**TIPS ON GAME CALLING**



While catching is a physically demanding position, it is also a mentally challenging one as well. Here are a series of tips every catcher can employ to gain an advantage over the opposition and better lead his team:

* Take charge of the game.
  + The catcher is the quarterback - the team will play to the catcher's tempo.
* Know how to handle each pitcher on the team.
  + Know their best pitch for different situations, like double-play situations or two-strike counts.
* Be positive when giving advice.
* Know when to give into the pitcher's choice of pitch.
  + Call time in a big situation and talk with the pitcher.
* Show interest in pitch selection during and after the game.
  + The catcher should be able to go over the pitches thrown with the coach and pitcher after an inning is over.
* The pitching coach and catcher should work hand-in-hand.
* Show emotion when the pitcher makes a great pitch.
* Be smart about pitch selection. Know the best pitches to call for a:
  + First-pitch strike
  + Change-up: how and when?
  + Inside fastball
  + 0-2 count
* Pitch around hot hitters, don't give them anything they can hit well.
* Force the hitter to hit the pitcher's best pitch.
  + Learn opposing hitters