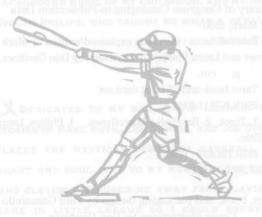
# BASISALL

# TAROT

B . O . O . K

By Mark Lerner & Laura Philips

### BASEBALL TAROT



WRITTEN BY

MARK LERNER

AND

LAURA PHILIPS

DAN GARDINER

WORKMAN PUBLISHING, NEW YORK

Text copyright © 1999 by Mark Lerner and Laura Philips
Illustrations copyright © 1999 by Dan Gardiner
All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced—
mechanically, electronically, or by any other means, including
photocopying—without written permission of the publisher. Published simultaneously in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son Limited.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Lerner, Mark, 1950–

Baseball tarot: the cards explained/written by Mark Lerner and Laura Philips; illustrations by Dan Gardiner.

p. cm.

Tarot book and 78 tarot card set.

ISBN 0-7611-0347-3

1. Tarot. 2. Baseball—Miscellanea. I. Philips, Laura. II. Title.

BF 1879.T2L437 1999 133.3'2424—dc21

Cover, book, and packaging design by Paul Gamarello Cover illustrations by Dan Gardiner Chapter icons by Larry Moore

Workman books are available at special discounts when purchased in bulk for premiums and sales promotions as well as for fund-raising or educational use. Special editions or book excerpts can be created to specification. For details, contact the Special Sales Director at the address below.

Workman Publishing Company, Inc.

708 Broadway
New York, NY 10003-9555
First printing March 1999
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

### DEDICATIONS

DEDICATED WITH LOVE TO MY FATHER, MORRIE PHILIPS, WHO MADE THE SOUNDS OF BASEBALL THE BACKGROUND MUSIC OF MY CHILDHOOD, AND MY MOTHER, EVELYN PHILIPS, WHO TAUGHT ME WHAT A META'S FOR.

LAURA PHILIPS

DEDICATED TO MY DAD, DAVID LERNER, WHOSE STORIES OF BABE RUTH, LOU GEHRIG, AND JOE DIMAGGIO PLACED THE MYSTICAL POWER OF BASEBALL IN MY HEART AND SOUL, AND TO MY MOM, GLADYS LERNER, WHO CLEVERLY STEERED ME AWAY FROM PLAYING THE GAME IN LITTLE LEAGUE SO I COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A WRITER . . . I LOVE YOU BOTH.

MARK LERNER



DAN GARDINER

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### LAURA THANKS:

Dem Bums and the Amazing Mets, for providing my family with a religion; Peralandra Books & Music in Eugene, Oregon, where the *Baseball Tarot* was born, and where so much has begun for so many; Catherine Harris, for making that possible; my sisters, Carol and Rya, for far-out formative influence; Rachael Merker, for her perfect blend of belief and humor; and most of all, the MVP of my life, the baseball-indifferent but otherwise endlessly delightful Ellen Adler.

### MARK THANKS:

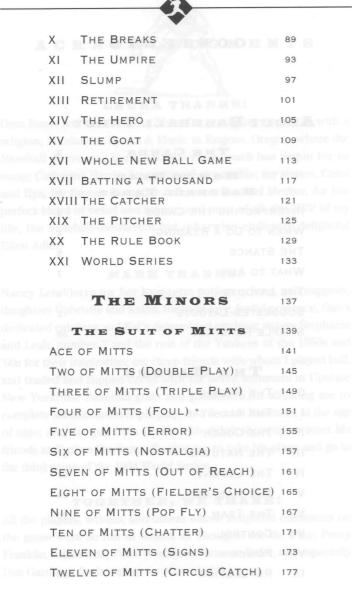
Nancy Lee Vierra for her long-term patience, love, and support; daughters Gabrielle and Katya, for their love, joyful presence, Gab's dedicated catching and Kat's determined pitching; sisters Stephanie and Leah; number 7 and the rest of the Yankees of the 1950s and '60s for their inspiration; my camp friends with whom I played ball, and traded and flipped cards with for seven summers in Upstate New York; the Baseball gods and goddesses for allowing me to complete an unassisted triple play, as a second baseman, at the age of nine; and the guy from Dallas who didn't show up to meet his friends at Yankee Stadium, allowing me to take his place and go to the third game of the 1964 World Series.

### TOGETHER, WE THANK:

All the players, writers, and others whose insightful comments on the game were so fun to collect as Thoughts for the Play; Percy Franklin, Adam Brill, Peter Workman, Suzanne Rafer, and especially Dan Gardiner, for bringing our vision to life.

