and fires a hard liner into second base, but the batter dives in head-first and the throw is a little late! One run scores on the double!

45-46) The ball is popped up to the right side, it's a dying quail just beyond the outfield grass, the second baseman turns, dashes out....and makes a nice over-the-shoulder grab for the out! He turns alertly and fires the ball home to keep the runner from moving up....but the throw is wild, over the catcher's head! The runner starts to head home, but the ball strikes the backstop hard and the catcher comes up with it quickly as the pitcher covers home and no run will score. One out! The second baseman almost turned a nice defensive memory into a disaster, but pays no price!

51-52) The batter knocks a high chopper right at the first baseman.....he takes it and looks the runner on third, who seems torn between charging home and staying put, back to the bag. The first baseman runs over and makes the put-out himself for the first out of the inning. Looks like there was a bit of an indecision problem on the runner's part; he started home immediately, then hesitated the slightest bit, and that's all it took to take any chance of getting home away. Let's see if that indecision comes back to haunt him.

53-54) The ball is hit on the ground toward the right side, past a reaching first baseman and into the hole! The second baseman will be able to get to it before it gets through into the outfield, but the only play will be at first base. The pitcher runs over to cover the bag and he takes the throw from the second baseman for the out. One down but the runner comes in to score! ▲

55-56) The ball is bounced toward the third baseman....he's got it, and he's coming home with the ball! The runner slides feet-first into home plate, the throw is low....but the catcher gets the tag down right on the side of his face, and the umpire calls the runner out! They got him! The catcher had no time for courtesy and he shoved his mitt at the closest part of the runner, which happened to be his cheek, and he got him with a glancing blow! The throw from third itself came in just inches over the runner's head. One down and the batter is safe at first on a fielder's choice as the runner tagged at home gets up and walks back to the dugout, unhurt by the inadvertent sucker punch.

61-62) The batter pops it straight up behind home plate! This is going to be an easy out. The catcher doesn't have much to do but turn and wait for it to come down right behind the plate. Look out, it's drifting back into play and the batter's in the way....and the ball drops fair as the batter can't get out of the way in time, and he's going to be ruled out, called for interference! The umpire makes an immediate call! The ball drifted back into fair territory at the very end and nobody was expecting it, but the batter should have known to at least taken a few steps back when the ball was hit—or maybe he knew he was going to be out either way and decided to become a bit of an obstruction. He has no argument and there's one man down in the inning. The catcher picks the ball up and tosses it back to the pitcher.

63-64) The batter hits the ball solidly to left center field and pretty deep. This will guarantee that a run will score....the center fielder backpedals several steps, catches the ball, and doesn't even bother to make any kind of serious throw back into the outfield. The runner on third trots home with a run on the sac fly!

65-66) The batter rips the ball toward third base, and it almost hits the runner standing near the bag, he throws his arms up and sucks his chest in to avoid the ball, which gets past the diving third baseman and will go for extra bases! The runner will trot home after his near-miss with the line drive....and the batter pulls up rounding first, it looks like he pulled something, he's favoring his right leg. He will have to stop there as the left fielder gets to the ball, so there's no double, it's an RBI single. The batter walks into foul territory, really limping now, and the trainer jogs out to take a look at him. It was a very sudden injury; his stride was fine until he got halfway up the baseline. And he's going to have to come out of the game for a pinch runner, maybe it's a hamstring. His final at-bat of the game results in an RBI, and someone will have to come in off the bench to replace him.

Runner on 3rd, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|--|
| first pitch | The pitch is way outside and the catcher has to reach out so far to grab it that he loses his balance and tumbles into the dirt, but he holds onto the ball! Great play! |
| 0-1 | The batter rips the ball down the third base line....oh, it hits the runner on third in the leg! Let's wait for the umpire's call....it's called a foul ball! The runner taking his lead off third was standing in foul territory when he was hit by the ball, so it's not an out, it's 0 and 2! He walks it off and he's fine. |
| 1-0 | There's a strike called on the outside corner, and the catcher leaps to his feet and fires to third to catch the runner leaning! The throw is in time and the runner is <i>out! Got him!</i> To add insult to injury, the third baseman's tag slapped him right in the face! A grievous base running error is compounded by a nice punch to the cheek! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher suddenly throws to third to try to get the runner leading too far off the base, but he throws it way over the third baseman's head! The runner gets up from his headfirst dive into the bag and starts to dig for home, but the ball takes a good hard bounce off the low wall in foul territory back to the third baseman, who turns and throws home! It's a low throw, a one-bouncer to the catcher, he takes it, the runner dives head first once again....and he's tagged out! He's out! An error is charged to the pitcher but the bases are now empty! The runner gets slowly up, his uniform a mess after those two exhausting slides, and walks slowly back to the dugout, defeated! |
| 0-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and resets himself. |
| 1-2 | The batter waves late and wildly at a fast ball and gets just enough of it so that the ball falls out of the catcher's mitt, no strikeout! Oh, that was a defensive, desperate swing as delayed as you will ever see, but it keeps the batter alive! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher delivers a high, arcing changeup high and outside for a ball, and that one seemed to be designed solely to tempt the batter to take a monster swing, it had absolutely no velocity on it, barely more than a pitchout! The batter holds off and it's 3 and 1. Maybe the pitcher and catcher sensed the batter was getting edgy in the box and could be tricked into swinging wildly, but no dice. |
| 2-2 | The pitch is waved off by the umpire and time is called. Someone in the stands has thrown a baseball onto the field in the direction of first base. It seems they were actually aiming for either the first baseman or the first base coach, depending on who they're rooting against. The rather hard throw went between them both. Security goes into the stands to investigate, and they quickly usher someone out. That guy's going to be in some trouble. Play can now resume. |
| 3-0 | The pitch comes way up and in and the batter has to duck to avoid behind hit! He takes first on the walk! Total loss of control there! |
| 3-1 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! That didn't exactly look unintentional....a double play is now set up and the pitcher gets a nice bean ball to send a message. |
| 3-2 | The batter swings and laces a fly ball down the right field line, the right fielder gives chase, it's going to fall....foul! It's a foul ball just inches over the line! Whew! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) There's a fly ball to right field, carrying well, long enough to bring the runner home....the right fielder makes the catch and here comes the throw....the relay is to the second baseman, who turns to throw....no, he lost the ball! In taking it out of his mitt to relay it on the home plate he lost his grip on the ball and the runner scores easily, sliding without even having to! It's going to be scored generously as a sacrifice fly; no error will be recorded. The official scorer must have figured the run was going to score away. Two out in the inning, bases clear.

13-14) The batter takes a hard swing at a high pitch and launches it, pulling it deep into the corner of the outfield, and no one's going to get to it! It hits the wall on the fly five feet inside the foul line, the runner jogs home with a run, and a quick throw by the outfielder off the carom is going to hold the batter to a long line drive single! It just didn't have enough lift to get over the fence, but it's good for one run and the batter's on first!

15-16) The batter tries a half-swing, half-bunt and hits it toward the first base side, the pitcher dashes off the mound but can't get to it with an outstretched arm, and that's going to bring the runner home from third! The second baseman is there to pick it up and side-arm the ball to first for the out, but the damage is done! The ball was placed perfectly by the batter. It almost looked like he didn't know what he wanted to do with that swing and he was completely improvising; we may never know if that effort was planned. It certainly did the job. ▲

21-22) The ball is hit hard to center field, it's carrying well, look out, the center fielder goes back, back....he climbs the wall, reaches a glove way up....but he can't get to the ball, it's beyond his reach for a HOMERUN! Two will score! The center fielder jumps back down to the ground after doing his best Spiderman imitation, intent on stopping that ball any way he could, but he had no chance to catch it, the batter got every inch of it! He takes his time circling the bases!

23-24) The batter swings and rips it right at the third baseman playing in; he puts up a glove almost in self-defense and makes the catch of the line drive! The runner is caught off guard and hustles back to the bag before the third baseman can take a few steps over and double him off. Whoa, he had about a half second to react to that ball and somehow got his mitt up at eye level and to the left of his head and snagged it. Two down!

25-26) The ball is knocked over a leaping second baseman, he can't get it and it's a single to right, the runner on third comes home to score! He pounds his right foot hard on home plate and claps his hands, put one on the board!

31-32) The ball is hit hard on the ground, right at the second baseman! He takes it on one hop, throws home, and they've got the runner on third out by four steps! He goes into a useless slide and the catcher tags him out easily, having to actually wait for him to arrive at home! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice, and now there's two away. That ball was hit in the worst possible place, and the runner was going on contact.

33-34) The ball is smacked pretty hard to left field but it's a shallow liner....the left fielder makes the catch, sets, and throws home to try to beat the runner there....oh, it's a perfect throw that hits the catcher on the fly, he sets and holds the glove up and the runner is tagged out as he starts his slide, well short of reaching home plate! A great double play on a throw that left absolutely nothing to chance! Inning over! The runner looks kind of dazed, as if he has no idea how that ball could have gotten to home plate so quickly!

35-36) The ball is hit hard into the grass and it takes two long bounces toward the shortstop. He comes in a couple of steps, grabs it, makes a move to throw home....and holds onto it. He chooses instead to throw to first for the easy out, and the put-out is made. One down but the runner scores. The shortstop looks very frustrated indeed that he didn't quite have enough time to come home with the ball. He obviously knows that if he had gotten to the ball a split second sooner he would have had a chance to stop the run from scoring, but there was only so much he could do. ▲

41-42) The batter drills the ball right back to the mound and the pitcher takes it for a split second put-out! The live drive was hit right toward his mitt and he didn't panic, he got the leather on the ball perfectly and there are two away!

43-44) The ball is hit hard on the ground toward second, the second baseman is right there to grab it on two hops, he fires home....the catcher takes it and swipes the tag across the runner's feet and the umpire makes the out call! The runner gets up and pleads for a reversal, he's probably claiming that the catcher may have gotten the sweeping tag down, but he actually drew his mitt across the plate too soon, missing the feet entirely! The replay shows initially that this just might be the case....but upon the third or fourth look, you can see that the runner's right toe is grazed ever so slightly by the mitt. Wow, that was close! The umpire may have gotten the call right, but no way did he see every little detail of that tag! The runner loses his argument and the batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice!

45-46) The ball is knocked into the grass in front of the plate, it takes a high hop and the pitcher runs in to snag it before it can take another one, making a nice low basket grab, and the runner on third has to stay where he is! The pitcher turns to first, makes a hard throw—it's behind the first baseman and pulls him off the bag, but he catches the ball and spinning around puts the tag on the batter's back to get him out! Two men down! The first baseman bailed the pitcher out on that one!

51-52) The ball is ripped toward the third baseman, he reaches his glove out to try to stab it on one hop and it's off his mitt—ricocheting right to the shortstop! He takes the unexpected surprise and will throw to first to get the batter out while the runner on third comes home with the run! If the third baseman had been able to snare that one, the runner would have almost certainly been out at home; the extra two seconds that went by when the ball was tipped to the shortstop ended any chance to get him. Two down and the bases are empty, the defense is lucky to get the batter at first. ▲

53-54) The ball is popped up to shallow right center, and this is not going to be deep enough to score a run....the right fielder moves into the gap and makes the catch, and the runner on third tags and fakes a move home, but a fake is all it will be. Two down and the runner is still stuck at third!

55-56) The batter drives this one deep to center field, it's got a chance to get out of here....the center fielder dashes back....the ball will hang up just long enough for him to get back, stick his glove up, and make the catch on the track! He touches his hand to the wall to stop his momentum, turns, and lobs the ball back into the infield as the runner on third trots home with a run. Two down, bases clear, give the batter an RBI!

61-62) The ball is grounded slowly along the first base line, pulling the first baseman out of his position, he'll grab it but now he's in no position to make a throw home, it's too late. The runner on third will come home to score and the first baseman tags the batter gently as he tries to pass by. Credit the batter with an RBI and there are two down, bases empty. It's not very exciting, but it gets the job done. ▲

63-64) The ball is hit toward the first baseman....he's got it, he'll fire home to try to get the runner....the throw is very short, it doesn't even get all the way to the catcher on the fly, but he takes it, turns to the runner sliding in head-first....and he got him! The tag is put down on the runner's left hand as he slides in, the mitt completely blocking his reach just inches shy of the plate! He's out! The batter crosses first base safely on the fielder's choice and there are two away! The first baseman never seemed to get a good grip on the ball coming out of his glove and his throw was pretty much a disaster, but he got plenty of force on it and the catcher swung his mitt around and planted it just in front of the plate beautifully to meet the runner's hand!

65-66) The ball is driven hard on the ground at third base....and it hits the bag, ricocheting toward the third baseman on a weird hop and then off his leg into shallow left field! The ball's momentum dies and the left fielder will have to make a long run in to get the ball, and the batter rounds first and will try to make it to second! Here's the throw from the left fielder....it's a little wide and the batter slides in with a double, and a run scores! The ball hit the side of third base and leapt right at the third baseman's right ankle, and he had no real reaction time to make the unexpected play! The next thing he knew, he was struck and the ball rebounded off into left field, that's some terrible luck!

Runner on 3rd, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! The batter heads to first but not without tossing out a couple of words to the pitcher, who immediately offers up a couple of his own! The umpire steps out from behind the plate to defuse the situation! Obviously the batter thought that was intentional! |
| 0-1 | The pitcher makes a subtle leg move in the direction of third base and the runner retreats to the bag. His lead wasn't much, but apparently the pitcher wants him back even further! With two outs it shouldn't be much of a concern, but we've got a little head game going on, with the pitcher seeking out every conceivable advantage. He re-sets and gets his wish; the runner cuts his lead in half, barely taking a full step off the bag. |
| 1-0 | The pitcher shakes off the catcher's signs one after the other until the catcher finally has to come out to the mound. The two exchange the briefest of words, and now play will resume. The pitcher actually seemed happy with the second of the called pitches, but after a pause he shook that one off too. He's taking longer and longer between pitches now, being very, very careful, perhaps too careful. |
| 1-1 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 0-2 | The pitcher throws one high and outside, it's a pitchout to try to pick the runner off....but the catcher takes his eye off the ball and it bounces off his mitt! The runner starts to charge home as the catcher chases the ball! He picks it up, spins, fires to home plate....not in time, the runner scores in a cloud of dust! Charge a passed ball to the catcher, a disastrous loss of concentration gives the opposing team a run! |
| 2-0 | The pitcher comes right down the middle with the pitch and the batter launches it, pulling it deep into the corner, it is....foul! Foul by about five feet, clearing the top of the pole entirely and settling in the cheap seats! He was just a little quick on that swing! The pitcher blows on his hand and re-sets, maybe a little shaken by that titanic shot. |
| 1-2 | The pitch is in the dirt, blocked nicely and squarely by the catcher. The runner isn't going anywhere. Ball two. |
| 2-1 | The pitch is way outside, the catcher leaps out of the box and blocks it on one bounce, the runner on third has to hold! Nice play! Ball three. |
| 2-2 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher keeps his eyes on the ground while he smoothes the dirt on the mound. Finally he looks up only when the batter is back ensconced in the box. |
| 3-0 | The batter is swinging on 3 and 0....and he misses the pitch and the bat goes flying out of his hands, just over the pitcher's head! He ducks just in time to avoid getting clocked, and the bat skitters toward second base. Time is called and the bat is retrieved. Wow, was that close to being a freakish and maybe dangerous injury to the pitcher! |
| 3-1 | The batter drops a surprise bunt! It rolls foul along the first base line. The squeeze play doesn't work. Two strikes! |
| 3-2 | The pitch is fouled straight back...this one will end the inning if the catcher has room to get it...he runs back to the screen, takes his mask off, sets himself....and that one is just barely out of play! The pitcher doesn't get bailed out! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The batter bloop a pitch on the outside corner into right center field, and it's going to fall for a two-out single! The runner on third trots home easily! The batter seemed to slow down his swing to make the most solid contact he could, a nice piece of hitting!

13-14) The batter hits a hot shot right at the second baseman but it short-hops him, striking the dirt inches in front of him, and it hits his glove, shoots up his arm, and sails high into the air right over his head! He can do nothing but wait for it to come down! After an agonizing two seconds, he spears the ball one-handed and fires it to first, but it's way too late, it's an infield single on an in-between and the runner on third scores! The second baseman's reflexes were sharp but he had absolutely no reaction time on the ball, it was all he could do to get the glove down, and bad luck took over from there! The runner tagged home just as the ball finally came down from the heavens and the batter beat the throw at first by two steps!

15-16) The ball is hit slowly along the third base line....the runner has to hop over it on his way home, and the third baseman is going to have a long throw to make....he scoops the ball up bare-handed, turns, fires....the throw is just a little high but otherwise right on target and he gets the runner by half a step! That's the inning! He made a hurried, desperate-looking throw, but the result was anything but, it went pretty much right where he wanted it to!

21-22) The batter hits a long fly ball to left field, the left fielder goes back, back, back to the track....he has to jump and reach an arm up....and it's in and out of his mitt! The ball bounces off the meaty part of his glove, hangs in the air in front of him for a second—but even then he can't find the handle as he tries to bare-hand it and save the play! It drops! The runner on third will walk home, and the batter will go into second with an easy double! The left fielder had it in his mitt, but he just didn't close it quickly enough, and it popped out in the air right into his palm, asking to be caught once again, but he was off balance next to the wall and never came up with it. The batter will get credit for a double, but the left fielder is kicking himself, knowing it was a very difficult, but makeable play, and a run scores!

23-24) The ball is grounded toward the first baseman, it should be an easy play to end the inning....oh, it squeaks under the first baseman's mitt, but he got enough leather on it to be able to turn around and pick up the ball, and now it's a foot race to the bag....and the batter can't get there fast enough, he's out! Very nearly an ugly error to bring the runner on third home, but the momentum of the ball was slowed by the first baseman's first attempt to pick it up and he recovered nicely.

25-26) The ball is hit high in the air to shallow right....the right fielder starts running in, he's got a long way to go, it looks like it's going to drop....no, the right fielder makes a one-handed basket catch, reaching his glove out to end the inning! Whew, that was close, but speed rules the day! Three gone!

31-32) Crack! The ball is absolutely drilled to center field....and directly at the center fielder, who waits for it and gloves it for the third out of the inning! You can't hit a ball much harder than that, but it's to no avail!

33-34) The batter jumps all over a pitch right down the middle and pulls it high and deep toward the corner! Guess what, you can forget about it—that one's GONE! See you later! A two run shot into the corner! The runner on third walks to home plate, admiring the blast, and waits for the man who drove him in to come home, where he gives him an enthusiastic high-five! The pitcher challenged him with a fast ball and the batter was waiting for it!

35-36) The batter reaches way outside the strike zone for a pitch and hits it off the end of the bat, it's lifted to the opposite field, it's curving toward the foul line, the fielder gives chase....and he makes the catch as he crosses into foul territory, making sure the batter is not rewarded for chasing a bad toss from the pitcher! Inning over!

41-42) The batter hits a slow bouncer out toward second, the second baseman waits for it, it's taking a long time to get there....he finally picks it up, half-turns, and has to deliver a hard throw to get the batter charging up the line for the third out of the inning! The second baseman chose to just wait for it confidently, and maybe a little unwisely; if he'd had the slightest problem scooping it up, it may well have cost his team a run, but no harm is done, and the inning is over with one man stranded.

43-44) The ball is hit on the ground right at the third baseman....and instead of going to first with the throw, he sends it home, where the catcher takes it, blocks the plate standing, and applies the tag to the unsuspecting runner's torso! An unusual decision on the third baseman's part, but he must have figured he had a shorter throw to home and more or less a guaranteed out there, so he took it! The inning is over!

45-46) The batter pops it up behind the plate! The catcher tears off his mask and starts chasing the ball back to the backstop, he may not have time to get there....he's hustling....and he reaches out and makes the play, extending his arm and snagging the ball before it can fall! Great defense! He was up on his feet immediately as if he knew the second the ball was struck that he would have some running to do! The inning ends!

51-52) Fly ball to left field, this should be an easy play to end the inning. The left fielder swipes at it stylishly, putting a little attitude into the catch, and the runner on third will be stranded there.

53-54) The ball is hit on the ground toward the first baseman. He makes the play on three bounces and will trot with leisure toward the bag....the batter keeps hustling, he's not giving up on this one....and in the end the first baseman, watching him approach at top speed, taps the base with his foot only a step ahead of the charging runner, almost as if he wanted to let him get close and then break his heart! The inning ends with the runner stranded on third.

55-56) The ball is grounded toward second base and this one's going to end the inning without too much difficulty. The second baseman comes up with it, throws to first, and that's the third out. But wait a second, the batter has gone right to the umpire and now he's pointing to the pitcher....and the umpire walks over to the mound, stopping the pitcher from returning to the dugout, having a little chat with him about something while the batter hangs around the infield. Now he's joined by his manager, and the umpire has asked to look at the pitcher's glove! The pitcher offers it up willingly enough....this is going to bring the opposing manager out of the dugout as well. It looks like the batter has accused the pitcher of having some sort of foreign substance in his mitt! Two umpires are inspecting it now....and one of them, nodding, raises his arm and he's throwing the pitcher out of the game! He's found something in his mitt! The pitcher won't even dispute the issue; he merely turns and walks away as if he knows he's been caught....it looks like a small piece of metal has been found inside his glove! The umpires are also looking at the ball, which might be scuffed! Somehow the batter caught on to this activity, and he blew the whistle! The umpires explain the situation to the aggrieved manager, showing him the foreign object, and he can only stand and listen, unable to offer any sort of appeal. The inning is over but it's now certain that a new pitcher will be coming into the game next time around. The pitcher descends into the dugout and heads straight for the showers. What a development!

61-62) The pitch is outside but the batter can't check his swing....it's off the bat toward the opposite field, and it's got enough drive on it to hit the outfield grass on the fly, a single! The run will score! A freak single brings in a run! The vast majority of the time, that ball would have been fouled off, but the bat went around enough so that it hit the sweet spot and nobody could get to it!

63-64) The batter gets a pitch right down the middle and tears it to right field, that one's going to bring the runner home....the right fielder takes the line drive on one hop and he immediately unleashes a hard throw toward first, he might have a chance to get the batter....yes! The first baseman stretches forward and catches the ball before it can hit the dirt, and the batter is beaten by a full step at first, the inning is over and *no run scores from third!* The batter can't believe it! He's out because he got so much of that ball and ripped it so hard! The right fielder thought quickly, had a split second to get a throw off, and it was a great one! The run was all but on the scoreboard and the right fielder stopped time and ended the inning in dramatic fashion!

65-66) The batter swings and skates the ball over the grass to the right side, pretty much right at the second baseman. He takes one step to his left, picks the ball up, and tosses to first for the third out of the inning, a simple play.

