

## AROUND THE HORN

### PURPOSE

To develop accurate and quick fielding skills

### EQUIPMENT

A baseball, a stopwatch, gloves

### TIME

4 to 8 minutes

### PROCEDURE

1. Assign players to third-base, second-base, first-base, catcher, and pitcher positions.
2. On the "go" command the coach starts the stopwatch.
3. The pitcher throws the ball to the catcher, who throws the ball to the third baseman, who throws to the second baseman, who throws back to the first baseman, who finally throws the ball back to the catcher.
4. The coach stops the watch when the catcher receives the ball.
5. A different set of players rotates into the drill.
6. Players should rotate to different positions within the drill.

### KEY POINTS

1. This drill works best with five players.
2. Keep a written record of each team's time throughout the season to chart improvements in the drill.
3. Coaches should have extra balls in case of an overthrow.
4. Emphasize that catching the ball smoothly, not the team's time, is the most important aspect of the drill.
5. Players have a tendency to hurry their throws when they are preoccupied with their team's time. Emphasize that hurrying their throws results in errors.

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6. Players must step toward the base they are throwing to.
7. The "hot potato" technique (pretending that the ball is hot) teaches players to relinquish control of the ball as soon as possible after the catch.

### Variations

1. Place four fielders in a square (the distance depends on the skill level of the four players), and instruct them to throw the ball around the square. As they throw to each other, they should move their feet properly so that the ball is in the center of their bodies as it is caught.
2. Players can throw around the horn once in reverse. To end the drill, the catcher throws the ball to second base as if trying to throw out a runner trying to steal.

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