## CONTENTS

ABOUT BASEBALL TARO	<b>T</b> 1
THE CARDS	2
HOW TO READ	
BASEBALL TAROT	3
INTERPRETING THE CARDS	3
WHEN TO DO A READING	4
THE STANCE	5
WHAT TO ASK	7
THE LAYOUTS	9
SUGGESTED LAYOUTS	12
SAMPLE READINGS	36
THE MAJORS	45
O THE ROOKIE	49
THE ALL-STAR UST STEEM TO	53
II THE COACH	57
III THE NATURAL	61
IV THE LEGEND	65
V THE MANAGER	69
VI THE TEAM	73
VII CONTROL	77
VIII POWER	81
IX REFLECTION SO STEEM SO ST	85



COACH OF MITTS	181
MVP of MITTS -HOTIWE) STAB TO	183
THE SUIT OF BALLS	187
ACE OF BALLS	189
TWO OF BALLS (BALK)	193
THREE OF BALLS (SHAKE-OFF)	195
FOUR OF BALLS (SIDELINED)	199
FIVE OF BALLS (CURVE BALL)	201
SIX OF BALLS (FASTBALL)	205
SEVEN OF BALLS (SPITBALL)	207
EIGHT OF BALLS (CHOKE)	211
NINE OF BALLS (STRIKEOUT)	213
TEN OF BALLS (SACRIFICE)	217
ELEVEN OF BALLS (NO-HITTER)	219
TWELVE OF BALLS (WILD PITCH)	223
COACH OF BALLS	225
MVP of BALLS	229
THE SUIT OF BATS	231
ACE OF BATS	233
TWO OF BATS (TAKE)	237
THREE OF BATS (SINGLE)	241
FOUR OF BATS (GRAND SLAM)	243
FIVE OF BATS (RHUBARB)	247
SIX OF BATS (HOME RUN)	249
SEVEN OF BATS (LINE DRIVE)	253
EIGHT OF BATS (BATTER UP)	255
NINE OF BATS (OUT)	259
MINE OF DATA (OOT)	ALTERNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE



TEN OF BATS (BASES LOADED) 20				
ELEVEN OF BATS (SWITCH-HITTER) 2				
TWELVE OF BATS (EXTRA INNINGS)				
COACH OF BATS	271			
MVP of BATS (MUAB) SUJAB TO	273			
THE SUIT OF BASES	277			
ACE OF BASES	279			
TWO OF BASES (PICKOFF)	283			
THREE OF BASES (SAFE)	287			
FOUR OF BASES (HUGGING THE BASE)	289			
FIVE OF BASES (RUNDOWN)				
SIX OF BASES (WALK)				
SEVEN OF BASES (ON DECK)				
EIGHT OF BASES (EYE ON THE BALL)				
NINE OF BASES (HOME PLATE)	305			
TEN OF BASES (WINNING STREAK)	307			
ELEVEN OF BASES (STEAL)	311			
TWELVE OF BASES (ASSIST)	313			
COACH OF BASES				
MVP of Bases				

RECOMMENDED READIN



# ABOUT BASEBALL TAROT

aseball seems to have been invented solely for the purpose of explaining all other things in life," wrote Roger Angell—and he's not the only one who's noticed. In our culture, baseball serves as a metaphor for everything from work to relationships. Just listen to the baseball lingo in our daily conversations. Phrases from the diamond—"strike out," "thrown a curve," "home run"—are heard in every walk of life and have become part of our vocabulary.

Tarot, while popular, is less well-known to most of us. The original Tarot decks were devised centuries ago as spiritual teachings expressed in pictures for the benefit of the nonliterate masses. Then and now, the Tarot has served as a valuable source of insight and guidance for many. In recent years, new decks have reinterpreted the Tarot's 78 cards through the lenses of a number of systems of thought, such as Greek mythology, feminist spirituality, and Native American beliefs.

Baseball Tarot adapts the traditional deck's symbolism into an entertaining and accessible way to find clarity in a



confusing situation, to evaluate the pros and cons of a decision, to brainstorm new options, to resolve a conflict, or to get a new sense of direction in personal or professional growth. The cards form a kaleidoscope of baseball images illustrating a variety of principles, personal qualities, and circumstances. With even an elementary knowledge of the sport, it's easy to interpret the answers to questions that you ask. No previous Tarot experience is needed.

### THE CARDS

nwrap your deck and take a look through the cards without changing the order. As you can see, the images represent easily recognized baseball roles, actions, and situations. Each picture is matched to its card's traditional Tarot meaning.