Runners on 1st and 2nd, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|--|
| first pitch | The pitch is way low and inside, and the catcher tries to snag the ball with an awkward backhand instead of getting his body in front of it! It bounces back toward the backstop! He throws his mask off, chases it, and finally picks it up, but not before the runners advance! Charge him with a passed ball! |
| 0-1 | The pitch comes way up and in, and it hits the batter on the brim of his helmet, knocking it almost sideways on his head! He'll take first, loaded the bases! Trouble's brewing! |
| 1-0 | The batter tees off on a low fast ball and pulls it foul, a line shot that slams into the lower deck and causes fans to scurry. Wow, he really cranked that one! |
| 1-1 | The pitch sails inside and hits the batter on the hand! He takes first base! The batter examines his hand as he walks up the line, but he seems fine. |
| 0-2 | The batter swings and rips a foul ball off the third base coach's leg! Ouch! It ricochets back into fair territory and the shortstop has to pick it up. The coach tried to sidestep it but there just wasn't enough time! He's okay, no harm done. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 1-2 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 2-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He holds his bat up and stares at it, stares at it, stares at it...what's he trying to do, burn a hole through it? Finally he steps back in, taps the plate, and is ready. Wow, he just had himself a nice long mental conversation with the bat, let's see if it got the message! |
| 2-2 | The pitcher throws one way over the catcher's head! He jumps up but doesn't even touch the ball, it sails back toward the backstop and he'll have no play to keep the runners from advancing! Wild pitch, runners now on second and third with a full count coming up! |
| 3-0 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. It seems like they've been having some trouble communicating on the pitch calls. |
| 3-1 | The batter swings and misses the pitch and the runners go! The throw to third is not even close, and both men are safe stealing! A daring call on a 3 and 1! It'll be a full count with two men in scoring position! |
| 3-2 | The batter swings hard and pulls a fast ball deep, deep into the corner, hooking foul, it's way up there, and way out of here....wow, what a titanic shot, but twenty feet foul, he absolutely crushed that one! The pitcher is on notice! The count remains full! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) There's a pop fly to the right side beyond first base, the first baseman runs out, the right fielder comes in, they'll converge at the foul line, the ball is still drifting....and they collide! The ball drops between them! It looks like it's in foul territory but the umpire is ruling it fair! The left fielder falls to the ground as the first baseman chases the ball, just barely managing to stay on his feet after being struck, and he kicks it further into foul territory as the batter rounds second base! The ball is finally picked up, and the shortstop takes a strong throw from the first baseman, pivots, fires....and the throw to third is not in time, the batter slides in head-first with a triple! Two runs score on the miscommunication in the outfield! It looked like the first baseman should have given up on the ball before he got so far out into the outfield, and the right fielder never saw him! They collided hard and the left fielder's momentum literally sent the first baseman flying! It was quite an effort to stay upright, but in stumbling he kicked the ball, pretty much guaranteeing a triple. And yes, it really did look from several angles like a foul ball, but two runs are on the board and batter is standing at third!

13-14) The ball is ripped hard on the ground right to the third baseman! He fields it, steps on the bag, throws hard to second for out number two, then the second baseman spins and throws to hard as his legs are taken out from under him....yes, the batter is called out at first by a step, *it's a triple play!! They turned it!* The inning is over! The ball was hit as hard as it could possibly be hit, the third baseman snagged it on one hop, and you just knew as soon as he took it that the end result was inevitable! The pitcher finds himself out of the jam in the blink of an eye! The runner thrown out at second didn't like the call over there, and it did look like the second baseman was given the benefit of the doubt; his foot may have grazed the bag there, but more likely the umpire was being generous. Still, he made a great play to even get the ball off toward first—the runner slid hard going in and took his legs out with good fundamentals. How about that defense!

15-16) The ball is grounded on one hop back to the mound! The pitcher doesn't even look at third base; he turns to second, throws there to get the first out....and then the shortstop is completely upended by the runner sliding in hard, doing almost a total somersault before landing awkwardly on his head, ouch! He gets up quickly, uninjured, but boy, did that look like a nasty tumble! The second the runner got his foot on the bag with the slide he bounced up, lifting the shortstop off the ground on his shoulders as if he was going to give him a piggy-back ride, and the shortstop just kept going up and up....and the way down was a long one! He says a few words to the runner, who doesn't say much of anything back. Technically it was a clean slide, it just sure didn't wind up looking that way. One down, runners at the corners! Give credit too to the pitcher for not being tempted to go for the runner at third; he took the most viable option to get two outs at once and it just didn't work out.

21-22) The batter chops one to the first base side of the mound, the pitcher leaves it, reaches an arm out and grabs the ball, then has to turn and make a quick throw to third base....it's high, the third baseman jumps for it, catches it, then comes down off the bag but sweeps his glove downward and puts the tag on the runner's leg just as he slides in, the umpire calls him out! One away! That was a dangerous decision by the pitcher to fire toward third, he didn't have much time, and the high throw should have doomed the play entirely, but the third baseman started lowering the tag as soon as he was physically able, and the runner didn't get such a good jump off second. So instead of a force out, they get the tag instead!

23-24) The ball is looped lazily to left field....and it'll fall in for a base hit near the foul line! The runner on second got a great jump and he's going to come around to score, and the batter may go for two bases! The left fielder cuts the ball off, turns, and he'll make a throw into second! The batter slides....he's safe, the tag is a little late! The second baseman jumps up and fires home to make sure the runner rounding third stays where he is. One run scores on the short double that might have only been a single had it not been for some serious hustle on the part of the batter! Men on second and third, and still nobody out!

25-26) The ball is hit deep to right field, it's carrying well, curving toward the corner, the right fielder might not be able to catch up to this one....he's running hard at the track....and he makes a tremendous catch over his shoulder, turning awkwardly, and down he goes just shy of the wall, falling hard but holding onto the ball! The runner on second was holding alertly and he'll tag and go to third with ease—and he's going to round third and go for home! And he's going to make it as the throw comes in from right much too late, cut off by the second baseman, who fires to the shortstop covering second to try to get the runner moving from first....not in time! It goes down as a sacrifice fly which moves the runner on second all the way home and the runner on first into scoring position! A fantastic catch nevertheless results in a run scored, and there's one down! ▲

31-32) The batter taps a weak dribbler up the first base line, it's going to move the runners over. The first baseman takes a few steps in, takes it, and moves to his left to apply the tag to the runner as he passes by. One down, but now there are two men in scoring position.

33-34) The ball is hit fairly hard to left field....the left fielder moves toward the foul line a few steps and takes it, and the runners won't be going anywhere. One down. Off the bat, that ball looked like real trouble, but the left fielder was in good position to make the play.

35-36) The ball is grounded to the left side of the mound....the shortstop ranges toward second base, picks it up, underhands it to the second baseman for the first out....he pivots, fires to first as he falls backward to get out of the path of the sliding runner....and he gets enough velocity on the throw to nail the runner at first, double play! The runner on second goes to third. That throw really showed off the second baseman's arm; not only was he more or less fully planted and immobile when he made that throw, but his body was leaning backwards so he wouldn't get his legs taken out from under him. There was some serious zip on that ball. Two down!

41-42) The ball is tapped weakly up the third base line, we'll see if it rolls foul—the third baseman is going to let it go....no, now he changes his mind when it gets halfway to the base, he grabs it with his bare hand, makes a long throw to first....and it's too late! The batter beats the throw! Oh, the ball looked like it had every intention of going foul, and the third baseman seemed mighty confident that it would for about two seconds, but then he lost his nerve, gambled on it, and tried to make a great play! It was purely a judgment call, and it'll be ruled an infield single! Looking at it on replay, it's tough to tell just whether that ball was going to go foul or not. Baseball, the game of inches!

43-44) The ball is hit to center field, and the center fielder will backpedal to get to it. It should be more than deep enough for the runner on second to tag and move up. The catch is made and he goes....and throw will be cut off. The runner on first holds where he is. One away, give the batter an RBI on the sacrifice!

45-46) There's a rocket ground ball to the shortstop, he grabs it....and he throws to third! The third baseman is right there and makes the catch for the force out but the throw pulls him toward the foul line, so he has to spin 180 degrees to make a second throw all the way across the diamond....and it's in time, perfectly on target, and the double play is completed!! The third baseman had to turn and release that ball in one motion so quickly it's doubtful whether he really even saw where he was throwing the ball to! A risky maneuver but it pays off, he couldn't have delivered it any better! That has to be considered one of the great infield throws of all time! Two down and there's a runner at second!

51-52) The ball is lifted to right field, not very deep, but it's drifting enough toward the foul line to make it an interesting chance for the runner on second....the right fielder comes in, gloves it for the out, and there's going to be a play at third, here's the long throw....it's on target but it's a bit weak, and the third baseman abandons the bag to come up on the ball, fielding it on one hop and firing to second to try to punish the runner moving from first on the throw....the throw is wide and the ball goes into right field! It'll have to be fielded once again by the right fielder, but neither of the runners gamble and try to advance further, so no error will be charged. One out, runners on second and third.

53-54) The ball is bounced to the second baseman, a high chopper, he'll have to be quick with it....he moves toward second base, scoops the ball up, makes a backhanded flip to the shortstop covering, gets the first out there, and the relay throw is....not in time! They only get the man on second, and it'll be runners at the corners with one away! So close! That was a very good play by the second baseman to save a precious half-second by flicking the ball to the shortstop backhanded, getting a nice bit of velocity on the ball, but it wasn't enough.

55-56) The pitch comes in on the batter and jams his swing, he just does get some wood on the ball and it's knocked weakly right into the pitcher's glove, and he spins alertly to fire to second for the double play! Two gone in the blink of an eye! It looked like it may have been a dubious call at second, the runner seemed to beat the tag, but the protest isn't very strong! The batter looks skyward as he takes off his batting glove, willing to give up anything to get that swing back!

61-62) The ball is driven pretty deep to right field, this one looks like it's got a real chance to make it out of here....YES! It's a HOMERUN! It got out of here fast and about ten rows deep, a three run shot! The wheels have come off the inning in a hurry! Three runs in and nobody out! The pitcher tried to sneak one into the lower part of the zone but the batter went down for it and made all kinds of contact! He knew it as soon as he hit it! He trots around the bases as the pitcher stares at the ground. Now as the batter steps on home plate he makes a comment to the catcher, and the catcher doesn't like it at all and takes off his mask to offer his own remark! The two of them come closer together and stand face to face for a moment before the umpire jumps between them and heads off a possible fight! The batter added insult to injury and gave the catcher an unnecessary earful! You would think a three run homer would be satisfaction enough, but he unwisely gave a little extra! The pitcher started to jog in from the mound as soon as the batter said his piece, ready to get involved! Oh, an ugly situation is narrowly averted! As it is, it doesn't get much uglier than a three run homerun!

63-64) There's a line drive to right field, and it's going to fall in for a single in the gap! The right fielder dashes over and does a great job of using his speed to cut the ball off on one hop before it can get past him to the wall, but the throw back to the infield is cut off by the second baseman and the runner on second will score! There'll be men on first and second with one out again. It was very nearly extra bases, as the ball had plenty of velocity on it, it was crushed by the batter, but the right fielder got a superb jump on it and chased it down.

65-66) The batter knocks it hard to the left side....it's a grounder that'll get through into left field, the shortstop has no chance to get it! The left fielder charges in hard to field it, and the runners will move up only one base! The bases are loaded with nobody out!

Runners on 1st and 2nd, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitch is in the dirt and it bounces through the catcher's legs! He scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep the runners from advancing! Wild pitch! |
| 0-1 | The pitch is way inside, the catcher can't catch up to it and it's past him for a wild pitch! That one's going to roll all the way to the backstop, and the runner on second rounds third with every intention of coming home....but no, the umpire is waving the play off, he's saying the pitch actually grazed the batter! He's going to be told to go to first base! It's a late call! The replay shows that the pitch did indeed get the batter just barely on the elbow, and the ball ricocheted low, getting past the catcher. The bases are loaded! |
| 1-0 | Whoa, the runner on second takes off even before the pitcher delivers the ball, and now he catches himself and has to dive back into second to just barely beat the throw to the bag! He's in there with a head-first dive, the pitcher looked as stunned as anyone that the runner broke for third and was a little slow in reacting. What an over-anxious play on the part of the runner, who calls for time, stands, and brushes himself off. Wow, he really wanted third base bad, bad enough to make a premature jump! Looks like that play will be off for now. |
| 1-1 | The pitcher takes a few steps off the mound and crouches, and the trainer and the manager trot out to take a look at him. Now he circles the mound, perhaps favoring his left leg just a bit. It looks like he could have tweaked his hamstring somewhat. The mound conference goes on for a while, and then everyone steps back so the pitcher can take a few practice throws. He looks somewhat stiff as he throws....and that's going to be it for him! He is coming off the mound and out of the game! Now he's limping a little more, and he definitely hurt himself pitching to the previous batter! A reliever will have to come in! There seemed to be no sign of injury through the first two pitches, and the pitcher was getting set to deliver number three when he simply stopped and grimaced. He descends into the dugout and heads off for treatment! The new pitcher will come in unprepared and have to take several warmup throws before we resume. Who's it gonna be? |
| 0-2 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first! The batter crowds the plate and gets the desired result! He didn't make much of an effort to get away from that one. The pitcher looks disgusted, and the bases are loaded! A tough break on an 0-2 pitch! |
| 2-0 | The pitcher delivers a strike on the outside edge of the plate, but the catcher can't hold onto it! It goes off his mitt and he chases it, picking it up fairly quickly, but he'll have no play to stop the runners from advancing! Passed ball! |
| 1-2 | The batter turns on a changeup and pulls it drastically, it's ripped foul into the dugout, slamming into the corner and coming within about two feet of the opposing team's starting pitcher! Whoa! He flinches back and can count himself lucky he didn't get hit! |
| 2-1 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher is certainly taking his time out there. |
| 2-2 | The batter swings and pops it foul beyond first base into shallow right, the right fielder chugs in hard to try to make a play near the stands, he runs, runs....he dives into the stands head-first! Did he get it? No! He disappeared into the crowd so deep that only his ankles were sticking out, and he comes out with nothing! Out of breath, he walks back to position! A terrific effort, first to even get there at top speed, and then to lunge into the ticket holders to try to make the key out, but it wasn't to be! |
| 3-0 | The batter swings on 3 and 0 and laces the ball toward the right field corner into foul territory....and the ball girl out there, sitting on her chair, has to dive off it to avoid getting smacked! The ball hits the low fence in front of the stands and caroms off. Close call, and nice reflexes! |
| 3-1 | The batter takes a called strike—and both the runners are moving with the pitch! The catcher stands and fires the ball to second base....and he nails the runner there just in time, he dives in head-first in a cloud of dust but the tag is put down! The runner on second goes into third standing, but the double steal doesn't quite work and there are two away on the lovely throw by the catcher! |
| 3-2 | The pitch is in there on the outside corner for a strike—and the runners try to steal! The throw is to third....and they got him! A beautiful throw ends the inning, it's a strike 'em out, throw 'em out double play! A complete offensive breakdown there, and the pitcher is out of the jam just like that! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is topped and it dribbles slowly up the first base line....the catcher is the only one with any kind of play on it, he tears off his mask, scrambles after it, picks it up with his bare hand, and delivers an off-balance, side-arm throw to first...in time to get the runner! The catcher completely loses his footing as he throws and goes down hard in foul territory, but he sees the out call made and pumps his fist as he lays on his stomach, a great play! The throw was low and if it had been right at first it might well have hit the runner, but it was to the right side of the bag, just where it need to be. That was some effort, and now there are two away.

13-14) The pitcher comes in low, and the batter golfs the ball into left center field, it's deep, he got a lot of it, it's going, going....did he get enough of it? Oh, the right fielder runs hard into the fence as the ball sails over it, it's a three run HOMERUN and the right fielder goes down hard after colliding with the wall! He never saw it coming, his attention was on making a play and he connected viciously! The batter trots around the bases and the two men he drove in stand at home plate and wait to congratulate him while the trainers run out to right field to check on the outfielder's condition! It was as if he thought nobody had even built a fence out there! He finally does manage to get to his feet, and it looks like he's going to be all right. The same cannot be said for the pitcher. As the batter jogs back to the dugout, having put three on the board, the pitcher merely stands in front of the mound, utterly motionless. He eventually looks up once into left to check on his teammate, and when he sees the trainers returning without him, he accepts a new ball from the ump and is ready to pitch again. That swing was a terrific act of strength, the batter reached low and took the pitch out of here with a windmill swing like he was knocking a three-iron toward the green!

15-16) The ball is grounded toward first....the first baseman's got it, his body already turned toward second, and he throws over there in time for one out...but the return throw to the pitcher covering is not going to be even close, the batter is safe on the fielder's choice. But the all-important second out is made, and now there are runners at the corners.

21-22) The ball is shot back past the pitcher, who only flails at it with his mitt, and it's past second base for a single to center....whoa, did that ball hit the runner's hand? The play continues as the manager and some of the players from the dugout jump up, pointing! The center fielder plays the ball and he'll come home with it! The throw....is going to be cut off! It's cut off about fifteen feet shy of home plate by the shortstop, the play will be at third, but the runner moving from first is going to beat the throw, he got a terrific jump from first and he goes in sliding! Meanwhile, the defense's manager has come out of the dugout and he's claiming, not alone by any means, that the ball caught the man on second, hitting his left hand as he broke for third. On replay, it does look like the course of the ball was suddenly altered, and maybe even slowed down when the runner started to stride toward third, his hand rising above his waist....the manager is joined by the first base coach and the second baseman in his argument, which is becoming more heated....the umpire is shaking his head....and now the camera picks up the runner flexing his hand a few times as he trots back to the dugout after touching home plate! If that's not proof that the ball hit him, what is? But of course the umpires don't see this, even though many in the ballpark do! It appears the team in the field is not going to win the argument! Even on super slo-mo, it's not quite a certainty that the ball struck the runner's hand, but the offense is getting away with one here! The runner goes from possibly being ruled out to scoring on the single! The manager finally turns, shaking his head, and walks back to the dugout, dissatisfied. The runner who scored sits on the bench looking innocent. If he needs someone to look at that hand, it's definitely not going to happen until this has all blown over so as to keep up the illusion. Oh, that's a huge play! Runners at the corners! ▲

23-24) The ball is hit hard on the ground right at the first baseman, he takes it, goes two steps toward the bag, tags it, spins, and he'll make a try for the runner on second....the throw is way inside the bag, the shortstop can't reach it and it rolls toward third....but the umpire is signaling the runner out anyway! He's saying that his slide was well out of the acceptable path, and he's right! He never touched the shortstop, having slid to the center field side of the bag while the throw pulled the shortstop off in the other direction, so there was absolutely no contact, but he didn't even come close to the base! He won't even be able to put up much of an argument on that one. So the bad throw from first goes for naught and the inning is over, that's a double play!

25-26) The batter lines it right at the third baseman, but it short-hops him as he kneels down to grab it and bounces off his chest! It shoots straight down into the grass and he picks it up, throws across the diamond to first...in time to get the batter out! He did what he needed to do on that play, get his body entirely in front of the ball to play the short hop, and he got a little lucky with the angle when the ball struck him in the chest, it might have gone ricocheting off but instead it died right in front of him. The throw was excellent, too. So now there are two down and men on second and third.

31-32) The batter pops it up straight back! The catcher throws off his mask and chases it to the backstop, and he's going to have plenty of time to get under it....it looks like it'll stay in play....he has to drift toward the first base side a fair bit....and he makes the catch but the runner on second is going to try for third! The catcher spins and fires it over there, but the throw is too late and the runner will be safe on the heads-up play! The runner on first holds there. If the ball hadn't drifted that last ten feet, taking the catcher toward the first base side, the runner on second might have thought about staying. Good base running!

33-34) The batter tees off on the ball and launches it to center field and deep! It's got a chance to be real trouble....the center fielder is able to get under it though, at the edge of the track, it didn't quite have the power it seemed when it left the bat. The runner on second will advance easily to third on the sacrifice fly. Two down, runners at the corners.

35-36) There's a hard ground ball to deep short, the shortstop has to chase it and backhand it on the outfield grass, his only chance is to get the runner going to third, and he releases a quick throw as he leaves his feet, the third baseman stretches for it and the runner is....safe sliding in! Safe by inches, the throw is not in time and the bases will be loaded! The shortstop made a terrific play and make it look pretty to boot as he jumped off-balance to give a little extra oomph to the throw, but the ball was hit just a bit too deep into the hole and it'll go down as a single! The rally is definitely on now!

41-42) The batter knocks the ball high but not terribly far down the right field line, it should be a playable ball for the right fielder....it's falling fast, he has to run a lot harder than he at first thought....and in the end he has to make a clumsy two-handed basket catch to get the out! The runner on second is going to stay where he is despite the right fielder becoming so ruffled on the play. Two outs! The way that catch was finally made looked like we were involved in an amateur softball league, but the job got done.

43-44) There's a bounding ball to the left side, and the shortstop can't get to it! It's through for a base hit! This will probably score the runner moving from second, and the left fielder won't even be able to make a throw on him, so slow was the ball's progress to him! Instead he turns his body toward third base and he'll go there with the ball! Here's the throw to try to nab the runner moving from first....it's a little late, but the runner slides right over the bag, and he's tagged out! He got down on a good head-first slide, but his momentum shot him right over the base after every part of his body from his hand to his foot touched it on the way into foul territory! He tried to kick out with his left foot to try to anchor himself, but the third baseman is able to put the tag down, there are two men out and the batter holds with a single! The slide was just too strong and the runner went shooting across the bag like a rubber band shot down the base path!

45-46) The ball is hit hard and deep to right field! It's got a shot to get out of here, it's going way back....and it slams into the wall on the fly! It caroms back to the right fielder and he grabs it right away and turns to hurl it back into the infield! The batter's going to get to second as the first runner scores, and the man moving from first rounds third and wants to come home too, there's going to be a play at the plate! The second baseman catches the throw from right and delivers a hard side-armed throw to home, the batter slides feet-first....and he's out! Out by inches! A great job of blocking the plate by the catcher; the runner's foot came right up against the catcher's mitt and couldn't find the plate! It's a double and an out at home plate on a terrifically precise throw!

