



As the season progressed, I could see that I was starting to earn the trust of my team. There was one kid on the team named Daniel – a good kid, but not exactly the best player on the team. One game, my team came in after playing in the field, and I took him over to the side. I asked him to show me his stance, and I kindly showed him mine. My stance looked fluid and comfortable, while his was uncoordinated and uncomfortable. I asked him to show me how he was holding the bat, and then, while still holding the bat, to point his index fingers. You can tell if you're holding the bat correctly if your index fingers are pointing in the same direction. This helps keep your top hand wrist up as you swung. This prevents your wrists from "breaking" or "rolling over" and as a result, not hitting a weak ground ball to the infield. Sure enough his fingers weren't in the same direction. I told him to fix it, and in his next at bat, I was stunned when he made solid contact with the baseball. His teammates were even more stunned, and many of them came to me asking to help them with what I helped Daniel with. On that day, I had not only earned the trust of the entire team, but I had earned respect through my baseball knowledge.

### Did this experience change you?

I changed in the way I watch the game. Instead of watching to see what happened, I found myself paying closer attention to individual players, how they played the game, their body language, and anything else that I saw that I thought would affect the way they play the game. So the big change was going from viewing the game as player, to viewing the game as a coach, both are very different.

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