Even if you're new to Tarot, a look through the deck should give you a general idea of a card's message without having to look it up in this book. For example, you already know that a Triple Play (the Three of Mitts) means success, while an Error (the Five of Mitts) means a setback. Lay out the cards beginning with the first, the Rookie, number 0. Continue until you reach number 21, World Series. This group is called the Majors (in traditional Tarot, the Major Arcana or Trumps). The Majors represent the universal, underlying principles of life.

The remaining 56 cards are divided into four suits, just like a typical deck of playing cards. Together, these four suits comprise the Minors (in traditional Tarot, the Minor Arcana).



The Minors represent changing circumstances, attitudes, and actions. They illustrate the challenges, conflicts, and opportunities we deal with on a day-to-day basis. The four suits that make up the Minors are Mitts, Balls, Bats, and Bases. Each suit corresponds to a traditional Tarot suit and addresses a particular area of life. Mitts relate to the realm of the heart: relationships, feelings, intuition. They correspond to the traditional suit of Cups. Balls correspond to the suit of Swords, which deals with the mind and analytical, rational thought. Bats (Wands) represent energy and creativity, and last, Bases (Pentacles) address security and the material world.

The following pages explain how best to work with the cards and this book to make the most of each question asked. Divided into sections covering each aspect and step in the process of using Baseball Tarot, the book is designed as a guide to be consulted whenever needed during or between readings. From posing a question and looking up the meaning of each card to interpreting the reading by using original baseball-inspired layouts, it will explain everything you need to know to enjoy and benefit from Baseball Tarot.

### HOW TO READ BASEBALL TAROT

### INTERPRETING THE CARDS

f you've never consulted Tarot cards before, don't worry. There's no need to be intimidated or nervous as a



beginner. For one thing, you'll easily recognize the familiar baseball roles and situations portrayed on the cards. Also, there's no pressure here: doing a reading is not like competing in a baseball game. There is no final score and no such thing as failure. Rather, doing a Tarot reading is like *talking* about baseball: reflective, subjective, tangential, and relaxed. Just keep at it, and over time you'll become increasingly adept at interpreting the cards. Enjoy the journey.

If you're already an experienced reader, you'll find that Baseball Tarot is a snap to interpret from your first use, as the cards' meanings are consistent with traditional decks. Additionally, if you read for others, you'll soon find that this deck's language and images are especially accessible and engaging to a wide variety of people.

### WHEN TO DO A READING

sadinas livem posing a question and looking

ome baseball fans follow one team only, while some read the daily box scores of every team. Some pay attention only during the season, while others sniff out every hint of news throughout the long winter.

The same holds true for readers of Tarot. Some consult the deck regularly, pulling a single card every day for guidance or insight. Others do a reading each week on the same day, or on the first of every month, or on days with special significance such as a birthday or New Year's. On the other hand, many people sit down with the deck in response to a crisis, or when they feel "stuck" or overwhelmed. Some do a reading only when they have a specific pressing question.



Some look to Tarot for direction, others for inspiration, others for a second opinion.

There is no denying that the more time you spend with Tarot, and the more attention you pay, the more knowledge you will glean. If you would like to learn a lot about Tarot and your intuitive talents, we encourage you to do readings often. Just don't make it another thing on your "to do" list. Whenever you feel like consulting the cards, that is the right time, regardless of how long they have been sitting on your shelf. Honor your own internal sense and you will do fine.

One more note on frequency: sometimes, you may be tempted to do another reading on the same question before enough time has elapsed to reflect on the first. We advise against this. If you can't yet leave the question alone, use the energy to develop a fuller understanding of the reading. You can do this through writing in a journal or talking with a friend. We especially recommend consulting a variety of interpretations of the cards (see our list of suggested books, page 323). If, instead, you do ask the same question of the deck, you will likely find that the Tarot has an uncanny way of unmasking attempts to get a "better" answer. A second-guess reading will often include many of the same cards as the original reading, underscoring the reader's reluctance to consider what's already been offered.

### THE STANCE

arot readings tend to be more fruitful if you give them your undivided attention. If possible, settle in a pleas-



ant spot, indoors or out, where you won't be interrupted. In a less than ideal setting, spend a moment picturing a place where you would feel more at ease, such as a cozy armchair, a sunny lawn, or a special place you loved as a child.

Take a few moments to relax. Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. To release tension, shake out your head and arms. Clear your mind of your other responsibilities and plans. (If you find this difficult, you can write down all your concerns and check the list after your reading to be sure nothing falls through the cracks.)