51-52) There's a chopper toward the second baseman, he comes in and fields the ball cleanly, and is able to put a bare-handed tag on the runner as he passes by! From there it's a simple matter of setting and throwing to first, and the double play is turned with unexpected ease! The runner moving from first tried to shrink away from the tag but couldn't do it! The ball was just hit in a bad spot, and that ends the inning! That was maybe a good time for the runner to perhaps slap the ball away—it would have made him look bad, but the umpire just might have ended the play there, calling him out but allowing the runner on first to cross safely. It would have brought to mind the infamous Alex Rodriguez slap in the 2004 ALCS, but sometimes you have to look bad to get a desired result. As it is, the threat is killed and the defense leaves the field happy.

53-54) The batter chops the ball toward the shortstop but he'll have to come in to make the play and two outs might be impossible....he takes the ball just before it hits the infield dirt, and instead of risking a throw to second he fires to first in time for the sure out. The batter is retired and the runners move over. The shortstop had to come forward just enough to make a throw to second too difficult, and he probably made the right choice there.
Two down.

55-56) The ball is hit hard right at the second baseman....but it's under his glove for a base hit! He only had a split second to get the glove down, and he got a small piece of leather on it, but it's through for a single! The runners are going to move up just one base. If the second baseman's reflexes had been just a little quicker, we'd have been looking at an easy double play ball, but that ball was seriously smoked. Even though it was hit right at him, he won't be charged with an error. So now the bases are juiced with just one away!

61-62) The ball is shot on the ground to the third baseman, this one might go for a double play....he throws to the shortstop for the first out, the shortstop turns and fires to first....and the batter is....out by a step! He was hustling all the way down the line, but the two throws were absolutely perfect and delivered with serious heat! The threat is killed with flawless defense! In fact, when the play is watched again in slow motion, you can see that neither the shortstop nor the first baseman had to move their gloves a single inch to receive their throws.
Wow!

63-64) The ball is hit on the ground in the hole between second and first, the second baseman will chase it....he dives for it....and comes up with it! He leaps to his feet and throws a bullet to first base.....and the batter is out by a step! The second baseman then sinks to his knees, it looks like he hit the ground so hard on that dive he got the wind knocked out of him, and the trainer will jog out to have a look. When he got to his feet with the ball he was already grimacing, but he ignored the pain long enough to make a big throw. That was a sure single but now there are two away and men on second and third! The second baseman now walks off the damage, and the trainer returns to the dugout. Terrific concentration there. Sometimes the pain just has to wait until the play is over!

65-66) Fly ball to right center field, medium depth, the outfielders will converge, it splits them evenly....the right fielder, having a better angle on the throw to third, calls for it and makes the grab. There goes the runner tagging from second....and the throw is cut off, he's allowed to take third while the runner on first retreats to the bag.
Two outs, runners on the corners.

Runners on 1st and 2nd, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|--|
| first pitch | There go the runners! The pitch is a called strike, and the catcher just holds onto the ball, it'll be men on second and third with two out! He started to get up to make a throw, but never really had complete control of the pitch and the runners advance! |
| 0-1 | The pitcher comes in with a wicked slider on the outside edge of the plate and it's in there for a called strike. Beautiful placement on that one, the batter had no shot at making solid contact even if he had lifted the bat off his shoulder The count goes to 1 and 1. |
| 1-0 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward second base, but the runner gets back just in time, diving in headfirst! Caught him off guard! He asks for time and gets it, a little unnerved perhaps. |
| 1-1 | Ouch, the pitch comes inside and gets the batter on the knee! He takes a moment to walk it off, he's okay. That'll load the bases! |
| 0-2 | The pitch is way outside and in the dirt....and the catcher makes a nice backhanded stop on it! A risky maneuver, he should have gotten his body in front of it, but no harm done. |
| 2-0 | The pitch is taken for a strike....and both the runners are going! The catcher leaps up and fires the ball to second base, but it's not going to be in time, the double steal works perfectly! Both runners get into scoring position on the play! |
| 1-2 | The pitcher comes up and in with the pitch, and the batter collapses in the box to avoid getting hit in the head, he goes down on his rear, lucky to be in one piece! Whew, that was a fast ball that sailed wildly, it'll be 2 and 2! The batter gets up, takes a practice swing, and gets right back in the box, seemingly unfazed. The replay shows just how close that ball came to getting him in the side of the head, he ducked and went down just in time. |
| 2-1 | Whoa, the batter is hit in the head by the pitch! It gets him right in the helmet but he's okay! He tosses his bat aside and trots to first base! The pitcher immediately yells at himself and puts his glove up to take the ball right back so he can get back on the mound and wipe out that mistake. The bases are juiced! |
| 2-2 | The batter takes a mighty swing and misses, and he loses the bat! It skitters along the grass and the pitcher has to jump to avoid getting hit in the feet. Out on strikes to end the inning! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher throws suddenly to first and the runner has to dive frantically back to the bag, he just does make it, losing his helmet! |
| 3-1 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 3-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher seems rattled. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is hit hard on the ground toward third, the third baseman takes two steps toward the line, grabs it, and instead of making a long tough throw he dashes for the bag....and gets there just ahead of the runner for the third out of the inning! The third baseman actually set himself to throw the ball but the batter was moving swiftly up the line, and with a visible mental reversal, the race was on to third. That's the end of the inning!

13-14) The batter hits a ground ball to the left side....the third baseman dives, can't get it, and then the shortstop dives and can't get it either, it's through for a perfectly placed single! This one's going to score a run! The shortstop and third baseman looked like a couple of frolicking dolphins on that play, one diving right after the other for a ball that was placed maddeningly between them both, just out of reach! The throw comes lazily back into the infield, it'll be men on first and second with two out yet again on the RBI single!

15-16) The batter puts a swinging bunt on the ball and makes contact, knocking it toward first....but it's too hard a knock, and even before the first baseman can field the ball to make a relatively easy play, the batter is called out by the umpire for leaving the box too soon! It's a good call, he leapt out of there in a hurry and was actually on top of the plate when he actually made contact. That's the end of the inning! That call might have drawn a half-hearted argument, but the third out was coming anyway on the hard-hit ball.

21-22) The pitch is waved off, we have a fan on the field off in right. He came out of the stands where the foul line first meets the stands and is running toward second. He veers off into center when security chases him, and he's caught soon enough in left. He's ushered off the field and the pitcher will have to set again. That fan was absolutely draped from head to toe in home team gear from his cap to his sweatpants, but it's unclear how that little display is going to help them.

23-24) There's a grounder in the hole between short and third....the shortstop moves to his right to get it and he scoops it up cleanly, but he won't be able to get the force at second, instead he makes the long throw to first....and he gets the batter out in plenty of time! Three outs and the threat is over!

25-26) The ball is hit hard through the hole between the first and second baseman, that'll be a single, and the runner on second will have a chance to score! The right fielder comes up with it, the runner is waved home....and now he tries to stop on a pinpoint throw to the catcher from right, but he made his decision too late, he's caught between home and third! The catcher throws the ball over there to start the rundown! The runner makes a move back toward home....turns around on the throw back to the catcher....now it goes back to the third baseman....and now the runner makes a frantic mad dash for the plate, and the third baseman lobs it to the catcher, who holds his mitt up....he catches the ball and swipes down a tag just as the runner passes him and goes into a long head-first slide, he's out! He skids across the plate but the inning is over, it ends on a single to right field! The runner very nearly pulled off the amazing feat of evading that tag and foiling the rundown, but couldn't quite do it! When he rounded third and saw the throw going exactly where it needed to go, he decided way too late to try to avert the out, but he was doomed the moment he slowed down. A nice effort to redeem himself came up a hair short.

31-32) The ball is grounded to the second baseman....he comes in, scoops up the low grounder, and he makes a lunge for the runner as he passes, but the runner jukes him with a sudden cut and keeps going....the second baseman will instead throw to first, where the third out of the inning is secured. Well, he tried to do it the easy way, but the runner made darn sure he wasn't going to be the third out!

33-34) The batter pulls a sharp line drive over the infield for a single! It'll be fielded on one hop and the ball is fired toward home plate without the outfielder making a single excess movement, keeping the runner moving from second stuck at third base. There'll be runners everywhere with two down!

35-36) Crack! There's a line drive to center field, the center fielder dashes to his left....and cuts the ball off before it can get into the gap, he makes the catch for the third out of the inning! A well hit ball but to no avail!

41-42) The ball is grounded deep into the hole between third and short....the shortstop chases after it, reaches down to stab at it....and it's off his mitt, he can't quite get all the way there! The ball rolls into short left field and he runs out to get it while the runner moving from second rounds third—and tries to head home! The shortstop bare-hands the ball, sets, throws hard to the plate....the throw is right on target and the runner bends his body to try to get away from the catcher's tag, getting past him and flailing an arm out toward the plate as he goes down in a wild sideways dive....he misses it and the catcher dives to put the tag on him....*and he got him!* The runner finally touches the plate with a second effort but the tag was down beforehand! The inning is over! Both men wind up on the ground! A terrific effort to avoid the catcher's tag comes up just a few inches short! It's an infield single ending in a 6-2 put-out! Amazing!

43-44) There's a high, lazy fly ball to right field, it's going to end the inning. All the right fielder has to do is wait for it....and just when it seems that the ball will never actually come down, it does and he makes the grab. Three outs!

45-46) The ball is knocked on the ground toward second, it's a slow roller, the second baseman picks it up, tosses it over to first....in plenty of time for the out. That's the inning!

51-52) The pitcher tries to overpower the batter with a fast ball but can't quite do it, although all the batter can manage is a routine fly ball to left field. The inning will end with two runners stranded!

53-54) It's a line drive fly ball to left center field, this one's falling fast, the left fielder streaks into the gap at top speed....he dives and *makes a fantastic catch!* He got it! He jumps immediately to his feet to receive the congratulations of his teammate in center! He just saved one and probably two runs with that scoop! Wow!

55-56) The ball is hit on the ground slowly toward the gap between short and third, the shortstop ranges over and fields it with a long stretch, he stops, pivots....no, he's going to hold onto the ball! No throw! He plays it conservatively, and won't attempt to get the runner. We'll see if that was a wise decision. He was going to have to force that one from deep in the hole, and he might have had time to get the runner, but a wild throw would have plated a run, so he pocketed the ball. Call it an infield single and now the bases are loaded!

61-62) The batter swings and hits it hard and low toward third....and the third baseman kneels and snags the ball an inch off the ground for the out! He stands up quickly and throws to first base just in case the umpire didn't see that he made a clean catch, but it's not necessary; the ump saw it and the inning is over!

63-64) There's a long drive to left field, if it gets beyond the left fielder it's going to score two....the left fielder goes back, back....and he turns the wrong way on the ball and it sails over his head! It hits the warning track and takes a high hop off the wall, which will enable the runner on first to try to make it home! The throw from the left fielder is cut off by the shortstop, there's no chance for a play at the plate, and two runs score on the double! The flight of the ball confused the outfielder and he just didn't track it correctly, although it would have been a very difficult play regardless. That's a clutch extra base hit!

65-66) The runners are moving with the pitch....THWACK! Goodbye!! The batter pulls one WAY out of here, this one is DEEP into the upper deck, an absolute moon shot, he just stands and admires it! See you later, that's a huge, HUGE homerun!! A curve ball is launched into the stratosphere, and the batter will trot around the bases with the knowledge that he just clocked one of the deepest balls in the history of this park! It's a three run shot for the ages! Oh, my! The runner on first actually slowed down to watch it go, and only after it was fully gone did he turn and start really running again! You'll be seeing that one on replay for a long time. Normally it's not good form for a batter to stand and watch his homer go, but in that case he can be forgiven, it was a work of art!

Runners on 1st and 3rd, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|--|
| first pitch | The catcher calls time out after the pitcher waits a long, long time to throw the ball. He jogs out to the mound for a brief conference. It didn't seem like there was a whole lot of confidence in the pitcher's demeanor after he set to throw it. |
| 0-1 | The batter turns on the pitch and pulls a long, long moon shot deep into the stands, way, way back, but it's foul! Whoa, he got every part of that pitch! That was a mammoth shot! The pitcher floated a curve ball in there like he owed the batter a favor! Dangerous! |
| 1-0 | The pitcher throws over to first base to check the runner, who gets back safely. |
| 1-1 | The batter reaches way out across the plate and connects with a clumsy one-handed swing, launching the ball foul into the opposite field stands and falling off-balance most of the way over the plate. He rights himself and it's 1 and 2. |
| 0-2 | The pitch is inside for ball one. The catcher starts to throw the ball back to the mound—then looks toward first, where the runner is slow walking back to the bag, so the catcher fires it over there, but the throw is too low, in the dirt, with the first baseman having to make a nice full-body stop on the ball to keep it from getting past him! The catcher's spontaneous decision led him to make a wild throw, and he's lucky it didn't cost his team a run! A terrific play by the first baseman, giving himself up to stop that ball. |
| 2-0 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. The third baseman comes over to join in the discussion. The shortstop enters the talk for good measure. They must be getting their defensive alignment straight. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 1-2 | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher makes no throw, only looks the runner on first back. |
| 2-1 | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! That'll load them! The pitcher doesn't look too upset, he would have been faced with a dangerous 3-1 count, so maybe he doesn't mind getting a new set of pitches to work with, but now he's in all kinds of hot water! |
| 2-2 | The pitcher looks in long and hard for the pitch. He sets. The batter waits. And waits....and finally the pitcher takes a step off the rubber, concerned with the runner on first. The whole process will have to start over. Time to get the concentration back. |
| 3-0 | The batter steps out of the box and re-adjusts his glove and helmet. He stays outside the box to take a couple of practice swings. Even after that, he dawdles....and now the pitcher steps off the mound, points at the batter, and complains that he's taking too long! The umpire agrees and orders the batter to get into the box! That really was an absurd amount of time outside the batter's box. The pitcher looks none too happy, the batter really seems to be intent on throwing off his rhythm. The umpire's going to have to reign in these players, with the stakes so high in this game they're really dawdling! |
| 3-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher goes through half his windup and stops, none too pleased. |
| 3-2 | The pitch is in there on the outside corner for strike three, and the runner on first tries to steal! The catcher throws to second....the tag is put down perfectly and they got him for the second out—now the runner on third makes a late break for home, here's the delivery from the shortstop—the runner's going to beat the throw to the plate on a head-first slide! The defense couldn't get it done! The runner on third had a nice sham going, taking virtually no lead off the bag, making the catcher think it was safe to go to second with the ball. The shortstop chose not to cut the ball off but put the tag down instead. A run scores and there are two outs! There was an outside shot at a triple play on that one, but it didn't quite come to pass! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The batter hits a long fly ball to straightaway center field, it's carrying deep....and it's over the center fielder's head! This one's probably going to clear the bases! The center fielder makes a quick play on a single hop off the wall, he turns and fires it in to the cut-off man, and they're going to try to nail the runner trying to score from first! The throw from the shortstop is perfect, the catcher sets....and there's a huge collision at home as the runner barrels in! The runner slams into the catcher and the catcher is spun around like a top—and the umpire is calling the runner safe because the tag was never actually applied! He steps on home plate without a slide! The catcher caught the ball but the next thing he knew he had a baseball player slamming into him, he simply didn't have time to even move his arms! He was spun around and even then he only had to apply the tag, but he completely lost any sense of control as the runner bowled past him with such brutal contact and stepped on the plate! The catcher loses his balance entirely and winds up on his back, two runs score, and the batter stands at third with a big hit!

13-14) The batter reaches out for a pitch low and outside and knocks a soft line drive to the opposite field, where the left fielder charges in....and makes the grab for the out! The runner on third will have to hold, ditto with the man on first. The batter would have been well advised to have stayed far away from that pitch.

15-16) The batter blooms one high in the air toward second, the second baseman will have to go into the outfield grass to get this one, it's drifting deeper....deeper....with his back to the infield, the second baseman slides, the ball hits his mitt....and it falls out of it! The batter is going to be safe at first on the single and a run is going to score! The runner on first holds up at second, expecting the play to be made! The second baseman got turned around and he was made to look pretty helpless, the ball was hit just far enough out into right so that neither he nor the right fielder had a play!

21-22) The batter reaches for a high pitch and hits it exactly as he wanted to: to medium depth center field, an easy out, but it's going to get the runner on third home. The center fielder makes the catch and throws it into the infield where it's cut off. The runner crosses the plate easily and it'll be one out, man on first. Nice job of hitting there to get the sacrifice fly done! ▲

23-24) There's a line drive toward the gap in left center....the left fielder won't be able to get to it, the center fielder ranges over at top speed and swan-dives...and can't get it! He's not even close! The ball rolls into the gap toward the wall, and everyone's going to score! The left fielder chases it down on the warning track before it gets all the way to the fence, but both runners score and the batter practically walks into second base on the liner! The ball wasn't hit deep, but it was just hit too hard for anyone to get to it. The center fielder showed terrific speed on a full gallop, an A for effort but his dive was woefully short!

25-26) There's a shallow fly ball to center field, it may very well fall in, the center fielder comes on strong, charging....he tries to make a running catch holding his glove far out in front of him....and he comes up short, it's off the very tip of his glove! The runner on third is going to score, but the center fielder palms the ball immediately and guns it to second base, where the throw beats the runner moving from first by a step, he's out sliding! The runner had little choice but to wait till the very last moment to move up, and the center fielder's ability to grab the ball on one hop, his body moving toward the base all the time, gave him the chance to nail the runner, which he did. Nice recovery to get an out as a run scores! The batter is safe at first on a single!

31-32) The pitcher delivers....and the batter pulls a low pitch deep into the corner, it's carrying but hooking, it is....foul by twelve inches out in extra base hit territory! The batter rounds first and looks skyward for a moment, silently asking the heavens how they could rob him of his hit! The left fielder picks the ball up and tosses it into the stands. Whoa, that was close—maybe a little less than a foot outside the line! The batter walks slowly back toward the box.

33-34) The pitcher delivers a slider....and the batter turns on it and pulls it deep, and the pitcher immediately throws back his head in a silent howl, he knows this one's gone, and so does the outfielder, this one is WAY out of here, HOMERUN!! A moon shot into the upper deck! The pitcher sinks to his knees in agony as the batter trots the bases, and everyone scores! One, two, three runs! There was no doubt about it! Rarely do you see a pitcher react so strongly and so quickly; the batter hadn't even gone all the way around on his swing and the pitcher was erupting in agony!

35-36) The batter knocks it on the ground right at the shortstop, he picks it up, side-arms it to second for the force out, and the second baseman turns and fires to first for the double play! The runner on third didn't break for home until the second baseman made his relay throw—and the first baseman throws home to try to get him! The throw will not be in time, the runner slides in to score, nearly having gotten tripled off for his hesitation! But he scores and there are two outs, and the bases are empty!

41-42) The batter delivers a sharp ground ball toward short, the shortstop moves to his left, he has to reach for it...he's got it one-handed, and he flips it to the second baseman, getting the force out as the runner on third scores. That was almost a double play ball, but it made the shortstop chase it a bit too far, and the inning continues with one run home and the batter safe at first on the fielder's choice. ▲

43-44) The batter knocks it to center field, a line drive that'll be caught for the out....the runner on third tags and goes, this might be a close play....the throw from center field is a good one, the catcher takes it on a short bounce, blocks the plate, and slams his mitt down on the runner's back as he dives head-first toward the plate, *he's outta there! Double play!* A terrific throw makes it possible! The runner on first jogs into second on the throw, but now there are two down! That play was executed on both ends as well as it could have been. The catcher shifted his left leg about a foot to block the runner and that was all he needed to completely kill his momentum toward the plate. If he had planted that leg just a moment sooner, the umpire might have called interference! The catcher also left no question about the tag, slapping it down on the runner like he was squashing a big fly!

45-46) The ball is chopped to the left side and takes one long, high bounce to the shortstop, and the runner on third is almost home already, there'll be no play there....the shortstop gets the ball out of his glove quickly, throwing to second for one out, and the throw to first is....low but scooped out of the dirt with a nifty backhand for the completion of the double play! A run is exchanged for two outs! The runner on third took a terrific lead, there was just no shot to get him. Bases empty, two down, one in! ▲

51-52) Fly ball to right field....the right fielder will come in about three steps to make the catch, and there's going to be a play at the plate! The runner takes off, here's the throw home, it's being let through the infield....it gets to the right side of home plate on one hop and the runner beats it without a slide as the catcher makes a valiant stab at him! Put a run up on the board, and the runner on first hustles to second when he sees the catcher lose his balance trying to make that tag at home! There'll be another man in scoring position!

53-54) The ball is popped up! The shortstop will wander in and walk toward the mound, he's under it, his feet just touching the dirt....and he secures the ball for the first out of the inning. The batter went for a high pitch he should have stayed away from. The pitcher breathes a bit of a sigh of relief, but it's back to work with runners still at the corners.

55-56) The ball is tapped in front of the catcher, and now the topspin brings it out toward the mound....the pitcher has to charge it, his only play will be at home plate....he reaches out and downward with his bare hand, grabs the ball, and has to underhand it all in one motion to the catcher...and the runner plows into the catcher, not sliding! The catcher holds onto the ball but he wasn't able to swing his mitt around before he got hammered, the runner scores! Now the runner moving from first is going to try for third base and he'll make it standing....but the batter may get caught rounding first! The catcher gets back on his feet and he throws to second to start a rundown....they've got to keep their eye on the runner at third....the ball is thrown to the first baseman, then back to the shortstop as the batter keeps moving back and forth...another throw and he changes direction....the first baseman goes back to the shortstop once more—and then the runner on third takes off for home plate! There'll be yet another play there! The shortstop sets and throws, and this time they've got the runner beat, and he rams into the catcher without sliding, and *again* the catcher goes down on his back, but this time he gets credit for the tag and the incredible play ends with an out! Two collisions at home plate equals one run and one out! The batter holds at second! That play took about as long as a regulation game! Man, did the catcher take a beating on that play, but he's okay and he flips the ball back to the pitcher. It doesn't get much more physical than that! Somebody call in an X-ray machine and write a check for combat pay!

61-62) The ball is grounded to second...the second baseman has it, he throws to the shortstop covering for one out...the shortstop jumps out of the way to avoid the runner's slide but he's upended and his jostled relay throw to first will only go about fifty feet and die on the infield dirt, a great job by the runner to disrupt the play! The runner on third scores easily and the inning continues with the batter reaching first! The runner really threw himself into that slide, arms held up high as long as could manage it, his left leg stuck up while his right touched the bag, more or less removing the umpire's ability to call him out for interference. The whole thing looked completely natural, as if his momentum simply caused him to sail off the bag and into the shortstop, and only in slow motion can you see that the whole thing was very well-orchestrated. One of the small skills in baseball that sometimes makes a huge difference! ▲

63-64) The ball is hit hard to the first baseman, he fires home immediately and the catcher puts the tag down on the runner sliding in, he's out! Then the catcher spins and throws back to first, where the pitcher has moved over to cover....and the throw beats the runner by a half step, it's a double play on a tag and a force! They did it the hard way! The runner on first moves up to second but there are now two away! The irony of that play was that the runner on third was going on contact and so he got a great jump off third, which forced him to commit at full speed, enabling the catcher to get the tag down so quickly that he had time to make a play at first! The ball was hit in just the right place and both throws on defense were perfect; a lot of things came together on that one, including an unusually slow gallop to first by the batter, who obviously was not expecting a throw to come back from the catcher toward first!

65-66) The batter tries to check his swing, but he can't and he taps a nubber in front of the plate. The catcher throws off his mask and takes a few steps toward the mound to get it. He reaches down, picks the ball up....and he'll have no play at first! The runner on third held; the ball's first bounce was right in front of the plate and only its topspin sent it forward, so he played it safe and retreated to the bag. It's an infield single and the bases are loaded with nobody out! The odds are that the runner on third would have made it home, as the catcher would have had to completely reverse his momentum after picking up the ball in order to chase him down at the plate, so keep that in mind as we see what the next batter does.

Runners on 1st and 3rd, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|--|
| first pitch | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward third base, but the runner gets back just in time! He got a little too comfortable out there! |
| 0-1 | The pitch is way inside and in the dirt, the catcher moves quickly sideways behind the batter to block it....it's off his chest protector and he picks it up quickly, a great stop to save a wild pitch! The runners take a few steps but have to retreat! |
| 1-0 | The pitcher suddenly fires to first base and catches the runner off guard, and he's....out, picked off diving head-first back into the bag! They nailed him! The runner gets to his feet, slumps off toward the dugout, and even before he gets there he hurls his batting helmet to the ground, angry with himself! That was an absolutely beautiful move to first by the pitcher, totally deceptive and quick as a snake, with perfect location on the throw! |
| 1-1 | The batter swings and drives a laser shot toward the right field corner, it's going to be....off the wall but foul by about five feet! Whoa, he got all of that one, but it was just too low in the strike zone to lift out of here! |
| 0-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 2-0 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He got into a staring contest with the pitcher and the pitcher won that one! |
| 1-2 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first! The pitcher takes the ball back from the catcher and shakes his head again and again, in disbelief for letting the batter wiggle his way out of that advantageous count. The target was set up inside and the pitcher missed it just by inches, but it was enough to hit the batter's stomach. |
| 2-1 | The pitch is way low and outside, and the catcher makes a nice play to block it with his body. It bounces off his chest protector and lands a few feet away, but the runners must hold. It'll be 3 and 1. |
| 2-2 | The batter swings at a wildly high pitch and misses it for the strikeout, but the ball pops out of the catcher's glove as he stands to catch it! It falls behind him, and the runner on third is charging home! The catcher grabs the ball, turns, and throws to the pitcher covering—but the runner slides under the tag safely! The run scores! Meanwhile, the batter was very slow going to first and the pitcher is able to turn and throw him out on a bad base running mistake, the batter thought he caught part of the pitch and assumed it would be ruled a dropped foul tip, he didn't run it out! The runner on first goes to second, one run scores, and there are two outs! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. Chances of the ball being the reason for him falling behind 3 and 0 seem to be very slim indeed, but let's see if this helps him. |
| 3-1 | The catcher comes out to talk to the pitcher. They confer for a few moments, and then the catcher goes back to the plate. |
| 3-2 | The pitcher delivers a painfully slow, dramatically arcing pitch that breaks about three feet right into the zone for a beautiful called third strike! Wow! The batter was absolutely bewitched by that one, and as he walks back to the dugout, you can see he's still confused! What do you even call that pitch? Technically it looked like a breaking ball, but it had the velocity of a knuckleball! Two down! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is slapped hard down the first base line, the first baseman dives....and he manages to stop the ball but not field it! It scoots away from him, rolling into foul territory a little deeper into right, and the runner on third will score! The first baseman gets to the ball fast and the runner moving from first holds up at second! It was a nice play to get any amount of leather on the ball! That was extra bases for sure, but it'll only be an RBI single!

13-14) The ball is topped toward first, the pitcher runs off the mound to chase it, he just does get it into his glove with a late stab, comes up with it, makes a running, off-balance throw....and gets the batter out! The only possible play was at first, and it's just barely made! The pitcher helps himself out with some good defense but the runner scores and there are two men down with a runner at second. ▲

15-16) Ground ball toward second, this could be two....the second baseman's throw to the shortstop covering is so high that he has to jump for it, but he comes down right on the bag, fires to first....in time, double play! The shortstop bails out the bad throw! He displayed a nice little ballet move there and great balance to come down on the bag, and in the face of the charging runner he delivered a bullet to turn two! The inning is over!

21-22) The ball is popped to right field but shallow, this one most likely won't be deep enough to send the runner home....the right fielder keeps coming in, coming in....he's got it, and the runner on third takes off for home plate about a full second before the right fielder makes the catch! Whatever happens with the throw, he's going to be called out for leaving too soon! The throw is allowed to go through the infield, and it's up the first base line, not a good one at all, but it doesn't matter. Everyone on the defense is pointing to third, and the catcher immediately throws the ball over there to complete the double play! The umpire makes the call and the inning is over! There won't be much of a dispute about that one, though the manager is going to come out to discuss it with the umpire. That was a classic bit of theft on the runner's part, but the second he took off, the alert third baseman started howling to anyone who would listen about the early takeoff and it wasn't lost on anyone else either. Too much aggression ends the inning!

23-24) The batter misses a pitch way inside and it actually hits him! He misjudged that one by a mile and took a shot in the bicep for his efforts! That one might have hit him even if he didn't go around wildly! Credit the pitcher with a strike! Boy, what a bonus, you get the batter to swing and miss, plus deliver a little physical punishment!

25-26) The batter lifts the ball to right field....and it's going to be shallow enough to drop in! The right fielder has no chance to get to it! He takes it on two hops, and he's coming to third with the throw, here it is....it's a good one, fielded on a single bounce by the third baseman, who applies the tag on the sliding runner and gets him out! Two down and a runner scores on the bloop single! A great throw salvages an out!

31-32) Fly ball, center field, fairly deep....the center fielder drifts back....he's got it and he fires it back into the infield, but there won't even be a relay throw, the runner on third is allowed to score. A nice sac fly brings in a run! Two men out now, just a runner on first.

33-34) The ball is smashed to center field, a low line drive, the center fielder charges in on it, will he have a play?...no, he has to field the single on one quick hop—and now he's going to come home with the ball! The runner on third had to wait to see if he made the catch and this one's actually going to be close! The throw is on target, one-hopped quickly to the catcher, and he puts the tag down as the runner slides in feet-first....*and he got him!* He tagged him on the knee as he came in, he's out on a single to center field! It'll be runners on first and second with two away! It was an alert play by the center fielder to realize that the single was essentially no different than a sac fly with the runner wavering at third and having to break for home after an awkward stop!

The runner lies on his back in the dirt behind home plate, staring at the sky in agony. Nothing much to be ashamed of there; he just wasn't fast enough, though history will show that he was one of the few men ever to be thrown out at home on an outfield single, and in such a huge game to boot!

35-36) The batter cracks the ball deep to left field, it's going back, back....and it's over the left fielder's head! It one-hops off the wall into the left fielder's bare hand! The runner on first is moving fast and he approaches third base with no intention of slowing down, he's being waved around! The throw to the cutoff man is a quick one, the shortstop turns, throws hard....it's a low throw and up the third base line, but it's ahead of the runner and the catcher grabs it and flails out successfully with his mitt as the runner passes by without sliding! He's tagged out on his arm! He had just started to go into his slide when the catcher nabbed him! The batter goes into second with an easy double and holds there, only one run scores! Most of the credit for that play should go to the left fielder, who bare-handed the ball and released it as fast as humanly possible, delivering a strike to the shortstop, so although the throw home was a little off-target and almost in the dirt, it was in time for the catcher to secure the ball and make a swift tag on the runner's elbow!

41-42) There's a bouncer toward first, the first baseman takes a couple of steps back to field it, he sets and throws it quickly to the shortstop covering second....he catches the ball just above the runner's head for the force out, but he'll have no chance at a return throw to first. The runner on third scores and there are two down! That throw very nearly caught the runner in the helmet, and if that happened, who knows what havoc would have ensued when the ball bounced away.

43-44) The ball is grounded to short, it's going to be an easy double play attempt....the shortstop tosses it to second for one, over to first....got him! Got him easily! The inning is over! The batter just didn't have anything on that swing and the life seemed to be gone from his legs as soon as he started running, knowing he was doomed. The jam ends for the pitcher!

45-46) The batter knocks the ball on the ground toward third, the third baseman makes a nice backhanded stop, turns, makes a long throw to second for one out, and the relay throw to first is....late, the batter is safe! He got there at the exact same time the throw did, and the umpire gave him the call! The runner on third is able to score and the inning is extended by mere inches! The first baseman really laid out for that throw, stretching as far out as humanly possible, but it wasn't to be!

51-52) The pitcher hangs a slider and the batter drives it deep to right center field! The center fielder dashes back, back, back....but he's not going to have a play! It's out of here, a three run, line drive HOMERUN just over the fence! The batter leapt out of the box on contact expecting extra bases, but wound up taking his sweet time running around the diamond, looking somewhat surprised that the ball carried as far as it did! He receives two enthusiastic high-fives at the plate from the men he drove in! An impressive shot clears the bases!

53-54) The ball is popped up! The shortstop will drift back into shallow left, and this one's not going to be a problem. He waits under it, and it comes down in the center of his glove, two men down, no chance for an advance!

55-56) The pitch is right down the middle and the batter turns on it and pulls a laser into the outfield for a single, he got every bit of that one, and the runner on third will trot home easily! The runner on first holds up at second. That ball was hit so hard that for a moment the outfielder seemed to consider making a throw to second to get a force out, but thought better of it. A nice job of hitting!

61-62) The ball is hit to deep left center field, this one's going to score not only one run but maybe a couple more if it has the legs....the center fielder goes back, back, he's at the wall, he leaps....*and he catches the ball as it sails two feet over the fence!* The batter is robbed of a homerun! The center fielder comes back to earth and hurls the ball to the shortstop standing in the outfield grass! The runner on third trots home easily with the run, but the man on first has to retreat to the bag on the amazing theft in left center! That leap was perfectly timed to make the phenomenal play! A three run homer turns into a long sacrifice fly out! Perhaps the most amazing part of that catch was that the center fielder managed to hold onto the ball when his body slammed into the wall—the contact forced his arm all the way over the fence but his glove remained shut tight. Show it again and again on replay, nobody's going to get tired of that one!

63-64) The ball is knocked very slowly on the ground toward the first baseman, he'll barely have to move but there's no energy on the ground ball at all, and all he can do is scoop the ball up and walk over to tag the base for the second out of the inning. Give the batter an RBI on a weak swing, the runner comes home easily, stamping hard on the bag for good measure! The runner on first moves up to second with two gone. ▲

65-66) The ball is hit in the air to left field, it looks deep enough....the left fielder is under it, he punches his mitt as he waits....then makes the grab and throws home! The throw is a strong one, sailing over the shortstop toward the plate, the runner is going to have to dive for it....the catcher fields the ball on a short hop like an infielder, swings around to apply the tag, and there's a collision! The ball is jostled loose and the runner comes across the plate stumbling head-first into a slide—but he misses it entirely with the force of his momentum after the crash, and now the catcher picks the ball up off the ground to try to beat him to the plate! On his knees, the runner bends backward and flails his left arm out and slaps the plate before the second tag is applied with the catcher holding the ball in his bare hand! The run scores, and the man on first is able to go all the way to third with good hustle, sliding in there before the catcher is even really up off his knees! The catcher was given a second chance to turn the double play and he was just a little too slow!

Runners on 1st and 3rd, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|--|
| first pitch | The pitch is in there for a called strike, and the runner on first tries to steal second! The catcher won't even make a throw, keeping the man on third honest, and the runner will go in standing. Now two men are in scoring position. |
| 0-1 | A pitchout is called! The batter takes a ball way outside and high, and the catcher takes his eye off the ball and it pops out of his mitt, he won't be able to make a throw! But the runner on first holds anyway. The catcher picks the ball up, feeling fortunate that the runner didn't go. |
| 1-0 | The pitch is taken low for a ball and the runner on first takes off for second! The catcher, playing it safe, won't make a throw and he'll go in standing! |
| 1-1 | The batter drops a surprise bunt but pops it up toward first, the first baseman dashes into foul territory to make a desperation play, he dives....and can't get it! Oh, he was just inches away from ending the inning, what a play it would have been! He takes a valiant tumble onto the turf, picks his cap up, and resumes his position. That's strike two. |
| 0-2 | The pitcher makes a sudden move to first base....but holds onto the ball. The runner over there gets back to the bag unchallenged. Looks like the pitcher just wants him to know a pickoff attempt is a definite possibility. |
| 2-0 | The pitch is low, in the dirt, and it squeaks through the catcher's legs and rolls back toward the backstop! The runner on first takes off on the wild pitch but the runner on third will hold, and it'll be men on second and third with a 3-0 count! The catcher picks the ball up before it gets too far, but some damage is done! |
| 1-2 | The pitch is taken inside for a ball and the runner on first takes off for second! The catcher, playing it safe, won't make a throw and he'll go in standing! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher sends in the changeup of changeups, a slow lob that catches the bottom edge of the strike zone as the surprised batter just watches it! 2 and 2! No way was he expecting something like <i>that!</i> You could read the writing on that ball as it floated in there! |
| 2-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 3-0 | Time is called and the manager comes out of the dugout and walks slowly across the field to take the mound and talk to the pitcher. The catcher trots out to join in and there's a conference. The manager just seems to be going over some things with the pitcher, but then he turns his attention away from him and speaks directly to the catcher....and it looks like the manager's a little bit upset with him for some reason! He's really making some stern points about something, maybe the calling of the pitches, maybe the locations he's asking for....he points a finger at the catcher and walks away, perturbed. My oh my, what was <i>that</i> about? Everyone goes back to their positions and play resumes. That conference turned into more of a lecture for the catcher! |
| 3-1 | The pitch is taken for a strike and the runner on first takes off for second! The catcher jumps up, makes a throw, and the shortstop will catch it and come immediately home with the ball as the man on third is streaking toward the plate! The return throw is on the mark and the catcher tags the runner out sliding head-first into the plate, they got him!! The inning is over on the risky double steal! The runner on third may have broken a little bit too soon, and the shortstop abandoned the tag at second right away and came home with the ball beautifully! Terrific play! |
| 3-2 | The pitcher brings a wicked fast ball right down the middle of the plate—and the batter swings absurdly late on it, having absolutely no chance at that thing! Wow! It absolutely flew past him, a rocket that ends the inning! The runners are left standing at the corners! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The batter turns on the pitch and pulls a line shot deep into the corner—and this one is going to scream over the fence ten rows deep into the bleachers, it's a HOMERUN!! That ball left the park so fast that the outfielder didn't even get to appear in the camera frame, and it went right into the waiting glove of a fan, who speared it without difficulty! If it hadn't cleared the wall, it would probably have taken a huge chunk out of it! My my, three runs score on a laser hit as hard as any ball you're likely to see!

13-14) The ball is stroked into the gap in right center field for a base hit, and it could be more! The center fielder runs over and manages to cut the ball off on two hops, and he spins and makes a wild, off-balance throw toward the general direction of third base, a throw which is so high and so long, carrying the shortstop almost all the way into foul territory up the base line to catch it, that the runner moving from first goes into third standing, safe by a mile, and he almost could have tried to make it home! The batter holds at first, missing an easy opportunity to move up, getting too conservative. The center fielder showed a little desperation there, that throw was a crazy prayer that looked like more of a fly ball than anything else. He had no shot at all of getting anyone out and very nearly let the runner round third and go all the way home. As it is, one run scores!

15-16) There's a hot shot on the ground right at the shortstop, he takes it after a few hops, tosses it to second, and the catch is made there for the force out. That ends the inning!

21-22) The batter pops it up! It's a high, high fly ball that won't get beyond the edge of the infield, the shortstop is calling for it, he drifts closer and closer to second base....the runner there shrinks away....and catching the ball, the shortstop trips over the bag and goes down but holds on! Ouch! He gets up quickly, uninjured if a bit embarrassed. That ends the inning, two runners are stranded.

23-24) The ball is hit hard to first base....and it's inside the line past a diving first baseman! If it gets into the corner both runners are going to score! The right fielder dashes over and cuts it off, but it's plenty deep! Now the runner on first is going to run right through a stop sign at third, he's coming home to try for a second run! The right fielder never sees this and he throws the ball across the field to the shortstop instead of coming toward home plate! The runner is going to score! The shortstop fires to third base, but the batter is going to hold at second with a double! Two men score on the play with the runner on first completely ignoring the stop sign held up frantically by the third base coach, he just never slowed down and his gambit worked! He'll almost certainly get talked to about that one, but you can't exactly argue with the results! ▲

25-26) The ball is hit on the ground right back to the mound....the pitcher desperately locks his knees to try to stop it, and it works, he traps the ball between his thighs! He plucks it from that spot and makes a casual throw over to first for the third out of the inning! Hey, if your glove isn't fast enough, use whatever you've got! Two men are stranded on base!

31-32) The ball is chopped slowly toward the second baseman, he charges in....he chooses to bare-hand the ball instead of gloving it, he makes a nice grab and slings it sidearm to first to beat the runner by two steps! The inning ends with two men stranded! Nice play! It looks like he had the time to get his glove on the ball, but he wasn't having any of that!

33-34) The ball is grounded up the middle, the pitcher reaches a glove out for it but can't get it....the second baseman hustles into the hole and stops it before it can get to the outfield, then makes a desperate short throw to the shortstop covering the base.....and they get the force out! A very close play, but it looks like the umpire made the right call! The inning is over! The runner crossing the plate looks around confused, like he doesn't think a play could possibly have been made on that ball, but he's just going to have to come to grips with the fact that the second baseman was able to do the job.

35-36) The batter pokes the ball into left field, the shortstop jumps but has no shot at it, it's going to be a single! The runner on third comes in to score, and the man on first is going to try to hoof it to third! Here's the throw....it gets there on the fly beautifully and the batter slides head-first right into a waiting glove, he's out! No question about it! A run scores on the play but the inning is over....and the third baseman drops the ball right onto the runner's back, and the runner doesn't appreciate the mockery! He gets to his feet and takes a couple of steps in the third baseman's direction, shouting! The third baseman had already turned to jog toward the dugout and he doesn't even turn back to look, though he obviously hears what the runner is saying! He has to be held back by the third base coach. What the third baseman did was definitely a taunt; he actually lifted his arm a bit to give the ball a nice long drop right onto the runner's back, possibly an ejectionable offense, but the umpire, who was looking right at the play, does nothing. Bad blood is brewing!

41-42) The ball is hit high to right field, it's drifting toward the line, pretty deep....it's headed toward the corner, the right fielder is galloping toward it....he goes down in a slide to try to get it just inside fair territory, and he traps the ball against his chest, hitting the ground hard, and as he skids to a halt on the track the ball rolls up his chest and he locks it down tight underneath his chin for a full two seconds before he can bring one hand up and grip the ball, that's an *out!!* He caught the ball! The inning is over on a miracle catch! He had absolutely no control over the ball at first when he tried to make the catch at; it hit in the heel of his glove and rolled smoothly toward his face, and by pure instinct he tilted his head to trap the ball there like some kind of circus trick! How much luck was involved in that play?? The batter can't believe it and neither can anybody else! Inning over!

43-44) The batter hits a line drive along the first base line, the first baseman does a full-body swan dive....and he catches it for the third out!! The momentum of his dive drives his mitt into first base and the first base coach immediately begins to argue that the ball was actually trapped against the bag and not caught cleanly! The batter joins in the argument as the defense trots off the field, not waiting around to hear the outcome of the dispute! It was a tremendous dive by the fielder, he absolutely laid out as much as his body would let him, and replays show that it looks like a clean catch—the ball was secure in his glove when the mitt smooshed up against the side of first base. The umpire sends the first base coach and the batter away dismissively, and the manager doesn't even bat an eye, disinterested in joining the fray, so the third out is officially recorded! There's one for the highlight reel!

45-46) The ball is chopped weakly down the first base line, the first baseman is going to charge for it, he's got no chance to get the runner at home....he grabs the ball, makes a leaping turn toward first, and uncorks a throw in mid-air to the pitcher covering, it's a wide one-hopper inside the bag and the pitcher makes a terrific stab to field it for the out! He couldn't get his body in front of the ball so he had to just stick his glove out and try to judge the hop while he kept one foot against the side of the base, and the ball went right in! Even prettier was the way the first baseman turned one hundred and eighty degrees to make a desperate throw in the air! The inning ends with fantastic defense!

51-52) The batter hits it hard on the ground down the first base line, the first baseman dives....and he stops the ball! He takes a quarter-roll onto his side and throws the ball from a prone position to the pitcher, the pitcher grabs it, gets his foot down....but not in time! The batter, charging so hard that his helmet was lost halfway up the line, beats the throw and the runner scores from third base! The first baseman made a terrific stop, but his throw from the ground didn't have much on it, the arc was too high, and it enabled the batter to get on with an infield single! Foot speed beats the good defense! Still two outs, and now there are men on first and second!

53-54) The batter hits the ball right up the middle, and it skirts the mound and hops over second base for a single! The runner on third goes home on an easy trot—and the runner moving from first is going to leg it for two bases! The center fielder makes no throw! Runners will be at the corners yet again, and a run scores! The batter looked to be swinging just to make contact, and make contact is exactly what he did, sending it on a perfect slow line into center!

55-56) The batter reaches way outside the strike zone and gets enough wood on the ball to send it to shallow center field. The center fielder runs in and makes the two-handed catch to secure the third out of the inning!

61-62) The ball is lifted into left field down the line, the left fielder chases it, he's going to have to get there quickly....and he makes the running catch as he crosses into foul territory, that's the third out of the inning! It was a dangerous ball but it hung up there just long enough for him to make the play!

63-64) The ball is knocked hard to center field and the center fielder turns to chase it back....and then immediately changes his mind, stopping and coming back in for the ball! He makes an easy catch to end the inning only after an initial mis-read on the ball and a snap decision that kept a disaster from happening! Two runners are stranded!