Another approach is to take advantage of the real-life activities that put you in this sort of mood. Do a reading right after working out, petting the cat, taking a nap or a hot shower, eating tomato soup with crackers, or whatever works for you. If watching a game on TV gets you comfortable, mute the commercials and do a quick reading between innings.

The first and most critical step in a reading is to prepare a clear question. When you pose a focused question, you will be better able to interpret the ideas and images the cards offer. We recommend beginning each reading by taking a moment to think over, jot down, and perhaps even rework your question. Figuring out exactly what question you'd most like to address is usually enlightening and therapeutic in itself.

For example, you may be concerned about your unhappiness in a relationship. You could ask simply: "Why am I so unhappy in this relationship?" However, the answers will probably be less clear to you than if you are more specific: "What do I contribute to my own unhappiness in this relationship?" or "What could I do to improve this relationship?"



You don't have to pick only one question; a single reading can easily accommodate a few related questions. The main thing is to state each question exactly.

On the other hand, if you do ask a general question, leave it *very* open. Not "Why am I so unhappy in this relationship?" but "What is this relationship all about?" As you will see in the section on Layouts (page 9), you can devise a reading to answer specific questions within a larger question. For instance, within a reading that addresses the relationship in general, you can inquire about issues such as "What I am learning in this relationship?" or "What am I missing in this relationship?" or "What is the essential conflict between me and my partner?"

Above all, be sure that what you're asking about is what you truly want to know. Don't ask how you can improve a relationship if what you're really wondering is how best to break it up.

Keep in mind that you won't get much from the Tarot if you're not open to new information and perspectives. A reading done with a closed mind or heart is not really a reading, but merely a shuffling of cards. Under such circumstances, the cards will probably seem meaningless, which will be a reflection not on the Tarot but on the unwillingness of the reader to enter earnestly into the process.

### . WHAT TO ASK .

**Request for coaching.** This type of reading is a "check-in" to get a sense of the themes or lessons currently in your life. Decide whether you're asking for assistance in how to



understand matters (internally) or in how to act on them (externally). To ask about both understanding and action, you will be best served by doing a reading with at least two cards, so you can assign a card placement to address each of these concerns. Where appropriate, it's helpful to include a time frame such as "this week" or "this year."

Put your request into a direct question. For example:

What should I keep in mind today?

What is this week about for me?

What should be my guiding principle today?

What is my purpose this month?

Some readers prefer asking the cards to fill in the blank:

Today I am advised to \_\_\_\_\_.

Your inquiry can be made more specific by narrowing your question to a particular area of your life:

What should be my guiding principle today at

work?
This week in our relationship the theme is \_\_\_\_\_.
To live more healthfully, I need to learn \_\_\_\_\_.

**Underlying story.** Sometimes you'd like to get insight into the "real story": the forces and causes of a problem that lie deeper than those you've been able to grasp—or been willing to face—on your own.

My boss and I got into a serious fight over a petty scheduling matter. What's the real problem between us?

My spouse insists that the issue here is my selfishness. What is the central issue?



I keep saying I want to be more responsible about money, yet I don't do it. What's the problem?

**Decision-making.** A common reason for doing a reading is to seek guidance in making a decision. Most modern-day readers look to the Tarot to assist them in fully understanding their concerns about a decision, and to offer ideas regarding likely pros and cons of the various alternatives. They do not expect the Tarot to make the decision for them. Readings to help with decisions, as you will see in the layouts that follow, can be posed as comparisons of the various options or as queries about the option you currently favor.

### THE LAYOUTS

tarot layout is a template of placements for the cards in a reading. Just as a baseball diamond's permanently designated places are filled countless times with varying players, so can the same layout be used over and over, while the specific cards that fall in the placements vary. A layout placement designated "My Attitude" will, in different readings, be dealt a variety of cards, each with its own meaning to interpret regarding the reader's attitude in each situation. Indeed, some readers prefer to use the same layout every time in order to develop increasing insight into the meanings of the various placements. On the other hand, many readers use different layouts at different times, responding to such factors as the type of issue they have in mind and the amount of time they want to spend interpreting the cards.



An additional factor, if you're a beginner, is that a layout with twelve cards may be more confusing than enlightening (or just too time-consuming to interpret). There's an easy solution to this problem: begin with the simpler layouts. You'll find it easier to keep track of the meanings of the placements and cards, and you'll get much greater satisfaction in the reading, which will encourage you to keep doing readings. Over time, as you become more familiar with the deck and more adept at interpretation, the more complex layouts will become more accessible and useful to you.

Choose layouts that fit your inquiry and the length of time you want to spend on the reading. Most of the layouts described on the following pages share the baseball theme. You can find many others in Tarot books or design your own (see "Creating Original Layouts," page 24).

Whether you use a layout from a book or invent your own, be sure to jot down the design and meaning of each placement before you lay out the cards themselves. Otherwise, it's easy to forget the meanings you intended for the positions—or worse, to "forget" the assigned meanings for certain positions when the cards that land there don't say what you had hoped to hear. Another benefit of notes is that they comprise a record to review in the future.

Before you read further, imagine you had the Baseball Tarot deck but no book of instructions. How would you mix the deck and pick the cards for a reading and how would you lay them out? Whatever method you picture is a perfectly good way to pick the cards—and probably perfect for you in particular.



Readers lay out cards differently; some are open-minded about it, while others feel strongly that theirs is the only way. We suggest that you do what feels right to you. Go with your first idea, or try out some of the others in this book. The only universal truth is that you must choose the cards without seeing them. This can be accomplished by keeping them facedown, by closing your eyes, or by picking them out of a bag.

Some readers shuffle the deck just as they would playing cards, while others use both hands to mix the cards around on a tabletop. You can decide on a formula, such as "shuffle once, cut twice, shuffle again," or simply shuffle until the cards "feel right" to you. Or put the cards in a nice cloth bag and shake them up.

To pick the cards, some readers deal one by one from the top of the shuffled deck, as with playing cards. Or, a reader may move through the layout one placement at a time, keeping in mind the meaning of each placement while picking a card at random to fill it.

You can use a combination of these methods or something altogether different. It's a good idea to stay with one method (at least for a while), primarily because the familiar ritual will allow you to stay focused on the reading. Your attention should be on your question, not on your technique.



### SUGGESTED LAYOUTS

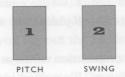
### • LAYOUTS FOR ONE PERSON • ONE-CARD LAYOUT



This is best when you desire a concise answer to inquiries such as "What should I focus on today?" Simply specify your question and pick one card in response.

### TWO-TO-FOUR-CARD LAYOUTS

### PITCH AND SWING



In this layout, you are the batter. *Pitch* represents the situation you're facing, what reality is handing you, what's coming at you. *Swing* represents your best course of action or attitude in response.

You could apply this layout to a topic such as "my relationship with my brother" or "what's happening at work this week." Or, you can make the *Pitch* more specific with labels like "the family reunion next Saturday" or "tomorrow's meeting with my supervisor."



### THE CHANGE-UP



*Usual Pitch* represents your familiar approach to, attitude about, or behavior regarding the matter in question. The second card offers the *Change-Up*: a new alternative to try.

This is a perfect layout for times when you know you are repeating an old pattern that doesn't work. You might focus on your job interviewing skills, if you've been disappointed in your past performances and have an interview coming up. Or your focus might be on a recurrent argument about sharing household chores. This layout is a good way to develop your understanding of the old habit, and to identify another option.

### HYPE AND SCOOP

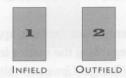


Hype represents the superficial level: appearances, what you believe is going on, or what you try to convince yourself (and/or others) is the truth of the situation. Scoop is the inside line: what this issue is really about.



This is a layout that delves into the underlying story. Use it when you feel confused about what's true, when you think you may be deceiving yourself, or when you simply want to take your understanding to a deeper level.

### INFIELD AND OUTFIELD



Infield speaks to your subjective experience of the situation. Outfield offers you an outside view—either a more objective perspective or one that reveals how others see you, depending on which you request.

### HIT, BALL, STRIKE



Focus on any situation in which you're unsure about what steps to take or what decision to make. Or, focus on a period of time for which you seek guidance: the day, the week, or the length of a particular project. *Hit* represents an advisable move. *Ball*, an action that might help. *Strike*, of course, is the wrong way to go.

You could also create a layout of *Hits* and *Strikes* to represent the pros and cons of an idea or option under consid-



eration. Examples include the benefits and costs of moving to another place, beginning a relationship with a particular person, committing to a project you've been invited to join, or quitting a project you're involved in now.

### STARTER, RELIEVER, CLOSER



Focus on an issue or situation for which you would like to know the proper order of the steps to success. This could be about any area of life, from your career to your spiritual development. Or you can ask for steps toward a specific goal, such as making more friends or earning a degree.

If you prefer to think of yourself as a batter, you can rename the steps *First Base*, *Second Base*, and *Third Base*. In this layout, an added placement titled *Home Plate* could represent what's most important to keep in mind as you pursue your goal.