65-66) The ball fouls the ball back, and this one might stay in play. The catcher runs back to the screen, tracks it, it's going to be close....he reaches his mitt up....and makes a one-handed catch against the screen! But wait, did the ball hit the screen first? He shows the ball to the umpire.....and the umpire makes the signal for an out! That's the third out! This one's going to bring the offense's manager out of the dugout to question the call, he'll claim that the ball hit the backstop first before it got into the mitt. The catcher reached his mitt up well above his head as if he wanted to snag it before it could have a chance to touch the screen....the replay is inconclusive. But consider this: a fan sitting in the seats right in front of the catcher can be seen yelling and pointing at the screen the second he made the catch, and this fan is wearing a jersey representing the catcher's team! Who would be more honest than that? But the manager is going to lose the argument, and the call will be upheld. A disappointing end to the inning, two men are left on base.

Runners on 2nd and 3rd, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitch is way low and outside, and the catcher makes a nice play to block it with his body! It bounces off his chest protector and lands a few feet away, but the runners must hold. |
| 0-1 | There's a pop fly in foul territory beyond third base. The third baseman chases it, the left fielder comes in for it....the shortstop runs out too....who's going to get it....the shortstop lunges out and it falls just beyond his mitt! He couldn't get to it! He had the longest run of all, it would probably have been better for the left fielder to call him off, he had the best shot, and now it's just 0 and 2 to the batter! The coordination between the fielders just wasn't quite perfect, and the batter will get another chance to be a hero! |
| 1-0 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! And now the pitcher and both benches are going to be immediately warned! That may very well have been the result of a little bad blood between the batter and the pitcher, but it's a bit of a risk to load the bases with no one out, so we may never know if that was intentional or not. It certainly looked like it. |
| 1-1 | The pitch comes just inside and it's called a....whoa, it'll be called a ball, the umpire actually started to signal for a strike, lifting his hand just above his waist, and then he stopped, changing his mind! It'll be 2 and 1! Oh, those are the little breaks that don't go your way and will just drive you insane. The pitcher's got to shrug that one off and focus. |
| 0-2 | The catcher calls time out after the pitcher waits a long, long time to throw the ball. He jogs out to the mound for a brief conference. It didn't seem like there was a whole lot of confidence in the pitcher's demeanor after he set to throw it. You wouldn't expect to see that on an 0-2 count, which would normally be somewhat of a waste pitch, so we'll see what they've settled on now. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 1-2 | The pitch is way outside in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep both runners from advancing! The catcher's desperate throw to the pitcher covering is way too late, and the man on third will come home sliding to score! |
| 2-1 | The batter takes a gigantic swing and misses the breaking pitch by about a foot! Wow, if he had caught any part of that ball, we'd be looking for it across the state! 2 and 2! |
| 2-2 | The batter pops the ball foul over near the stands beyond first base....the first baseman runs over toward the dugout, he may not have time to get to the ball, he stabs his glove out at the last second and....makes the catch with the glove skating the corner edge of the dugout! No, wait, the first base umpire is waving it off, he's saying that the ball grazed the dugout's edge before caroming off into the mitt! It's almost impossible to see on replay, but it seems plausible that the first baseman caught the ball a split second after it touched the roof of the dugout! Foul ball! The manager comes out to talk to the umpire about it, but it's not going to do any good. He returns to the bench, miffed but still needing that first out! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher throws one well high and outside, pretty much an intentional ball, giving in to the batter, who watches it drift past. He then trots off to first base. That might have been the smartest play, as the pitcher was becoming a little flustered and now he gets a new set of balls and strikes to work with. |
| 3-1 | The batter swings and hits a fly ball toward the left field corner, fairly shallow, the left fielder should have a play on it, he runs into foul territory....and slips and falls about twenty feet short of the ball! It drops harmlessly for a foul! His right foot just went out from under him and he went down hard! Embarrassing! The count will go full! He's unhurt, and walks back to his position with his head down, frustrated. |
| 3-2 | The batter takes a huge cut and knocks the ball foul straight back as he loses his balance and steps on home plate. Oh, that was a homerun cut and nothing else! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is skied into center field, very high, and it looks deep enough to probably score a run....the center fielder takes a couple of steps toward the plate, makes the catch, and he'll try to throw the runner out at home! Here's the throw....oh, it sails way over the catcher's head, completely wild! The runner on third scores easily, and the ball hits the backstop, enabling the runner moving from second to round third and charge home! The catcher's throw to the pitcher covering the plate is....well wide, almost as wild as the center fielder's throw was! The runner scores sliding! It's the second baseman who finally picks the ball up, pocketing it as two runs light the scoreboard! Two errors will be charged on the defensive breakdown, one to the center fielder and one to the catcher for failing to make a good play which might possibly have gotten the runner! Both throws were rushed and ill-advised!

13-14) The ball is laced into left field for a hard single that falls just a few feet in front of the left fielder! He doesn't even have a chance to move on it, he fields it on one hop and throws it quickly toward third base! One man will score and the other holds at third on a frozen rope single!

15-16) The batter, suddenly showing bunt, lays one down as the third baseman charges in, and the batter pops it up over his head....and past him! The third baseman leaps but can't get a mitt on the ball, and the shortstop has to chase it, trying to get a glove on it before it gets beyond the infield dirt, but he won't be able to get to it! There's just enough momentum on the ball for it to trickle into the outfield, two runners are going to score, and by the time the shortstop finally gets to the ball right in front of the charging left fielder, the batter is halfway to second! The throw there is....high, the second baseman has to jump just to stop it from getting past him and the batter slides in with a bunt DOUBLE that plates two! What are the odds?! The pitcher came in with some heat and the batter's bunt was actually a poor one, but he got so much wood on it that it sailed just over the third baseman and caused all kinds of trouble! Wow!

21-22) There's a deep fly to left field, this one looks mighty strong, the left fielder runs back, he's going to have a play at the wall, he leaps....*and it's off the top of his mitt! It's gone! HOMERUN!* It bounces off the edge of the webbing of his glove and gets out of here, that's a three run blast! Oh, the pain! The center fielder comes over to counsel the left fielder as the batter rounds the bases enthusiastically! It looked like he got just enough leather on the ball to stop its flight for a half second or so, but the shot had a little too much momentum and in the end it fell lazily beyond the fence. So close! You certainly can't give him any kind of error on that one, it just wasn't to be!

23-24) The batter knocks the ball right back through the mound, the pitcher stabs at it between his legs but it's going into center field to score a run! The center fielder charges hard to get to the ball but it's a slow roller, he finally picks it up and sends a screaming throw toward home plate to try to nab the runner coming in from second! It's a one-hopper, the catcher takes it, turns—and the runner puts his arms up in front of him and connects with the catcher's mitt, knocking the ball free! He steps on home plate with the second run and the ball rolls deep into foul territory, it's going to go all the way to the backstop before the catcher finally tracks it down, and by that time the batter has gone all the way to third base sliding! Credit the runner on second with going into the catcher's mitt hard with his forearms, meaning only to brace himself for the blow but luckily knocking the ball so far away that the batter had no problem getting all the way to third on the single! Two runs score! Nice call by the umpire there to allow the run, judging that the ball-jostling was not intentional but instead the natural motion of a runner about to collide with the catcher in front of him.

25-26) The batter lines the ball into right field, it's sinking fast....the right fielder makes the play as he charges in, making a nice low one-handed grab—and the runner from third is actually going to try to make it home! He tags up and the right fielder hurls the ball on the run toward the plate, and the throw is actually too strong; the catcher has to jump for it to make the catch, and the runner slides in and scores! Now they've got the runner on second dead to rights; he's hung up between second and third after unwisely making a move toward advancing. The catcher throws to the third baseman, who relays it to the second baseman, who puts down the tag for the out....no, wait, the umpire says he missed the runner! The throw got there in time and the tag was put down, but it looked like the second baseman slapped the bag instead of the runner's shoulder! The replay pretty much supports this conclusion, and the offense is still in business with a runner on second base! Boy, that was a dangerous advance by the runner on third, who did have the full support of his coach out there. Meanwhile, the other runner's fairly pointless fake toward third should have cost him an out but didn't. One down and one in!

31-32) The batter hits a floater into left center field, the center fielder is coming on strong, he might not make it there, the runners tense on their bases.....and he makes a running one-handed basket catch for the first out of the inning, no one can move up! Nice play!

33-34) The ball is popped up to left field, and this one doesn't have the distance to give anyone a chance to move up. The left fielder comes in ten steps, stands under it....and makes the easy grab, one down.

35-36) The batter takes a wild swing for the fences and tops it but sends it with enough force to squeeze through the right side of the infield between the second baseman and the bag, it's a single! The runner on third will score, and the runner on second will score as well! The center fielder can only toss the ball into the infield, it's a two run single! The batter obviously wanted to send that pitch over the fence, he really over-swung and didn't get too much of the ball, but his force was sufficient enough to plate two runners!

41-42) The ball is knocked on two hops right at the third baseman, he'll take it and come home with it....the catcher puts the tag down as the runner slides in feet-first and they got him by a step! One down! That was about as easy as it gets for the defense! Now it's runners at the corners with one out. The runner moving from third just plain underestimated either the speed of that grounder or the third baseman's arm. The throw was a little high but straight and the job got done.

43-44) The batter beats it into the ground and it's a hard bouncer toward first....the first baseman grabs it, and the runners won't be able to move up! He looks the runner on third back before retreating toward the bag and getting there just a step or so before the batter does. The batter's hustling required the first baseman to give him a lot of attention, and that in turn almost let the runner on third sneak home, but it wasn't to be. One down.

45-46) It's a high, lazy fly toward right field, it might be deep enough to move both runners....the right fielder backpedals, backpedals some more.....he makes the grab and he's going to concede the run at home and make his throw toward third base, but it's going to be short and well late, and the batter has done his job. A run scores and the man on second goes into third standing! ▲

51-52) The batter swings and knocks it straight down into the dirt....he thinks it's foul and just stands there for a moment, but the umpire rules it a fair ball and now he takes off, and the runner on third is going to get caught between the bases! He can't go forward but he's gone too far down the third base line to get back, and we'll have a rundown! The catcher throws it to the third baseman, who checks the runner on second base to make sure he doesn't try to go forward....the third baseman throws it back to the catcher....then back to the third baseman, and the runner gives up, standing pretty much still to accept the tag. One out, and the runner on second stays where he is while the batter crosses first unchallenged. That ball was clearly fair, striking the ground about two inches in front of home plate, and the runner on third, moving on contact, was a goner from the beginning.

53-54) The ball is shot past a spinning pitcher toward center field, but the shortstop is playing in the gap and with two steps to his left he's able to reach up and take the ball out of the air, it's a harmless line drive out instead of a single! He was positioned just right, and there's one down! The runner on second didn't even have a chance to step off the bag, that ball was hit so hard!

55-56) There's a high chopper toward the shortstop, he's in on the ball, makes the grab, then fires home....not nearly in time there for the catcher to make a tag on the runner sliding in, so he in turn throws to first in the hope of getting at least one out....and the throw beats the runner by a step, nice play to get one! The run scores and there are runners at the corners with one away. The shortstop seemed to know he had plenty of time to come home with a desperation throw and still get the runner on first out.

61-62) The ball is slammed into the ground, it takes one long, high hop toward third, the third baseman comes in, spears it with his bare hand when it finally comes down, and having no play at the plate, immediately throws across his body all the way across the diamond....and gets his man! Great play! That'll score a run and the runner on second will go to third! ▲

63-64) The ball is lined hard on the ground to the first baseman, he's right in front of it to make the play, he sends the ball home, and the tag is....in time, the runner on third is out coming home! The catcher was a little out of position, standing too far away from the plate, so he had to make a very wide, sweeping tag, and he just did get the runner on the back as he slid in feet-first! The batter goes into first on the fielder's choice and the man on second moves over to third. Runners at the corners with one out!

65-66) The batter slams a high chopper toward third....the third baseman, playing in, has to lunge to his left to snare it, and he just does get it in the heel of his glove, but the play puts him off balance and turns his body away from home plate....fortunately right into the path of the runner going toward third from second! The third baseman looks up to see him right there and he sticks his glove out to make the easy tag! The ball holds fast in the heel of his glove, partially visible, and the umpire calls the sliding runner out! So the defense gets one down but the runner scores easily and the batter is safe at first. The third baseman would have had a play at the plate, but his lunge to get the ball required him to lose sight of home and cost him his balance. ▲

Runners on 2nd and 3rd, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|---|
| first pitch | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher serves up a strike right down the middle but it doesn't count. He shakes his head bitterly, not liking that late time out call. |
| 0-1 | The pitch is in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep both runners from advancing! The man on third will come home to score sliding, the throw to the pitcher covering is way too late! |
| 1-0 | The pitch hits the batter square on the rear end, he takes first! Total loss of control on that one! |
| 1-1 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward third base, but the runner gets back just in time! |
| 0-2 | The batter is hit in the side by the pitch and takes first! Oh, a great advantage in the count is lost when the pitcher tries to come inside! |
| 2-0 | The pitcher throws one well high and outside, pretty much an intentional ball, he gives in to the batter. Then, on 3 and 0, another junk pitch is thrown well outside, the man takes first. It won't be credited as an intentional pass, but it pretty much was. |
| 1-2 | The 1-2 pitch sails up and in and the batter hits the deck! It narrowly misses him and he has to get up, brush himself off, and gets back into the box, the count is 2 and 2! The replay shows that the batter was about an inch from getting hit right in the face! Ouch! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher rears back, throws a hard fast ball....and it hits the batter in the foot! He walks gingerly toward first base. By the time he's there, he's walking normally again. The bases are juiced! |
| 2-2 | Oof, the pitch comes inside and gets the batter on the knee! He takes a moment to walk it off. The trainer comes out and takes a look, but the batter is okay. The bases are loaded! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher throws a very soft fast ball right down the middle of the plate and the batter takes it for strike one. Whoa, he had every right to take one down the middle, but he's probably kicking himself for taking from the very beginning of the windup; that pitch was an absolute melon, ideal for serving into the bleachers. |
| 3-1 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fakes a throw toward third....then pivots and fakes another throw toward second! The runners hustle back, and the pitcher will reset. Just a warning from the pitcher there, putting them on notice that he's keeping an eye on their leads off the bag. |
| 3-2 | The pitcher shakes off sign after sign on 3 and 2 and the catcher finally has to come out to the mound to talk to him. The pitcher nods in the affirmative and the catcher returns to the plate. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The batter reaches way down to golf the pitch, and he gets enough wood on it to send it screaming toward the second baseman, who simply stands there and catches the line drive with ease! Two away!

13-14) The ball is hit high and fairly deep to right center field, and the runners on second and third set themselves to tag up and advance....now the center fielder is coming over, and there's a soft collision and the ball falls between the outfielders!! Oh no, both runners are going to score! There's a moment of total confusion in which the outfielders both try to grab the ball off the ground at the same time, and that's going to cost them another precious second! The center fielder picks the ball up and fires it back into the infield, way too late to keep the runner from chugging into second with a freak double! Oh, that ball seemed to be pretty clearly the right fielder's play—he had to range over toward center but it was a pretty cut and dried fly out that the center fielder got in the way of! It looked like he just didn't hear the right fielder calling for it! But wait—upon replay, it almost looks as if the right fielder lost the ball in the sky at the very end; he can be seen on the videotape mouthing something and he wasn't holding his arm up with any sort of authority, so maybe the center fielder was forced to make a play after all and the whole thing fell apart! Two runs score, it's ruled a double, and that is some awful, awful luck!

15-16) The pitch is waved off, the umpire is calling a balk! That's going to bring a run home! A balk is called and the pitcher is baffled! The manager comes out on the top step, ready to charge out there to find out just why that was called, but now the third base umpire has trotted toward home and he's saying something to the home plate umpire. The manager now stalks onto the diamond to join the discussion and says nothing for a moment, just listens as the two umps exchange views on the play. The pitcher stands there, disbelieving. It didn't look like he did anything wrong, though the home plate umpire may be claiming that he didn't set fully before he delivered the ball....and now he's waving the balk off! The third base umpire goes back to position and the runners are being sent back! The runner who came across and touched home plate stands there with his arms spread as the other manager comes running out of the dugout, incensed. The call has been overturned! The home plate umpire doesn't wait for the angry manager to start yelling; he goes right up to him and starts to explain what happened. Right away the manager shakes his head again and again, upset. The umpire delivers his message, turns, and walks back to the plate. The manager can do nothing and slowly, slowly returns to the dugout. Looks like it was just a bad call rightfully overturned by the third base ump, who wasn't afraid to jump in there and set things straight. So there's no pitch at all, and everyone will get set again. Strange play!

21-22) The ball is driven into right field toward the corner, the right fielder runs back for it but he won't be able to get to it, it's in there for what will probably be a long single! Both runners are going to score on this one! The right fielder manages to cut the ball off before it can get beyond him and he makes a nice throw in to second base to hold the runner to a single, but the damage is done and two runs come home!

23-24) The batter pops it up! It sails back toward the screen, a high, dreary foul that the catcher will have all kinds of time and room to get under. He makes the catch for the second out of the inning, and the runners hold their positions.

25-26) The pitch shatters the bat and the ball is lofted weakly over second base; the shortstop was playing in the hole and he runs over into the outfield to grab it, two down! If it had had a little more on it, it would have dropped in for a single, but no dice!

31-32) The batter swats the pitch deep into left field, it's very high, and it's very long too, it's carrying, carrying....the left fielder goes back, back....he's at the wall, is he going to have a play?....Is the ball ever going to come *down*?...No! .IT'S GONE! It's gone, ten feet beyond the wall, a high, arcing shot that went deeper than it first looked! It's a three run homerun! The batter connected and got every piece of the pitch, launching it way up into the atmosphere, where it took its sweet time coming back down, and when it finally did, it had three runs written all over it! Wow! The batter points toward the sky as he makes his way around the bases!

33-34) The ball is grounded hard toward the shortstop, he's up with it....and the runner on third is caught off the base, unable to go home and having to dive back into the bag, but the shortstop wastes no time in throwing to the third baseman and he slaps the tag down on the runner's hand, *he's out!* The runner was moving on contact and he realized he wasn't going to make it home so he turned and tried to get back, hoping the shortstop would just go to first with the ball, but that didn't happen. Two down and now there are runners at first and second!

35-36) The batter makes solid contact and this fly ball's probably going to score a run, it's fairly deep to center field, though the center fielder seems to be setting himself to make a throw home....he catches the ball and here it comes! The runner on third didn't get an especially good jump and the throw's a good one, it could be close....it's a little toward the first base side but the catcher grabs it on one hop, sweeps his arm over the plate.... and the batter's foot gets there first on the slide! He's safe! He gets to his feet clapping and makes a very pointed comment to the catcher....and the catcher throws a punch at him! The runner flinches back and the punch misses and the umpire steps between them, separating them as they jaw at each other, and now the pitcher drags the catcher away! The third baseman takes the ball from the catcher to make sure the runner who moved from second to third on the throw doesn't get any ideas, and then the umpire wastes no more time, tossing the catcher out of the game....and now he turns and makes the same motion to the runner, who stands there with his arms spread, playing the victim! They're both gone! Whatever the runner said to the catcher, it must have been mighty nasty; it both drew a failed punch and got him tossed! A run has scored and there are two down as the ejected players march toward their respective dugouts. The catcher seems to have no problem with his ejection, as if he could possibly have expected any other result. He takes off his mask and chest protector, drops them quietly, and marches right into the tunnel. Meanwhile, the runner is taking his time heading off, still talking at someone; it looks like the third baseman had a few words for him. Now the umpire has to come forward again and he again points off the field as if to tell him to hurry up and leave the diamond. His manager comes out to escort him off. My my, where did that bad blood suddenly come from?

41-42) The ball is stroked to center field for a base hit! The center fielder doesn't even have to move, he fields the ball on one long hop and comes up firing to the cutoff man, there's going to be a play at the plate as the runner moving from second is going to try to score! The shortstop fields the throw, turns to make the relay home....it's right on target, the catcher sets in time, cutting off the runner's line....and the runner tries to leap over the catcher in an attempt to make it to the plate! He comes down hard but his effort is to no avail, the catcher holds on to the ball, the runner is tagged out, and his legs come down right on the catcher's neck as they both fall into the dirt! The batter is rounding second and he's going to hold there; the catcher gets up too late to make a throw. It goes down as a single and an out at home, that's two in the inning! The runner's acrobatic maneuver to make it home fell well short; if the runner hoped to leap all the way over the catcher, he was dreaming. The catcher crouched as the runner leapt and at the end took a rough shot to the neck, but he's okay.

43-44) The ball is hit hard on the ground right at the second baseman, he picks it up, throws home to get the runner moving from third....oh, the throw is short and wide, one-hopped to the catcher, he has to come well off home plate to pick it up, and he fires to first to try to get at least the batter out....his throw is high, but the first baseman stretches upwards and grabs it, did they get the batter out? The umpire says yes! Out by half a step! The batter doesn't like the call, but he does get a run home and the man on second moves to third. The second baseman made a bad throw, but it had so much on it, one-hopped or not, that the catcher, whose body upon taking the throw was at a perfect angle to go to first, alertly got one out. The batter wasn't running as hard as he normally would have, knowing the second baseman was going home with it. Expecting a tag play at the plate, the batter took his time, not quite dogging it, but not quite going at full speed. Two away.

45-46) The ball is hit on the ground right up the middle....and it's off the pitcher's plant foot! It ricochets off toward the third base line, and nobody's going to have a play on it! The third baseman picks it up, but everyone moves up with no problem and a run scores! Infield single! It was actually hit hard enough to probably go right through the infield and score two, but the pitcher's foot got in the way and the defense shouldn't be too crushed, there was nothing to be done, once it came off the foot it was a dead roller. Still one out, and men on first and third now!

51-52) The batter knocks the ball back to the pitcher's mound! He's got it on one easy hop, looks the runner on third back, and throws over to first for out number two. Oh, that's a huge play, now the pitcher is just one away from getting out of this mess.

53-54) The ball is hit right at the shortstop, he takes it and comes right home with the throw....but the runner on third stops at the last possible second and now charges back for the bag....the catcher takes the ball and starts to throw over there but now stops, seeing he won't be able to get him, and instead turns toward second, where the runner moving between second and third has committed too far forward and is caught off the base! The catcher throws a high bullet to the second baseman, who whips the tag down on the runner's hand as he goes into a clumsy stumbling dive back to the bag....and gets the out call! Two away! That was a case of two runners moving with the pitch, one of which had the alertness to dash back when he saw he was going to get gunned down at home, while the other started going for third on the throw to the catcher, not realizing the man on third was headed back! As soon as the charge home was aborted, he was a dead man. So now it's runners at the corners, two down!