### WHO'S ON FIRST?



When you're feeling completely confused, like the characters in the famous Abbott and Costello comedy routine, you



may find insight here. Try this layout when all you have to start with is a mood or a feeling, such as resentment or sadness. Who may tell you who else is involved, or it may refer to the way you're seeing yourself. What can indicate the issue itself. I Dunno may provide the information you've been missing or offer advice on how to cope with the state of not-yet-knowing. (Additional placements from the comedy routine would be Why, Because, Tomorrow, Today, and I Don't Care.)

### LONGER LAYOUTS FOR ONE PERSON

### CALLING THE PLAYS

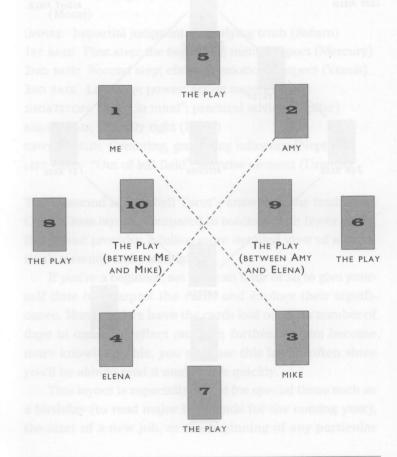
This layout helps you sort out the dynamics within a group of three or more people, such as coworkers, family members, a love triangle, or friends. In formulating your question, specify whether you just want to better understand the group or you're looking for insight into a particular issue among these people ("the lack of cooperation in our office" or "the family arguments that took place last weekend").

Assign a card placement for each of the "players" in the group. (In the example at right, we named them *Me*, *Amy*, *Mike*, and *Elena*.) Always include a *Me*, whether it represents you or the person for whom you're doing a reading; otherwise, you're not doing Tarot, you're just gossiping with the deck as a prop. The cards that land in each player's spot offer insight into the role of that person in the group.

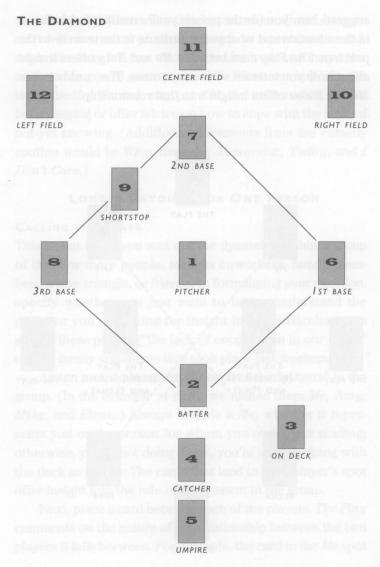
Next, place a card between each of the players. *The Play* comments on the nature of the relationship between the two players it falls between. For example, the card in the *Me* spot



suggests how you (or the person you're reading for) behaves in the situation and what you contribute to the team or to the problem. *The Play* card between *Me* and *Amy* offers insight about how you interact with one another. The card between *Me* and *Elena* offers insight into that relationship.









PITCHER: The overall theme, situation, issue (Sun)

BATTER: Who you are in this situation; traditionally, the Significator (Earth)

ON DECK: Potential; who you are becoming, or could become

CATCHER: "Getting it"; what you need to understand better (Moon)

UMPIRE: Impartial judgment; underlying truth (Saturn)

IST BASE: First step; the beginning; mental aspect (Mercury)

2ND BASE: Second step; choices; emotional aspect (Venus)

3RD BASE: Last step; power; action aspect (Mars)

SHORTSTOP: "Keep in mind"; practical advice (Jupiter)

RIGHT FIELD: Morally right (Pluto)

CENTER FIELD: Centering, grounding influence (Neptune)

LEFT FIELD: "Out of left field"; surprise element (Uranus)

The Diamond is Baseball Tarot's answer to the traditional Celtic Cross layout. Compared to readings with fewer cards, this layout provides a fuller, more detailed view of a situation's meaning and potential.

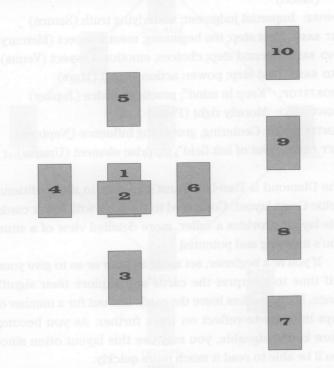
If you're a beginner, set aside an hour or so to give yourself time to interpret the cards and explore their significance. Many readers leave the cards laid out for a number of days in order to reflect on them further. As you become more knowledgeable, you may use this layout often since you'll be able to read it much more quickly.

This layout is especially suited for special times such as a birthday (to read major life trends for the coming year), the start of a new job, or the beginning of any particular



phase of life. It's also appropriate for inquiries about situations or issues and for taking stock when you feel at a loss or unsure of your purpose in life. (Those with an interest in astrology will note the planetary correspondences of the layout positions.)

### TRADITIONAL CELTIC CROSS



The Celtic Cross is the best-known, most widely used Tarot layout. Though different readers number the cards somewhat variously and may slightly alter the designations of



some of the positions, most of the Celtic Cross layout is constant throughout the world of Tarot. The list below includes the most common interpretations for each numbered position:

- 1. You (or the person being read for) as you are in this current circumstance or question; or, the situation itself.
- 2. Crossing you: a barrier; a difficulty.
- 3. Beneath you: the distant past that developed into the current situation.
- 4. Behind you: recent past events leading to the current situation.
- 5. Above you: your aim; your ideal; the best possible outcome.
- 6. Before you: your immediate future.
- 7. About you: your attitude; you; your close surroundings.
- 8. Around you: your environment, including others' viewpoints, and/or your effect on others.
- 9. Within you: your hopes and/or fears; or, an unexpected element.
- 10. The final outcome: the likely result of this situation or question as things stand now; the conclusion of the story told by the other cards.

A common alternative method of filling the first placement in this layout is to choose a specific first card to represent the reader's understanding of self in the situation being asked about. This consciously chosen card is called the *Significator*. For example, if your reading is focused on



the subject of wanting to start dating again, you might choose Double Play—the Two of Mitts, representing beginnings of relationships—as your Significator. Then you should begin the Celtic Cross, with card number 1 placed over the Significator and interpreted as "covering you," an overall description of your present circumstance. The rest of the cards, 2 to 10, are placed and interpreted just as in the diagram.

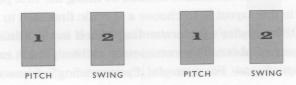
If you'd like to learn more about the Celtic Cross layout, you can find a tremendous amount of commentary about its use in Tarot books.

### + LAYOUTS FOR TWO OR MORE PEOPLE +

Layouts including two or more people are usually used for readings about a shared concern, such as resolving a conflict, making a joint decision, or developing a plan together. Two people can also do "check-in" readings on the current state of their relationship. When the cards have been laid out, each reader interprets his or her own card aloud. Each participant may seek insight from the other's cards, but should refrain from sharing those interpretations unless and until an opinion is requested.

Here are some examples to get you started:

### PITCH AND SWING FOR TWO



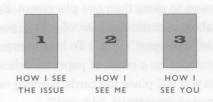


The first card represents the first reader's *Pitch* to the second reader; the second card represents the second reader's optimal course of action, or *Swing*, in response to the *Pitch*. In the second round, the positions are switched: the second reader pitches, the first reader swings.

For example, say you seem to be bickering a lot lately with your co-reader. The first *Pitch* card indicates what you're bringing to the situation, how you're contributing to the difficulty, how you approach the other person, what you're "throwing at" that person. Your co-reader's *Swing* card offers guidance for the best way for him or her to respond. The positions are then reversed.

This layout could be expanded to include two *Swings*: the first, that reader's usual response, and the second, a better alternative. Or, the *Pitches* could be interpreted to represent opportunities being offered by one to the other. Again, adjust the designated meanings of the placements to address your concerns.

### BOTTOM OF THE INNING



The name of this layout comes from the fact that the bottom (second half) of the inning is when teams change places and get a taste of the others' perspective. Each reader deals three



cards to represent his or her subjective view of the situation. It's entertaining and enlightening to discover where the two views agree and diverge.

### . CREATING ORIGINAL LAYOUTS .

Many readers prefer to devise their own layouts in order to tailor each reading to their current concerns. This style of reading can be likened to a pick-up game shaped in response to the available space, number of players, and mood. Quickly designing a layout for your reading can be part of the process of clarifying your question, and therefore often leads to satisfying on-target readings.

To create new layouts, you can mix and match placement meanings from the layouts here, add your own ideas, or start from scratch. There are endless possibilities. You will find it helpful to begin by brainstorming about your issue or question, either on paper or out loud with a friend. List the different aspects that you're curious or concerned about. Edit down to a manageable few. (Sometimes you will want to assign the same designation to more than one placement. For example, in a reading about a particular plan of action, you might ask for three "pros" and three "cons.") To best interpret the reading, draw rectangles on a piece of paper to indicate the positions in which you will place the cards, labeling each position with its designated meaning.