55-56) The batter fouls the ball straight back and it catches the umpire under his mask, ouch! He steps away from the plate and sinks to one knee, shaken up. That really hurt. The home team's trainer runs out to take a look at him, but the umpire gets up quickly, takes his mask off, puts it on again, and gets back into position, getting a nice little hand from the crowd. He settles in and signals that it's okay for the pitcher to start again. The pitcher looks in....here's the windup, the throw....*the runner on third is stealing home!* The pitch is high for a ball, and the catcher sweeps a tag down across the plate....it isn't in time, the runner is safe with a head-first dive!! Meanwhile, the runner on second is going to third, where he'll go in standing! The man on third got one of the great all-time jumps off the base, his lead was already a big one and he took off at full speed at the slightest flinch of the pitcher's foot. The pitcher wound up normally, choosing not to go from the stretch, and the high pitch brought the catcher's glove away from the base just enough to make it a slightly difficult tag. The batter was a little slow getting out of the way of the whole thing, trying to create whatever small visual obstruction for the catcher that he could, and finally the runner left his feet diving almost a yard sooner than normal, really stretching out and giving up his body. All the little parts of that play worked together just enough to let the runner come home! You have to wonder as well if someone didn't make a correct guess that the pitch would be a changeup, a full ten miles per hour slower than normal. The scoring runner claps his hands and gets plenty of backslaps in the dugout for his gutsy play, done with the obvious full approval of the third base coach.

61-62) The ball is popped into right field, it should be a can of corn for the right fielder, and it doesn't look deep enough to score anybody....oh, it's off the top of his mitt, he botches the play and the ball pops out, he lashes his arm out to grab at the ball, bobbles it there, bobbles it AGAIN—and finally makes the play! But the runner on third is already two-thirds of the way down the base line and he's completely baffled as to what's happened, having tagged and taken off as soon as the right fielder touched the ball! The defense is screaming to have the ball thrown to third base, and the second baseman, having taken the throw from the right fielder, hears this and lobs it over there. The runner on third just stands there, knowing he's doomed, and he's called out for having left the bag too early! It's a double play, and the inning is amazingly over! It didn't look like the runner had much of a clue what was going on until he got almost all the way home and looked up to see the right fielder tossing the ball in as the third base coach yelled 'Go back, go back!' On the replay you can see the coach throw his arms up when he realizes the right fielder was in the middle of his adventure with the ball, but his runner was long gone by then. What a bad break for the offense!

63-64) The ball is hit on the ground down the third base line, the runner there takes off, the third baseman cuts the ball off after three bounces, looks home as he stands on the foul line....and instead turns and goes to first with the ball, making a hard, on-target throw for the second out. The man on third scores and the other runner advances from second! It looks on the replay like the third baseman changed his mind about throwing home with the ball when he saw that he had a bad angle to the plate; standing right on the foul line, his throwing line was essentially blocked by the runner. So he quickly went to first, conceding the run, and just barely did get the second out. Two down, one in! ▲

65-66) The ball is tapped weakly up the first base line, the first baseman has to come in a long way for it, it's already too late for a play at the plate, he bare-hands the ball, turns....and makes a diving lunge toward the batter as he passes, connecting with the bare-handed tag, getting the batter on the hip before falling hard to the ground! He didn't even look to see if the pitcher was covering the base, he just did all the work himself on that one, making a risky lunge that just barely paid off! The runner on third scores and the man on second moves up to third, two away! ▲

Runners on 2nd and 3rd, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|--|
| first pitch | The pitcher delivers a strike on the inside edge of the plate, but the catcher can't hold onto it! It goes off his mitt and he chases it, but he'll have no play to stop the runners advancing! The runner on third base scores standing! Passed ball! |
| 0-1 | The pitch is way up and in, the catcher has to get to his feet to make the grab. The pitcher just overthrew that one. He doesn't look comfortable. |
| 1-0 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 1-1 | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! |
| 0-2 | The pitcher fires to third base to try to catch the runner leaning, and the throw is in the dirt! It scoots away from the third baseman, who dashes ten feet into foul territory to pick it up! The runner on third holds, but then the third baseman throws the ball to second, where the runner there instinctively started going to third when he saw the throw was bad, and he just barely dives back into the bag to avoid getting tagged for the third out of the inning! Everybody's safe! No error will be charged to the pitcher. |
| 2-0 | The batter swings and rips it behind third base...oh, it hits the man in the on-deck circle in the hands after one bounce! The ball came at him so fast that he had no chance to react! He drops his bat and sinks to one knee, in obvious pain! The trainer and his manager come out to take a look at him. After a full couple of minutes, they make a decision to take the player out of the game. He can't go on and will have to be replaced! A freak injury! Meanwhile, the count is 2 and 1 on the batter! |
| 1-2 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 2-1 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 2-2 | The pitcher bounces one off the plate and the catcher makes a nice snag of it. Ball three. |
| 3-0 | The pitcher commits a balk! The runners advance! He can't believe it! He stomps off the mound in disbelief! Now his manager trots out onto the field, because he wants to have a few words about that call! He begins to speak to the umpire with some measure of reserve, but the pitcher has none at all, he shouts several things at the ump and he'd better watch himself....and now he's ejected from the game! The umpire steps away from the manager and gestures broadly for the pitcher to go back to the locker room! The pitcher walks away, completely disgusted! A relief pitcher will have to come in! The manager finishes making his case and then signals for a new thrower. Oh, frustration! |
| 3-1 | The pitch is way up and in, the catcher has to get to his feet to grab ball four....but then he fires to third base and <i>nails the runner leaning off third!</i> He got him! It's charged as a walk but the man on third got complacent and didn't think the catcher would throw over there! It was a great play to even stop that ball from sailing behind to the backstop, and then the catcher made another gem by hurling it to third to get the runner trying to slide back in! The inning is over! |
| 3-2 | The batter turns quickly on the pitch and pulls a line shot foul into the seats behind the dugout, look out! A fan leans out of the way just in time to avoid getting hit! That one would have been a punisher, a close call! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is shot on the ground right at the shortstop, this is going to end the inning! He sets....takes his sweet time....and finally he releases the ball toward first, getting the batter out by just a step after standing there with the ball for an agonizing second in which it seemed like he considering just watching the batter get all the way to first! He knows his arm better than anyone and knew just when to release it, and that's three outs!

13-14) The ball is grounded toward the hole between second and first, the second baseman cuts the ball off by going down in a gentle feet-first slide and gloving it, and then he pops up, fires to first, and gets his man, the inning is over! Oh, he made that look like the easiest play in the world, making it all happen in one fluid motion to get the batter out by two full steps! Two runners are stranded!

15-16) The batter jumps all over the pitch and pulls a line shot over the bag and toward the corner! The outfielder won't be able to get to it and it's going to roll all the way to the wall! This one's going to be an easy double, two runs will score—and the batter's not going to settle for two bases! The throw finally comes into the shortstop, he takes it, turns, and he won't even make a throw toward third, it's going to be a stand-up triple for the hustling batter! He hit an absolute rocket shot which took just enough of an awkward carom in the corner to make the outfielder pick it up after two bounces instead of one, and with sheer hustle and verve he took third standing, never having slowed for a second! Two runs are in!

21-22) The batter knocks a bounding ball up the middle for a single into center field, and this one will score both runners with ease! The center fielder collects the ball and considers for a moment coming home with it, but the trailing runner was moving so swiftly that he was right on the heels of the runner coming home from third! The lead runner jogged so slowly that he was nearly overtaken on the base path! Two runs go up on the board on the single!

23-24) The batter hits it on the ground toward third and the third baseman has to field it on an awkward short hop, merely stunning the ball and leaving it dead in the dirt for a second instead of getting it all the way into the mitt, and now he has to pick it up quickly, throw to third in a hurry....and he gets the runner by a step! The inning is over! He just slightly misplayed that one, he should have either come in on the ball or backed up to allow for a better hop, but he didn't have much time to think and as a result he could only trap the ball between his glove and the ground. His throw, though, was a beauty and the threat ends with two men left on base!

25-26) The batter swings on an inside pitch and he pulls a high fly ball toward the corner, this one's way deep and if it's fair he's going to round the bases, way back, WAY back....and GONE! Into the upper deck, just inside the foul pole, it's a three run blast! The batter finally leaves the box, he just stood there and watched like everyone else in the stadium, not knowing whether it had enough pop to stay fair, and now he can take his sweet time touching all the bases! He jumped on that one, crushed it, and it didn't hook very much! A huge, huge blast!

31-32) The pitcher comes inside, jamming the batter on the hands, he swings....and gets enough of the ball to punch it over the infield into center! Oh, that's going to score two runs! The center fielder comes up with the ball quickly, and he'll try to throw home....the throw is well off target, several yards up the third base line, it's a single good for two RBI! It's a wonder the batter got any bat on that pitch at all, it almost hit him on the hands, but he had committed to swinging and he did his job! He remains at first on the throw home.

33-34) The batter swings and delivers a shot on the ground toward first, the first baseman turns quickly toward the line and sees the ball into his glove on two bounces, trapping the ball close to his body just to hang onto it. He turns and throws to the pitcher covering the bag....the throw is high, striking the pitcher's glove and then going skyward, falling harmlessly to the infield dirt as the pitcher spins in an attempt to recover it before it descends! The runner on third will score, and the man on second will go to third on the error! It looks like the pitcher took his eye off the ball as he brought his foot to the bag; the throw from the first baseman was high, but certainly not so high that it couldn't have been caught with a little more care....and it will be the first baseman who will get charged with the error, even after making the nice stop on the hard grounder. Maybe he didn't inspire any confidence in the official scorer when he hugged the ball to his side, looking like he was about to lose it. Still two outs, this inning should have been over!

35-36) There's a line drive into the gap in left field, the left fielder gallops after it toward center but it's falling fast....and he reaches down and catches the ball right on his shoestrings, scooping his glove under it as he runs at top speed, ending the inning with no further damage! A terrific play! He got after that ball with absolutely no hesitation and it was a mighty good thing; if he had been just a half-step slow, two runs would have scored!

41-42) The ball is tapped toward first but it won't get anywhere close to the bag....the pitcher is the only one who can make the play, and he reaches out and makes a two-handed basket snag on the high chopper, then cuts off the runner's path to first, holding his mitt up to make the tag....and the batter runs into him at full speed! The pitcher goes down and then the batter goes down too, but the pitcher manages to hang onto the ball, he gets the out! The last thing he was expecting was for the batter to keep going with maximum velocity when he had no chance to get past the pitcher, but that's just what the batter did, in fact even turning on full burners when the pitcher stood on the line! The pitcher gets up slowly, and the batter follows suit, having gone four or five more steps after the collision and then finally losing what was left of his balance. There's nothing illegal against what he did, he had every right to keep charging down the line, and he was under no obligation to make any sort of evasive move. Instead of accepting the out, he decided to take a piece of the pitcher with him, being very careful not to raise his arms unnaturally and make it look like he was throwing a punch. He's not going to get a reaction from the pitcher, who merely jogs off the field, but retaliation may be in the future for that unnecessary contact!

43-44) The ball is hit like a rocket toward left field, and the left fielder won't even have time to chase it, he can only turn as it sails over his head and hits the upper part of the wall on the fly! Two runs are going to score, and the only question will be if a play can be made at second base! The left fielder turns and makes a heroic throw that hangs up a little too long and by the time the shortstop catches it the batter has slid in with a two-out, two-run double! He asks for a time out, just barely hanging onto the bag with his right hand, having over-slid, and he is granted it! He gets to his feet, the right side of his body completely covered in well-earned dirt! What a shot he delivered on a high pitch!

45-46) The ball is smacked to straightaway center field and deep, it's carrying, carrying....the center fielder is back on the track, he backs up to the wall, puts a hand against it....and the ball comes down in his mitt, ending the inning! The batter couldn't quite muscle it deep enough, hitting it to the deepest part of the park, but he comes away empty and two men are left on! The pitcher is seen breathing a visible sigh of relief—that was not at all a bad pitch; the batter just took it for a long ride.

51-52) The batter chases a low pitch and he hits it on the ground toward short. He was really fooled by that one, reaching out desperately, and the shortstop throws him out easily, the inning ends! That was a great pitch that broke about two feet, just what the doctor ordered to end the jam!

53-54) There's a high chopper toward third, really hit into the grass hard, the third baseman takes the ball on the third bounce, the only play will be at first and he sends a desperate throw over there....it's late, the batter beats it out for an infield single and a run scores! There was simply too much elevation on the bounces, and too good a jump off third by the runner, he was on his way on the swing, leaving the third baseman no chance but to turn and make a long throw on a hustling batter!

55-56) The batter delivers a shot deep to center field, the center fielder backs up, it looks like it'll hang up there....and the catch is made just shy of the track! The inning is over!

61-62) The batter hits it hard on the ground up the first base line, and the first baseman turns to the line and backhands it beautifully on two bounces! He trots to the bag and he'll step on it for the third out of the inning, having cut off a potential extra base hit with some excellent glove work! Two men are left on and the pitcher walks off the mound quickly, as if he's afraid someone might tell him they're adding an extra out to the frame.

63-64) The batter gets all of the pitch and it's driven deep to left field, it looks like it'll get to at least the track....and that's where the ball will die, the left fielder makes the catch and the inning is over!

65-66) There's a high chopper that gets to the third baseman on a single hop! He'll have plenty of time to throw the runner out at first, he sets, hurls it....whoa, it's wide right and it pulls the first baseman off the bag, but he twirls around and slaps the batter on the back with his glove and the umpire calls him out with a flourish, obviously impressed with the heads-up play! It looked like the third baseman had so much time to make the throw that he got out of his rhythm, holding onto the ball a full second longer than he should have, and he added a little too much finesse to it, but the first baseman made the undisputed play. Usually on something like that you'd see at least a half-hearted protest, but you could hear the slap of the glove against the runner's back all the way in the bleachers, he really whipped his arm around hard. The inning ends with a near-error and two men are left on base!

Bases Loaded, 0 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|--------------------|---|
| first pitch | The curve is in there for a strike, but the ball spins out of the catcher's mitt and off to one side, he takes off his mask, runs for it, picks it up, and the runners retreat to their bases! Almost a disaster! |
| 0-1 | The batter pops the ball foul out beyond first base, the first baseman backpedals, then turns, running into the foul territory in shallow right while the right fielder jogs in too....the first baseman reaches up and has to make a wild stab at the ball, and it's off the tip of his glove....but the right fielder swats his mitt at the deflection and almost catches it himself, but in the end is unable to make a play! The ball came right at him off the first baseman's glove but he wasn't prepared for the carom and just got a little leather on it! Tough play, and it'll just go down as a strike! |
| 1-0 | The batter fouls the pitch straight back, and that one nearly leaves the stadium! It lands two rows from the top of the upper deck behind home plate, a sign that the pitcher put some serious heat on that pitch. |
| 1-1 | The batter calls for a time out as the pitcher starts his windup, and it's not given! The pitch comes in for a strike, and the batter is upset! He claims he called time out, but the umpire says it was late, and it was! Strike two! The batter will hold his tongue, not wanting to get booted, and he doesn't really have any right to be angry about that one. |
| 0-2 | The pitch is in the dirt and it bounces away from the catcher, who scrambles after it but won't be able to get to it in time to keep all the runners from advancing! The man on third will come home to score sliding, the throw to the pitcher covering is way too late! |
| 2-0 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 1-2 | There's a high drive pretty deep into the left field corner, it's going to be a close call, the left fielder runs over, slides....and he can't come up with the ball, but the attempt is made in foul territory and it's out of play! It looks like he got very conscious of how close the wall was and slid a little too soon, short-arming the ball! Can't blame him, that wall was coming up fast! |
| 2-1 | The pitcher winds up, and then delivers a very late throw to third base to try to pick off the runner, and he'll be called for a very obvious balk! Even he knows he waited too long! Everyone will advance and a runner comes home! A great job by the runner on third during the previous pitches to take big leads and keep moving around as if a squeeze was being put on, unsettling the pitcher and tempting him to throw over there! A huge mistake! |
| 2-2 | The batter is hit on the elbow by the pitch and takes first base! The runners advance! The pitcher hangs his head, hating himself! The catcher set up inside and the pitch was pretty much on target, but that target was just a little too dangerous! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 3-1 | The catcher calls time out after the pitcher waits a long, long time to throw the ball. He jogs out to the mound for a brief conference. It didn't seem like there was a whole lot of confidence in the pitcher's demeanor after he set to throw it. |
| 3-2 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is hit hard to the right side, through the hole on one bounce, it's a single! This one might score two runs! The right fielder was charging from the get-go and he comes up with the ball cleanly....he's coming home with the ball! The runner moving from second rounds third, here's the throw....it's perfectly on target, caught on the fly! The catcher tags the runner out as he begins his slide, then turns and fires to second to try to nail the batter going for two...his throw is a beautiful one, exactly where it needs to be so that the second baseman needs only to catch it and slap his glove down right on the batter's left foot as he slides in, *it's a double play!* A run scores, but you will not see a more bang-bang double play than that involving an outfielder, ever! Flawlessly executed! Two perfect throws and two men are out! The runner on first moves to third, and now he's all alone on the base paths!

13-14) The batter swings and hits the ball hard on the ground past a reaching third baseman and down the left field line, headed into foul territory! One run will score, two runs will score....and the ball is snagged off the grass by a fan leaning way over into the outfield, it's going to be ruled a ground rule double! The left fielder stops and the umpire holds up his hands to stop the runner on first, not that he had much of a chance to score on the play anyway. The fan gets a souvenir and the batter goes into second, having plated two with the hit! Men on second and third and still nobody out!

15-16) The ball is hit on the ground toward the shortstop, and he's coming home with the ball! He picks the ball up after two hops and throws! It's in time, the catcher gets the first out, turns to first....and the runner moving from third disrupts the play with a hard slide across the plate, jostling the catcher's legs and keeping him from making a throw! The catcher loses his balance and has to struggle hold onto the ball! It was probably too late to turn a double play anyway, but the runner did an excellent job of going in hard enough so that he slid past the plate and broke up the possible throw. One out and the bases are still loaded.

21-22) The ball is hit very hard and very long to center field, this one has a chance to be a grand slam, the center fielder runs back, he's at the wall, he jumps on the run, and....he gets a glove on it....oh, he had the ball in the base of his glove but he lost it upon pulling the glove back over the fence, the umpire is signaling for a homerun, it's a *GRAND SLAM!* The center fielder is pointing frantically at his mitt, claiming he had possession of the ball, but the umpire is shaking his head, and this one's going to bring the manager charging out of the dugout to argue the call! He can't believe his eyes, but this one's going to be very difficult to overturn! The ball was snug in the mitt one second and then gone the next when the outfielder's momentum was stopped brutally by the wall; the ball dribbled out and was gone! The manager stands and argues vehemently, and he almost ran into the batter trotting home as he stormed across the third base line to start yelling! Now all the umpires are together on the field, as well as the pitcher, the catcher, the manager, and half the infield....and here comes the center fielder to explain how he caught the ball....and now the batting team's manager comes walking out just to make sure he gets his two cents in. It seems like the umpire made the right call, because although the outfielder seemed to have possession of the ball, he couldn't get his feet down with it. This one's going to be a total heartbreaker if it stands....

....and it does! The umpire shakes off all the manager's arguments and once again signals for a homerun, and the manager tries to turn to another sympathetic ear to no avail! The scoreboard keeper kept the four runs off the board, but now he puts them up there and it's official! In the dugout, the batter, watching, waiting, now stands up and pumps his fists. That's a homerun! Everyone's going to have to return to their respective dugouts, though it's happening very slowly, with the pitcher now really getting into the argument. He's going to have to watch himself....now, finally, he walks back to the mound, having suffered a devastating blow!

23-24) The ball is knocked right at the third baseman, who takes it on one quick hop, comes home with it for one out, and the relay throw from the catcher to first is....just in time! It beats the runner by half a step and just like that there are two outs! The ball was hit hard but it had double play written all over it! Now the offense has runners on second and third, but the batter coming up absolutely has to deliver.

25-26) The ball is hit hard but right at the first baseman, he takes it on two hops and fires home in plenty of time to force out the runner coming home....and the catcher will make an attempt to throw back to the pitcher covering first base to turn two....but the throw is late and the batter beats it easily. One out is achieved and the bases will still be loaded. Still more work to do for the pitcher.

31-32) The batter smacks the ball right back at the mound, and on pure instinct the pitcher flares his mitt behind his back and catches the ball cleanly in the air! The batter is out! Hello, there's one you can chalk up to pure luck! The runners return to their bases, there's one away on the magical play! The pitcher, unsmiling, immediately starts working the ball with his hands, ready to go, as if what he just did was a routine play! It was anything but. The momentum of the ball off the bat gave his wrist a good twist that must have smarted, but he's not showing it. What a play! One out.

33-34) The ball is hit sharply to the shortstop, he picks it up, and he'll come home with the throw....oh, it's very wide and it'll pull the catcher well off the plate to the third base side, he has to reach an arm out to catch it and his body is pulled right into the base line, and the runner moving from third plows into him at top speed! The ball goes flying and both the catcher and the runner go down hard! The runner hits the dirt two feet shy of the plate and he isn't moving! The catcher gets to his feet and scrambles after the ball, picking it up, throwing to the pitcher covering home, and he steps on the plate to get the dazed runner out! He's rolling over slowly and only now does he realize he's out! Oh, that was a nasty collision, and when the batter hit the ground his head struck the dirt near home plate hard, robbing him of the chance to get up, lunge forward, and touch home. He was agonizingly close, but the seconds ticked by with him barely conscious and immobile! The trainer has run out to him, he's sitting up but not moving too quickly....there'll be one down in the inning with the bases still loaded....the batter just sits there for a very long moment, joined by his manager....and now he finally gets to his feet, visibly groggy. He's going to be helped off the field and he'll have to be replaced in the lineup. He gets a nice hand from the crowd, and by the time he gets near the dugout he's walking more or less at regular speed, but he's going to have to be checked out. Play will resume with the bases still loaded!

35-36) The batter hits it hard on the ground down the third base line, it's going to be extra bases—no, the ball hits the base squarely and bounces right back down the line toward home plate! The third baseman runs over to pick it up, and he starts to make a move toward third to try to tag the runner out sliding in, but he won't come close to being able to get there, it'll go down as an infield single and one run scores! At least two were destined to come home on that one, but the ball hit the bag in just such a way that every bit of its momentum was killed and it rolled weakly back down the line, and only the hustle of the runner moving from second kept him from being out on a force at third!

41-42) The ball is hit hard to short....the shortstop tries to backhand it but it's off his glove and into left field! A line drive gets past him! One run will score and everyone else will advance one base! The shortstop didn't have the time to get in front of the ball, so he lashed his glove out and did what he could, but it was just hit too hard. He grits his teeth and exchanges a few words with the third baseman; he knows he could have had it.

43-44) The batter knocks the ball to center field, drifting into the gap in right....it's almost certainly going to move both runners forward....it's carrying deeper, oh yes, that's going to be good for an RBI....the center fielder makes the catch, he's going to make a throw....no, he dropped the ball! That removes all suspense; the runner on third scores easily and the runner on second goes to third. He won't be charged with an error; the ball was deep enough that what he did after the catch doesn't matter. A run is home and there are men on the corners!

45-46) The runners are all moving with the pitch and the batter takes a conservative wave at the ball, knocking a weak high chopper between the mound and first, the first baseman has to take a couple of steps toward the mound to grab it, and now it's going to be a foot race to get to the bag! He pivots and runs hard, let's see who gets there ahead of the other man....the first baseman has to lunge out with the glove and manages to brush the batter on the side, he's out! The runner on third scores and everyone else moves up, but at least one out is secured on a ball hit just softly enough to make a force out at home too risky to try. That was a bold call by the manager to send everyone on that pitch, he put complete trust in the batter to make contact, and the batter came through with a swing so soft that the ball wasn't going anywhere near the outfield. ▲

51-52) The ball is hit on the ground to the second baseman, he scoops it up, slings it to the shortstop covering the bag for the first out, and the relay throw is in plenty of time and perfectly on target to get the double play! The runner on third scores. There'll be two down and a runner at third. Perfect execution there, and not the most disruptive slide on the part of the runner moving from first. ▲

53-54) The ball is hit fairly hard to left field but it's going to be caught. The runner on third sets himself to tag....the ball is gloved and here comes the throw in....it's to the shortstop, who turns and releases the relay on a dart right at the catcher's chest, there's going to be contact here....and the runner drives his shoulder into the catcher so hard that they both go flying, the catcher sent backwards about ten feet, clear over the plate, while the runner stumbles and collapses to the right of it, never coming close to touching it! The catcher has somehow held onto the ball and the runner is out, but both men are down and hurt after what had to have been one of the most brutal collisions in the history of the game! The runner tucked his head and hit the catcher low in the sternum, lifting him off his feet like a leaf! Now they're getting to their feet slowly. The runner on second has trotted into third without a throw, and the runner on first tags and moves up as well. It looks like there's no serious injury on the play, just two very shaken-up baseball players. The replay shows that the contact was made with the catcher a bat's length up the third base line, and he wound up just on the grass in foul territory! That, ladies and gentlemen, was not just an NFL hit, but a NFL hit that would get someone into the Pro Bowl!

55-56) The batter pops the ball up into shallow left field! The shortstop will chase it, he goes deeper and deeper into left....he and the left fielder converge and they both stick their gloves up, look out....the shortstop comes down with the catch. The runner on third makes a serious move toward going home but he holds up. Whoa, the runner on second started to go and now he has to dive back into the bag to beat the shortstop's throw over there! He was convinced the man on third was going and he started to explore the base path a bit too greedily in anticipation of a throw home! One down, and the bases are still juiced.

61-62) The batter hits the ball hard toward center field, the center fielder charges in on it, moving fast....and he makes the catch running toward home plate, making the runner on third hold up! No way was he going anywhere with that kind of momentum on the catch; the center fielder was in great position to unleash a powerful throw. One down.

63-64) The ball is hit hard on the ground right at the first baseman, this could be two...he fields the ball cleanly, side-arms it to the shortstop covering second for one out....the runner takes the shortstop's legs out from under him but he gets a throw off....it's well short and off line but the pitcher, running toward first after a late break, fields it on one hop by reaching behind him and simultaneously stepping on the bag for the second out, that's a double play!! The pitcher almost never even made it over there but somehow managed to field the one-hopper effortlessly as he got to the base, flaring his glove out behind him and seeing it go right into the webbing! That was pure luck, by all rights that ball should have skipped away and scored another run! A runner scores but there are two down and a man at third! ▲

65-66) The ball is lined to right field....but the right fielder is right there to make the play, the catch is made. He rears back and throws home....but it's a wild throw, a one-hopper way, way up the third base line! The runner on third will score—but the runner on second might actually be gunned down trying to advance, since the catcher only has a forty foot throw to get him after being brought up the third base line by the awful toss from right, and he nails him, the third baseman dropping the tag on the runner's foot just in time, and there are two outs! The runner was headed toward third all the way and he would have made it easily if the throw to home from right was merely poor, but it was so wild that the catcher, running up the third base line just to stop the ball, was able to just fire a quick dart to third to complete an ugly double play! The runner on first stays where he is.

Bases Loaded, 1 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The ball is thrown low, the batter swings and misses it badly, but it bounces in front of the plate and off the catcher, high up into the air! He throws off his mask, looks up, and grabs the ball bare-handed as it comes down! Nice play, the runners must hold! |
| 0-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. He's got a bee bothering him, and judging by the way he suddenly winced and grimaced, it looks like he just got stung! He slaps his neck, then stands there for a moment, really smarting. Finally he steps back in, given a little extra stress by a stray insect! |
| 1-0 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 1-1 | Whoa, the pitcher delivers a half-pitch, half-toss to the outside part of the plate to try to tempt to batter into chasing it, and it works, the batter swings and fouls it away to the opposite side! He couldn't resist something that easy, even though it was obviously a trick pitch, and the pitcher's location was just about perfect, the batter couldn't get around on it. Strike two! |
| 0-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher fires suddenly to third base, and the throw hits the diving runner right in the back of the helmet! It bounces off right back toward the mound and the pitcher picks it up! Almost an error! The batter gets to his feet, not having felt much. That ball could have bounced any number of ways to score a run, but the fates were with the defense. We probably won't be seeing any more throws to third! |
| 1-2 | The batter swings and misses, and he can't believe it! Two out! He closes his eyes and stomps back toward the dugout, tossing his batting helmet aside angrily. He descends the steps and the first thing he does upon getting to the bench is knock a Gatorade jug right off its perch, enraged! Then he takes his batting glove off and hurls it dramatically toward the tunnel, red-faced and cursing! He collapses on the end of the bench, furious with himself. He'd better be careful or the umpire might decide he needs to go! |
| 2-1 | The batter swings hard but beats the ball into the dirt. He starts to take off toward first and the catcher picks the ball up with his bare hand, tags home plate, then throws to first to try to end the inning....but no, the umpire is calling it a foul ball! He says the ball hit behind home plate before bouncing forward! Instant replay is inconclusive. The only thing which seems to indicate the umpire is right is that the ball didn't bounce very high, as if it hit dirt instead of plate. It'll be 2 and 2 on the batter and he's still very much alive! |
| 2-2 | The 2-2 pitch sails up and in and the batter hits the deck! It narrowly misses him and he has to get up, brush himself off, and gets back into the box, the count is 3 and 2! |
| 3-0 | The pitcher steps off the rubber and fires toward third base, but the runner gets back just in time! |
| 3-1 | The pitcher makes a sudden move to first and throws over there, but the runner dives back in just in time....and then the first baseman throws all the way across the field toward third, where that runner also has to dive to get back just in time, having gotten caught totally off guard! The runners had better be alert out there! |
| 3-2 | The batter knocks a hard high chopper down the first base line, it is....just foul! The first baseman makes a nice play to scoop it up but the batter will have to get back into the box. |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is bounced on the ground down the first base line....the first baseman backs up on it....the ball takes one, two, three hops right on the line, each one kicking up white chalk, and the defense's hopes that it goes foul are dashed! The first baseman catches it, runs to the bag, and tags it to get one out. Give the batter an RBI as the runners move up and the man on third scores easily! ▲

13-14) The ball is hit to right field toward the corner, it might fall in for a hit.... yes, it falls well inside fair territory and at least two runs are going to score! The right fielder dashes over as fast as he can and manages to cut it off before it can bounce into the corner, but his momentum takes him almost all the way to the stands in right! The runner on first is going to get a green light to try to score, and this is going to be a mistake! The right fielder unleashes a throw home....it's going to be in time but it's to the first base side, the catcher takes it, swings around, reaches out so far that he falls over....and the runner is safe, sliding under the late tag! The catcher doesn't waste a moment getting to his feet and firing the ball to third, where the batter is tagged out trying to slide in head-first for a triple! He's gone! Everyone scores, three come home, and there'll be two out with nobody on! The right fielder made a great play to get to the ball and a perfect throw would have gotten the runner coming home. The catcher made a terrific heads-up play to salvage something, throwing the ball to the third baseman and enabling him to tag out the batter. A wild play, and a deeply damaging one to the defense!

15-16) The ball is tapped lightly up the third base line, the third baseman has to come in for it, he bare-hands the ball and hurls it side-armed to home plate to try for the force out....the throw is high and the catcher reaches way up for it, getting it in the edge of the webbing of his glove...it pops out and he has to grab the ball with his free hand to make the play and get the runner out just as he slides in feet-first! The catcher sensed the ball coming out of his glove and reached up to take possession just in time! The runner is gone and the bases will still be loaded, with two outs now. Good play by the catcher to stretch himself to his tallest possible height and get just enough mitt on the hurried throw to stop the ball and make sure he had a chance to secure it after it popped out. Close call, a run is saved!

21-22) The ball is hit on the ground back up the middle....the second baseman runs toward the bag, reaches down fully extended and fields the ball at the edge of the infield dirt.....he has to then hurry to whip it side-armed to the shortstop covering second, and they just barely force the runner out as the slides in! The runner on third scores, the man on second goes to third, and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice. The defense just barely gets one out on the strong, off-balance throw by the second baseman! ▲

23-24) There's a long fly ball to left center field, this could go for extra bases and a lot of runs, the center fielder chases it, he's all the way back to the track, where he leaps....and makes the catch as he crashes into the wall! He alertly hurls the ball back into the infield, but way too late to stop the runner on third from scoring and the man on second moving up as well. It didn't look like there was any particular need for such a dramatic leap by the center fielder; he got to the ball in plenty of time and it wasn't going to get all the way to the wall, but give him a few style points on that one. Two down, men at the corners!

25-26) Ground ball hit to the right side, no play for the first baseman, the second baseman will have a long run for it, he dashes into the hole and makes a sweet grab....but forget about getting anybody out, it's all he can do to keep the ball from going into the outfield! An infield single scores a run! Good defense to keep more than one from scoring. That ball was placed just so; a couple of feet toward the right and the first baseman would have nabbed it, a few feet to the left and the second baseman could have shaved a step off and maybe had a shot at getting the batter.

31-32) There's a high fly ball to left center field, to medium depth, this one might score the runner from third.....the left fielder makes the catch, unwinds, and throws....it's way, way over the catcher's head, and fortunately for the defense the pitcher is conveniently standing back near the backstop to catch the ball, but the runner slides in easily! Let's see if the left fielder is credited with an error on that one....no, he's not, probably a good call by the official scorer, as the ball carried far enough to give the runner about a ninety percent chance of getting home. Still, the left fielder is upset with himself for that throw, he released it with so much energy it knocked him halfway off his feet and it just flew out of his hand with no real control, winding up more or less straight, but way too high.

33-34) The pitch is right down the middle, and the batter ABSOLUTELY CRUSHES IT, pulling it deep over the outfield, oh my, this one is gonna be so out of here it's not even funny, back back back and GONE! A monster shot sails into the upper deck and the batter starts to trot slowly around the bases, savoring a GRAND SLAM! He knew it as soon as he hit it! It got out of here fast and it got out of here way, way deep! One of the longest, most brutally hit homers in recent memory! The bases clear quickly and the batter rounds third, slowing down to soak up the moment! He stomps on home plate and his teammates engulf him! Wow! After a shot like that, all you can do is sit back, watch the replay in stunned silence, and wonder how the pitcher could make a mistake like that!

35-36) The ball sails easily over the shortstop for a base hit to left field! This one could get two men home! The runner moving from second is going to try to make it! The left fielder sets, throws over the cutoff man....and the ball hits the catcher perfectly, trapping the runner between home and third! He turns and tries to get back, but the catcher sends it to third and a rundown begins! The third baseman goes back to the catcher with the ball....the runner reverses field....the fielders move in tighter and throw it back and forth twice more.....wow, the runner is not giving up! Now the third baseman's next throw is too high, the catcher has to jump to get it, and the runner gets almost all the way back before the catcher hurls it to the bag.....the runner turns tail and the chase continues! Back and forth two more times, and finally the catcher and the third baseman are in tight enough to make a play....but the runner collapses to the dirt to avoid the catcher's tag and then he manages to get by him! He scrambles to his feet, the catcher didn't bring his mitt low enough, and he's past the catcher and headed home! The catcher chases him, but the pitcher moves into position next to home plate, asking for the ball, and finally the catcher delivers it....the runner goes into a last-ditch head-first dive....and he's out!! The pitcher makes the tag after an absolutely exhausting rundown! Meanwhile the runner on first moves to third and the batter goes into second after his single! The runner led the defense on a merry, heroic chase, making everyone forget that he probably shouldn't have been waved in to begin with. His dedication to getting home safely on that play won't show up in any box score.

41-42) The batter hits it on the ground toward short....the shortstop moves to his left, fields it, makes a very long but firm underhanded toss to the second baseman covering the bag....he's got it for the first out and he turns and sends the relay to first in time to get the double play! The inning is over! Boy, the shortstop made an interesting decision there to underhand that ball to second, it was one of the longest underhand tosses you'll ever see, but he had a little momentum moving toward the bag and he aced it, and once it got to the second baseman safely, that was pretty much all she wrote, the second out was an easy one!

43-44) The batter swings and the ball scoots along the ground toward the hole vacated by the shortstop when the runner on second takes a giant lead on the pitch at the very last moment! It's a single to center field, and two runs are going to score! No throw will be made to home plate! The runner on second waited to take his lead until just after the pitcher set himself, and the moment the pitcher looked over at him, he separated himself much further from the bag. The shortstop dashed to the base to take a pickoff throw, but Instead of throwing over there or at least stepping off the rubber, the pitcher went ahead with the pitch and the batter took a gentle swing and placed it with absolute perfection in the sudden hole on the left side! What a piece of hitting! Whether it was a mistake on the runner's part, we may never know, but you can be sure he'll be telling reporters after the game that he was intentionally drawing the shortstop out of position! So now two runs are home and it's runners on first and second!

45-46) This one's hit to center field and plenty deep, it's going to score the run. The center fielder drifts back, reaches his glove up, and makes the play, and there won't be much of a throw back into the infield. The runner scores, the man on second trots to third.....and the shortstop will chuck the relay throw hard to second, where the runner on first gets ambitious upon seeing the lazy throw from center and digs for the advance, and he slides in there at the same time the ball does....there's no call yet.....*still* no call, what's the umpire waiting for? Now he finally signals safe, and that's going to bring the defense's manager out onto the field, walking from the dugout with his arms spread, wondering why the call was so indecisive! Now the umpire is conferring with another one, and he may well be asking for a second opinion on that one! The runner gets up, dusts himself off, and tries to ignore the argument as the manager talks to the umpires, hoping a double play will be called. But it's not going to happen; the umpire's call is upheld and the manager walks away shaking his head. He's not alone in his confusion; it's very rare that an umpire seems so hesitant to deliver his judgment. The replay is inconclusive, but the umpire just had to get in there much quicker and signal safe or out. There'll be two men out and runners on second and third. The pitcher is still in trouble.

51-52) The ball is knocked right back to the mound, and the pitcher snaps his glove shut on it after one quick hop! He takes one step forward and throws the ball hard at the catcher for the first out, then the catcher turns toward first and his relay throw is in plenty of time to turn the double play! The inning ends! The batter made good contact but the pitcher was right there to field it, and he wasted absolutely no time in delivering a dart to home plate; the catcher was barely up on his feet when the throw came screaming in at him!

53-54) The batter pops it up in the infield! The second baseman is calling for it....he has to take several steps toward second base....look out, he's getting really close to the runner....and he makes the catch as the runner on second shrinks away from his arm, which hooks over his left shoulder to grab the ball! The second baseman never had a great read on that ball, and it carried him so close to the runner that he had to bump him right off the bag to get it, almost embracing him and very nearly getting cut off! He tags the runner and shows the umpire the ball to claim a double play, but he won't get one. To his credit, the runner did try to get out of the way, even starting to crouch down when he got bumped from behind and found the second baseman's glove in his face.

55-56) There's a fly ball to left field....carrying.....carrying....and the left fielder, who underestimates the distance on that one, has to leave his feet to make the catch ten feet shy of the track! He almost didn't get it! The runner on third is going to score while the others hold up. It wasn't the most dangerous fly ball, but it wasn't given a whole lot of respect by the left fielder, and even his jump to get it was a little lethargic; he finally got it in the tip of the webbing. Either he was completely confident in his skills and felt it was fine to be nonchalant, or that one took him by complete surprise.

61-62) The batter tears into a fast ball right down the middle of the plate and smashes it to short, the shortstop takes a modest hop off the ground and catches the line drive easily for the out, and then it's just a matter of which base to throw to for the double play! He looks to second and then fires to first, where the runner is caught way off the bag and the inning is over! Oh man, does that smart! The threat dies in the blink of an eye!

63-64) The ball is hit hard to right field, everyone in the stadium gets on their feet....but the right fielder takes several steps toward the foul line and snags the line drive for the out! The runner on third starts to go home, but he suddenly stops and retreats! Oh, what was he waiting for? That ball looked like it was hit far enough to score him, and now he might not get another chance! We'll see if that costs him. You can't be that conservative in a game this big!

65-66) The ball is hit hard on the ground toward third, and the third baseman grabs it! He side-arms the ball toward the shortstop covering second....the force out is made but the wide throw pulls the shortstop off the base toward the mound, he has to turn and make an off-balance throw to first....and it's in time!! Double play!! A terrific job by the shortstop to corral a wide throw and zing it to first just ahead of the batter! The inning ends with everyone stuck on base!

Bases Loaded, 2 Out

| PITCHING EVENTS | |
|------------------------|---|
| first pitch | The pitcher holds on to the ball, digging into the mound with his cleats, really kicking up some dirt until he's happy with the surface. Now he's ready to go. |
| 0-1 | The pitch comes way inside, and the batter has to jerk his hips back away from the plate to avoid getting hit, jumping a little, falling forwards, almost losing his balance entirely and going down! Ball one. |
| 1-0 | The 1-0 pitch comes in high and tight and hits the batter on the hands—no, wait, the umpire says the ball hit the bottom of the bat, it's a foul ball, the count is 1 and 1! The batter pleads his case but the replay shows the umpire probably made the right call, the ball caromed off sharply and looked like it struck only wood. So no run scores and the at-bat continues! |
| 1-1 | The pitch just grazes the batter off the inside corner of the plate, he takes first and a runner comes home! That ball got almost all jersey, but it's enough to score a run! |
| 0-2 | The pitcher throws the ball way too hard, making it sail up and away for a ball, a very messy pitch with bad mechanics. The catcher waits a moment to toss the ball back to him, making sure the pitcher settles down a little. |
| 2-0 | The pitcher turns and fires to second base where he catches the runner napping, and he's tagged out trying to slide head-first back in, the inning is over! Oh, a rally is snuffed out in a split second! Heartbreak! The runner remains on his knees for several seconds, and finally he just hands his helmet off and slowly gets to his feet, willing to do anything to get that one back! |
| 1-2 | The pitcher asks for a new ball from the umpire and gets one. He returns to the mound, gives it a good going-over, shoves it into his mitt, and re-sets himself. |
| 2-1 | The batter squares around to bunt! No, it's just a decoy, and he pulls back at the last second but takes a called strike. He might be trying to draw the defense in a little, maybe just enough so that he can knock one over the infielders' heads. |
| 2-2 | Frustrated by the pitcher's deliberation, the batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. |
| 3-0 | The pitcher, overly cautious, delivers a terribly weak fast ball right down the middle of the plate, a batting practice pitch if there ever was one, but the batter holds off all the way and just takes it. He may regret that later on, and he obviously knows it. That one was absolutely begging to be driven deep. He was taking from the beginning but he had no idea such a mistake would be thrown! |
| 3-1 | The batter calls for a time out and steps out of the box. The pitcher really froze him out there, just standing perfectly still, delaying the throw, trying to get into the batter's head. It worked. |
| 3-2 | The batter takes a big swing but only hits a little nubber down the third base line, it rolls right along it, the third baseman is going to let it roll, and it....just does go foul before it hits the bag! No infield single! The batter will have to step back in and try again, and the runners must retreat as well. That would have been a guaranteed hit! |

If you encounter a pitching event you've already used on this Pitching Event chart, ignore it. Instead the batter backs out of the box, re-adjusts his gloves, takes a deep breath, and gets back in to face the pitcher.

SWING!

11-12) The ball is lifted high toward left field and fairly deep, it's going to be a long run for the left fielder, he heads toward the line, let's see if he gets there in time....he reaches out with both hands and tries to make a basket catch, but the ball comes out of his mitt and he has to grab it with his bare hand just a couple of feet shy of the stands in foul left field! The batter is out! He was off balance when the ball came down to him and while he got plenty of leather on it, the full grip wasn't there so he quickly slapped his free hand over the mitt; even so, it came out and his reflexes came to the rescue! Inning over on a real nailbiter!

13-14) The ball is grounded slowly toward the shortstop, all he'll have to do is make the throw to first for the out....he looks to second for a moment as if wanting to throw short for the force but it's too late to make a play there, and his throw will now have to be rushed....but it's on the mark, a little high but very strong, and the batter is out to end the inning!

15-16) The pitch is high, the batter swings....and he hits it high and long to right field, this one's got a chance, do you believe it....? *YES! It's out of here! A GRAND SLAM!* Everyone's gonna score! The batter holds his arms high over his head as he rounds first base and then claps his hands frantically, unable to contain his excitement! He'll touch 'em all, and arrive at home plate to the congratulations of his three teammates! Put four on the board! He took an iffy pitch out of the strike zone and went for it all, and got his reward! He's swarmed in the dugout!

21-22) The ball is hit on two high bounces toward the shortstop....and the runner moving from second has to stop his momentum suddenly to avoid running into the ball! He comes to a skidding halt, plants his right foot awkwardly, and loses his balance and topples forward, going down into the dirt! He gets quickly back onto his feet but the shortstop has fielded the ball and now instead of going to first with it he simply tags the runner out! The runner looks skyward, half-laughing, half-yelling in anger at the way he's put out, but he shouldn't feel too bad; the batter would almost certainly have been thrown out at first anyway. That's the third out and the bases loaded threat ends!

23-24) The batter swings and drives it straight down into the grass, it'll stay fair! The catcher springs up, takes two steps forward, reaches down to grab it, and then turns and reaches his left foot forward to home plate to make the force out as the runner dives in head-first in a frantic and admirable attempt to beat him home! No dice, the inning is over! The runner gets to his feet, the front of his uniform completely streaked with dirt, and receives no consolation as he slowly undoes his gloves. Tough way to get called out, giving his body up completely on a play he really had no chance at making.

25-26) The ball is hit high and long to right center field, splitting the outfielders, this one is going to be real trouble, both men dash for it, who's going to be the one to try to stop this one from falling....the right fielder reaches out as he gets to the track—and the ball bounces off his mitt! And the center fielder, running in the opposite direction, turns and flares his mitt out behind him, *catching the carom!* The batter is out! A miracle play! The ball went off the right fielder's glove, just inches too far away for him to make a secure grab, and when it popped out, the center fielder was in position to flail at it, off-balance, and somehow snag it! Score that one 9-8, the inning is over! They'll be showing the tape of that one for years to come!

31-32) There's a deep drive to left center field, the center fielder turns and goes back, back, and with his back completely to the infield he can only reach his glove out....and he can't get it! The ball hits the base of the wall and the center fielder hits the wall hard! One run scores....two runs score....three runs score....the center fielder bounces back quickly, picks the ball up, and fires the ball toward the shortstop, there's going to be a play at third, here's the throw to try to try to get the batter....oh, it hits him squarely in the helmet and bounces away! He's safe and gets up and takes a few steps toward home, determined to go all the way, but the pitcher backs the play up well and shovels the ball side-armed to the third baseman—who lays down the tag and gets the batter trying to dive back in when he changes his mind! He's out! The pitcher had to push the ball side-armed in desperation, but he got plenty on that ten-foot throw and the inning ends, but not before the triple scores three runs!

33-34) The ball is smashed on the ground down the third base line! The third baseman reacts quickly, reaches a glove out and knocks it down, picks the ball up, and jabs his foot out to tap the bag just ahead of the sliding runner, he's forced out and that's the end of the inning! A close play but the runner is beaten!

35-36) There's a line drive to left field, is this one going to fall...? Yes! The left fielder charges but can't get to it, and now it rebounds off his chest as he runs forward, and he'll have to chase it an extra twenty feet! Two runs will score! The left fielder finally comes up with it and just trots onto the infield dirt carrying it, holding the runner moving from first at second on the single. Let's see how the official scorer rules it....it's called a single, he must have thought that the runner on second would have made it anyway. You could tell the left fielder became suddenly very bashful about throwing that ball in after he had to chase it, he didn't want to make another mistake so he delivered it to the infield himself like UPS. A big hit plates two!

41-42) The batter grounds it slowly right to the second baseman! He's up with it and he throws to first to get the batter out by a mile, the inning is over! Three men are left stranded!

43-44) The batter skies to ball to right center field, not very deep, this is going to be the third out of the inning...the center fielder drifts under it, and he's got it! Three men are left stranded where they are!

45-46) Fly ball to left field, and this is going to end the inning. The left fielder pounds his fist into his mitt, sets.... and makes the catch. The inning is over! The batter has a few words with the home plate umpire as he walks away, and the umpire just ignores him. Oh, and the batter saves the worst words for when he turns away; he mutters to himself disgustedly and you can tell exactly what he's saying, and it's not pretty! But the umpire never sees it. If he did, the batter might have found himself quickly ejected! A disappointing end to the inning.

51-52) The ball is popped up just beyond the infield! The second baseman turns and starts to chase it....the right fielder comes in....if this falls it means two runs....and the second baseman makes a diving over-the-shoulder catch and holds onto the ball! What a dive and what incredible concentration! He left the ground with his back to the infield and launched himself directly toward right field, hitting the grass very hard but hanging on for the third out of the inning! One for the highlight reel! Celebrating, he hurls the ball all the way into the stands behind the first base dugout!

53-54) The ball is hit hard on the ground toward short, into the hole near second base, and the shortstop makes a full-body dive toward second....he's got it! He flings the ball back-handed from his stomach to the second baseman....but not in time to get the runner moving from first! He's safe! The shortstop pounds a fist into the ground in anger! He did everything he could, making a fantastic stop and delivering a nice back-handed flip that had plenty of energy on it despite the fact that he was still face-planted in the dirt, but time just ran out! A run scores on the infield single! The shortstop gets up slowly, not because he's hurt but because he just doesn't seem to want to go back to his position. The dugout seems like the place he should be going, but it's wasn't to be and the inning continues!

55-56) The batter hits the ball hard but it's right at the first baseman, he drops to his knees and makes a basket catch with the ball just a few inches off the ground, locking his knees shut just in case that one squirted through, but he has it for the out! The batter is retired on the line drive and three men are left on base! Whew!

61-62) The batter knocks it toward the right side, the second baseman dives for it....it's past him into right field! The second baseman makes an acrobatic lunge but comes up with nothing! The runner on third scores and everyone moves up one base as the second baseman gets slowly to his feet, slamming an angry hand onto the dirt. So close!

63-64) The batter smashes it....right at the shortstop, who puts his glove up right beside his head and snags the liner for the third out of the inning, turning his face instinctively away and catching it almost blind! The force of the ball knocks him a step back but he hangs on for dear life, thwarting a line drive that seemed destined for his nose or his jaw! Three men are left stuck on base!

65-66) There's a long fly ball to deep left field, oh this one could be out of there, the left fielder races back, he's going to have a shot at it, he jumps at the wall....and he manages to get a glove on it and keep it in the park! He can't make the catch but the ball falls at his feet instead of into the stands! He picks it up and uncorks a long throw toward the cutoff man at short, they might have a play at the batter trying to turn this one into a triple, here's the throw there....it's late, but the runner moving from first stumbled badly around third and he might be gotten at home! The third baseman fires there, the catcher takes it, he steps perfectly in the runner's way, and despite a hard hit the catcher holds onto the ball for the final out of the inning! Two men score but the runner coming in from first hit the bag at third very awkwardly and it took him about fifty feet to regain his balance, giving the defense enough time to put him out. In any case, the left fielder saved a grand slam with a desperate but perfectly timed dive, coming within a whisker of making a truly fabulous catch!

PITCH CHART for sacrifice bunt attempts

| | |
|-------|--|
| 11-16 | The batter gets the bunt down but it rolls foul. That's a strike! |
| 21-22 | The batter takes a strike! |
| 23-26 | The pitch is off target and the batter holds off on it, it's a ball! |
| 31-66 | The bunt is down! SWING and consult the charts below! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runner on 1st base

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11-14 | The bunt is a great one, and the batter beats it out for an infield single, everyone moves up! |
| 15 | The bunt is popped right back to the pitcher, who barely moves and catches the ball for the out! |
| 16-22 | The bunt goes right to the pitcher, who throws the lead runner out! The batter goes to first on the fielder's choice! |
| 23-26 | The bunt is taken by the third baseman and he throws to second, and they force the runner out! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice! |
| 31 | The bunt goes right to the pitcher, he turns, fires to second for one out, the shortstop then throws to first....and they turn the double play! |
| 32 | The ball is bunted hard to the third baseman, he fields it on one hop, goes to second for one out, then the shortstop throws to first....in time for the double play! |
| 33-66 | The bunt is a good one, and the only play by the third baseman is to first! The batter is out and the runner advances! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runner on 2nd base

| | |
|-------|--|
| 11-26 | The bunt goes right to the pitcher, who spins and throws out the lead runner sliding head-first into third! The tag is put down in time! The batter goes to first on the fielder's choice! |
| 31-46 | The pitcher picks up the bunt and his only play is at first, the batter is out and the runner moves to third! The batter does his job! |
| 51-66 | The third baseman fields the ball and goes to first for the easy out, the batter does his job as the runner moves to third. |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runner on 3rd base

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11-21 | The ball is bunted to the pitcher, who goes home with the throw....but he's too late and the runner scores with a head-first slide! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice! |
| 22-33 | The ball is bunted toward third, the third baseman spears it bare-handed, comes home with it....too late, the runner scores sliding in feet-first! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice! |
| 34-53 | The ball is bunted back to the mound, the pitcher fires the ball home....and the catcher tags the runner out as he dives in head-first! The batter is safe at first on the fielder's choice! |
| 54-66 | The ball is bunted too hard toward third, the third baseman bare-hands it, side-arms it to home plate...and they get the runner trying to dive in head-first! He's out, the tag is in time! The batter goes to first on the fielder's choice! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runners on 1st and 2nd

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11-26 | The bunt is to third, and the only play will be at first base. The batter is out and the runners advance. |
| 31-46 | The bunt is to the first base side, the pitcher has it and goes to first for the out. The runners advance. |
| 51-66 | The pitcher fields the bunt and goes to third for the force out...and the throw is in time! The batter takes first on the fielder's choice as the runner moving from second slides in too late! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runners on 1st and 3rd

| | |
|-------|--|
| 11-32 | The bunt is a good one, the third baseman fields it, throws home....but the runner is safe diving in head-first! The run scores, the man on 1st goes to 2nd, and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice! |
| 33-66 | The bunt is fielded by the pitcher, he comes in, bare-hands it, throws it to the catcher....and the runner moving from third is tagged out as he goes down into a feet-first slide! The runner on first goes to second and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Runners on 2nd and 3rd

| | |
|-------|--|
| 11-32 | The bunt is a good one, the third baseman fields it, throws home....but the runner is safe diving in head-first! The run scores, the man on 2nd goes to 3rd, and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice! |
| 33-66 | The bunt is fielded by the pitcher, he comes in, bare-hands it, throws it to the catcher....and the runner moving from third is tagged out as he goes down into a feet-first slide! The runner on second goes to third and the batter is safe on the fielder's choice! |

SACRIFICE BUNT: Bases loaded

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11-32 | The bunt is a good one, the third baseman fields it, throws home....but the runner is safe diving in head-first! The run scores, the batter is safe on the fielder's choice, and the other runners move up! |
| 33-66 | The bunt is fielded by the pitcher, he comes in, bare-hands it, throws it to the catcher....and the runner moving from third is forced out at home plate! The batter is safe on the fielder's choice and the other runners move up! |

Steal Attempts

| STEAL ATTEMPTS: Runner going from 1st to 2nd | |
|--|---|
| 11-13 | The catcher throws the ball high, it's into center field! The runner is safe sliding in, and he gets up and takes off for third and he'll go there standing on the error, all other runners move up as well! The throw just took off on the catcher, a missed opportunity since the runner didn't have a very good jump! |
| 14-16 | The runner gets a good jump, here's the catcher's throw....it's a one-hopper but right on the mark and hard, the shortstop slaps the tag down....and the umpire calls the runner safe! The shortstop immediately lets fly with a string of expletives but the umpire ignores them, signaling safe again and again! The replay shows that the tag was slapped on the runner's ankle pretty much simultaneously with the ball's arrival, so the tie goes to the runner! |
| 21-23 | The runner goes and the catcher double-clutches, unable to get a throw off, the runner will slide in lazily with the steal! He got a terrific jump and there wasn't much chance to get him anyway, but the catcher is very unhappy with himself. |
| 24-26 | The runner takes off, here's the throw from the catcher....it's going to be late and way off line, the shortstop has to dive to his left and make a nice diving catch to stop the ball from going through into center field! He winds up on his stomach and the runner winds up on second! |
| 31-33 | The runner goes, here's the throw from the catcher....it's a good one, the tag is slapped down....and the runner boots it out of the shortstop's glove upon contact! The ball rolls away and the runner is safe! The throw beat him but he's in there with a stolen base! |
| 34-36 | The catcher's throw is just a little late and the runner dives in head-first with a stolen base! |
| 41-43 | The catcher's throw is wide to the third base side, the shortstop crouches, catches it, swings his arm around....but the runner is in there sliding feet-first! If the throw had been perfectly on target they had a good chance to get him, but it wasn't to be! |
| 44-46 | The catcher's throw is right on target but late, the runner is in there with a head-first slide! |
| 51-53 | The runner goes and the catcher delivers a perfect strike, the shortstop slaps the tag down on the runner's foot and he's out of there easily! Terrific play! |
| 54-56 | The catcher's throw is not a particularly good one but the runner stumbles halfway to second and by the time he recovers he's lost a critical step, going down in an ugly head-first slide and getting tagged out just in time! Oh, a missed opportunity! His feet just didn't obey him! |
| 61-63 | The catcher's throw to second is on target, the shortstop swipes his mitt across the runner's hand as he dives in....and the umpire will call him out! The runner gets to his knees, spreading his arms, baffled, but the call stands! Another look at the play shows that he might have good cause for complaint, it looked like the shortstop's mitt never actually made any contact with his hand! |
| 64-66 | The catcher delivers a hard throw wide of second and the shortstop has to lean off-balance into the runner's path to get it, catching the ball right in front of the runner's head as he dives in head-first, and the shortstop's mitt slaps the side of his face for the out! The force of the throw carried his glove right where it needed to go, and the umpire is right there to make the out call! |
| STEAL ATTEMPTS: Runner going from 2nd to 3rd | |
| 11-16 | The catcher's throw is just a little late and the runner dives in head-first with a stolen base! |
| 21-26 | The catcher's throw is plenty late and the runner dives in head-first with an easy stolen base! |
| 31-36 | The catcher will just hold on to the ball, making no throw, the runner slides in there with a steal! |
| 41-46 | The catcher's throw to third is low and all the third baseman can do is block it on one hop, it caroms off his chest into the dirt and the runner will slide in feet-first with ease! |
| 51-56 | The runner goes and the catcher delivers a perfect strike, the third baseman slaps the tag down on the runner's foot and he's out of there easily! Terrific play! |
| 61-66 | The runner takes off a split second too soon and the pitcher sees him, he's going to catch the runner in a rundown! The pitcher throws to third and the runner stops and reverses, and all it's going to take is one more throw back to the second baseman to put him out with an easy tag as he dives in, doomed! It looked like the pitcher may have committed a balk on that play, making a subtle move into his windup before he aborted the pitch and spun around toward second! No balk is called and the runner is out, though perhaps through no real fault of his own! |
| STEAL ATTEMPTS: Runner going from 3rd to home | |
| 11-24 | The runner takes off, the ball is in there for a swinging strike, and here comes the runner with a long head-first dive into the plate....and he's safe!! He made it home! He leaps to his feet in triumph, he's in there for a score! The pitcher's long windup, combined with a big lead off third, gave him the chance to make it home, even though the pitch was right on target! What a play! |
| 25-66 | The runner gallops home, the pitch is in there for a swinging strike....and the catcher throws his body into the base line, blocking the runner's head-first dive, and the tag is put down for the out! The steal of home doesn't work! The runner had all kinds of speed and a terrific jump, but it wasn't enough! |

Intentional Walks

| | |
|-------|---|
| 11-63 | The pitcher sends the ball well outside and the catcher stands and takes it for an intentional ball. |
| 64 | The pitcher throws the ball casually in for an intentional ball....and he sails it too far wide of the standing catcher, who reaches out and just barely snags it in the edge of his the webbing! Oh, that one very nearly got away, and it would have been disastrous! |
| 65 | The pitcher tosses the ball in for an intentional ball....but he floats it too far inside and the batter takes a stab at it, reaching out and connecting but fouling the ball off hard down the opposite field base line! If he'd gotten around just a little earlier on that one, he might have shocked everybody by putting it through for a hit! Give him some credit for his boldness, he saw he had nothing to lose and went for it. It goes down as a strike and the pitcher will have to be far more careful with his next offering! |
| 66 | The pitcher sends the intentional ball in very weakly and the catcher has to snag it on one hop! He manages to grab it with no harm done, but that was nearly an ugly wild pitch. The pitcher has to take a moment to re-evaluate his tosses on this free pass, he's got to throw it in there with more authority! |

Desperation Throws

(To be attempted only in the bottom of the ninth or extra innings when a throw absolutely must be directed to home plate to prevent the winning run from scoring, and only when the Swing result is followed by a ▲ symbol. See the Desperation Throw section on the rule sheet.)

| | |
|---|--|
| If the throw is made from the infield.... | |
| 11-16 | The infielder hurls the ball home in desperation, the throw is on target, the catcher drops the tag on the runner diving in....and he got him!! The umpire calls the runner out!! The throw is in time!! |
| 21-66 | The infielder throws hard to home plate, the catcher takes it, puts the tag down....not in time, the runner goes in head-first and his hand touches home plate before the tag, he's safe, the run scores!! |
| If the throw is made from the outfield.... | |
| 11-16 | The outfielder hits the cutoff man, who turns, fires home....and the catcher swipes the tag across the runner's hand as he dives for the plate, he's out!! They got him!! |
| 21-66 | The outfielder hits the cutoff man, who turns, fires home....the catcher puts the tag down too late, the runner's foot crosses the plate a second sooner, and the run scores!! |

Answers to the trivia questions

Bases empty, 0 out, # 24
John Smoltz

Bases empty, 0 out, # 26
The Republican National Convention came to the Astrodome.

Bases empty, 0 out, # 53
Wilson Alvarez

Bases empty, 1 out, # 13
Andy Hawkins lost to the Chicago White Sox, 4-0.

Bases empty, 1 out, # 34
the Pittsburgh Pirates

Runner on 1st, 0 out, # 22
The Indians finished first in their division in 1995, 30 games ahead of the Kansas City Royals.

The batter tees off on a high fast ball and launches it high and deep toward the right field corner....the right fielder will give chase, running back and tracking it, if it's fair it's going to be out of here....he's having trouble following this one, and at the end he has to flash an extra burst of speed, finally leaping at the wall as he reaches the foul pole....and he can't make the play, the ball is in and out of the top edge of his mitt and he crashes into the wall, a homerun is saved but the fielder goes down as the ball pops up softly out of the glove and falls to the track, dribbling into the corner! The right fielder scrambles to his feet and will have to really pull one out of his hat just to keep the batter from circling the bases, if it's not too late already! The ball is chased down near the foul pole, the right fielder spins and lets go of an absolutely desperate lob from the warning track, it's a high wild floater that'll actually sail over the second baseman, over the pitcher....it hits the infield grass beside the mound and *miraculously it gets to the catcher on a single hop, he's going to have a play on the batter coming home, the batter dives....and the catcher tags him out, he swiped the mitt across his leg before he touched home plate, and the umpire rings him up!!* Can you believe that?? What kind of legendary throw was that by the right fielder?? He chucked it in with no hopes from the warning track and it got there on one bounce, looking more like a 9-iron shot into the green, brushing a couple of clouds as it sailed in! He jogs in as the center fielder runs up beside him, patting him on the head. The defense leaves the field as the batter just now gets slowly to his feet in disbelief. His manager comes out of the dugout to argue the call at home, but it will probably be to no avail. The batter walks toward the dugout, undoing his batting glove, and the pitcher goes over to him to console him with a few words before he takes the mound for the start of the next half inning.

Whoa, wait a second, the batter doesn't take too kindly to whatever was said to him, and he lashes out at the pitcher verbally! The pitcher gives it right back to him....and now the batter gives him a hard one-handed shove! The pitcher almost loses his balance entirely and as the home plate umpire and the manager step in to break things up, the pitcher lunges forward and *decks the batter with a punch to the face!* The batter goes down on his back, and now all their teammates, who had been headed out to take their defensive positions, rush over to stop this craziness! The batter gets up to his feet, dazed and furious, and he and the pitcher start to exchange blows! Two of their teammates rush between them, and the third base coach takes an accidental blow to the face from the pitcher! Now the manager seizes the pitcher around the waist from behind and hauls him backwards away from the fray, and finally tackles him roughly to the ground! The manager is pinning his own pitcher down on home plate! The batter, who still wants more, is pushed away repeatedly by his teammates, who keep guiding him forcefully almost all the way to the opposing team's dugout, where several players have emerged to act as crowd control. Now, as everyone involved in the game crowds around the infield, several fans have taken advantage of the chaos to run out onto the field! About a dozen or so are scrambling crazily around the outfield and the edge of the infield, causing security to give chase! Oh my, this is one of the strangest scenes ever! Both dugouts are now completely empty, and it looks like a church social in the infield, with everyone bunched up. The third base coach is holding his cheek painfully. The batter is now sitting dejectedly on the grass near the opposing team's dugout, and the pitcher is now up off the ground, his manager having let him go. The umpire is going to eject both of them from the game with good cause. Who knows what was said there. The umpires are trying to usher everyone back into some kind of order as security tries to deal with the interlopers from the stands....one of whom has taken second base! One of the fans has second base under his arm, having pulled it from the ground in the chaos, and he's finally tripped up by security in shallow center!

There's still no real movement by the players to get this game going again....looks like everyone just wants to talk things over and clear the ugly vibe that has descended upon the stadium. The home plate umpire is conferring with the third base umpire and the manager, who even before having to tackle his own pitcher to the ground had been headed out to challenge the out call at home plate. In the wake of all this mess, with both teams still settling things down in the infield, the manager is pointing toward home plate, having the presence of mind to keep his head in the game which has suddenly leapt out of control! Looking at the replay again—and there's a lot on that play to look at again, from the swing to the leaping try in the outfield to that amazing throw, and that's even before we get to the fight—it looks like the runner's hand crossed the plate cleanly but the catcher's tag was actually non-existent. And now, with both benches still emptied, the home plate umpire is reversing the call—the batter, who was just ejected, is now being called safe at home! Both the first and third base umpires have helped to overrule the call, and of course this will bring the other manager over to argue—we're going to be here for a while! The call which led to the pitcher saying something to the batter, which in turn led to a brawl, is now switched and a run is put on the board! And there are still two outs! The opposing manager is furious, but the umpires are in no mood to hear any guff at this point, having to sort out the fight. The argument continues, but it seems pale in comparison to what has already happened and we're definitely not going to get a second reversal. The batter crosses the field, flanked by three teammates who seem to be acting as guards, and descends into the dugout with an inside-the-park homerun to his credit, but his day is very much over, as is his team's pitcher. The right fielder's stupendous throw means nothing, and one of the great defensive plays of all time is wiped out. If only the home plate umpire's call had been correct the first time, none of this ever would have happened!

Here's something very interesting from one of the angles on the video replay....watching the right fielder's leap, you can see that when the ball went off the top of his mitt and up into the air about twelve inches, it seemed to graze the foul pole before it came back down at a slight angle, back into the field of play. It was almost certainly the foul pole, and not the right fielder's valiant stoppage of the ball, that made sure the ball stayed inside the park. That means it would have been a homerun anyway....but no one seems to be making this argument, everyone's oblivious for now. Let them fight about that after the game!

Finally, at long last, the fans are dispersed, the managers re-enter their respective dugouts, the defense reclaims their positions in the outfield, and the pitcher takes the mound again with two outs and a run in. Second base is set back where it was. Total elapsed time of the delay: twenty minutes. Two men are kicked out of the game and will have to be separated for some time to come. Now let's play ball!