Position designations should be a single word or short phrase, such as the following examples. Jot down particular designations that work best for you.



me	next step
individual others	potential barrier
("Deb," "my brother")	
groups of others	how to overcome barrier
("my coworkers")	
pros; arguments for;	past; childhood; last year
benefits	
cons; arguments against;	future; next week; in ten
costs	years
hopes	thoughts
desires	appearances
attitude	reality
fears	feelings
wishes	underlying feelings
action options	my role; other's role
best-case scenario	worst-case scenario
strengths	weaknesses
skills	what I need
my ideal job	what I can give
a new idea	what's missing
the cause	the solution
the essential issue	the lesson for me
likely outcome	keep in mind

### . THE BIG PICTURE .

Whether your reading includes one card or many, take time to look over the laid-out cards before you review the inter-



pretations in this book or any other source. Your first impressions are extremely valuable.

When you consider the layout as a whole, not as individual cards, what do you notice? Do any of the suits predominate? (A reading filled with Bats, for example, is likely to indicate action-oriented information, while a reading filled with Mitts speaks to a more emotional perspective.)

Do the images depict mostly the perspective of defensive players or offensive players? Or is there a mixture of both? Do you see mostly people or objects? Is there mostly action or rest? Are the figures having positive or negative experiences? What mood do the images project?

Are many of the cards from the Majors? Generally, these are considered to carry somewhat more weight than the Minors and to refer to larger, more profound issues. Most readers would take a Majors-laden reading as a sign of a particularly important message.

Are there other links between cards? More than one Ace or Coach, for example? Or, say, do Strikeout (the batter's perspective) and No-Hitter (the pitcher's) appear together? Or other cards that are complementary or somehow connected in their meanings, such as the Catcher and the Pitcher, or the Rookie and Retirement? Even if a reading includes only one or two cards, it is important to look at the themes before reading the interpretation in the book.

### + CARD BY CARD +

On the paper you used to sketch out your layout, write down the name of the card that landed in each placement. Note



briefly each card's apparent meaning—your first thoughts, feelings, and associations to the card. Then turn to the card's explanation in this book and read the interpretations supplied there, jotting down the words or phrases that seem to apply to your reading. Remember to consider the meaning of the card *in the context* of the layout placement's designated label. The very essence of insightful Tarot reading is this art of juxtaposition.

Sometimes the interpretation will be unmistakably clear. For example, say one placement in your layout is labeled "Conversation with Joyce," representing a recent encounter with an old acquaintance who suggested a new career direction for you. You've thought about it ever since, but you wonder if you're merely indulging in escapist daydreaming. Let's say the card that falls in this placement is Signs. Most readers would consider this an indication that Joyce's idea is indeed worthy of serious attention.

Or, in a reading about a relationship, the Safe card may be dealt in a placement labeled "Reason to Commit." You may recognize immediately that a need for security is indeed your overriding motive to commit and that simply allaying your fear of being alone is a poor reason for moving forward in the relationship. Alternatively, perhaps you've resisted security in the past, but you're now realizing that more stability is what you really want; in this case, you may interpret the Safe card in this reading as advising that safety is a worthwhile reason to commit. The correct interpretation can be made only by the expert: you. (Another way to make interpretation easier, especially at first, is to include in your



layout one placement labeled "Healthy Reason to Commit" and another labeled "Unhealthy Reason to Commit.")

For contrast, imagine that the Whole New Ball Game card had fallen in the "Reason to Commit" placement. Your first thought is "Whole New Ball Game—it sure would be! Taking this step would mean a huge change, and I'm not so sure I'm ready for that." Then, on reading this book's interpretations of the card, you're reminded that moving on to the next stage of the relationship would offer new rewards as well as risks. Your Tarot reading will have offered you greater understanding and insight with which to make your decision.

After considering the interpretations of each card, look again for similarities, contrasts, or other relationships among the cards. Reread your original question, and summarize the reading's response. Note your overall interpretation of the reading as well as your feelings, ideas, and opinions about it and how you think you'll use the wisdom you've gained. To delve more deeply, answer some of the questions provided in this book's interpretations of the cards in your reading.

Whether you prefer to explore the reading in a few paragraphs or a few pages, we recommend that you finish with two brief statements to refer to as the situation unfolds. These statements answer the questions "What did I learn from this reading?" and "What guidance, direction, or 'next step' does this reading offer me?"

Feeling stuck? One way to jump-start the process if you're feeling at a loss is to ask yourself, "What would this card



mean if it *did* mean something?" (This question is especially helpful if your trouble is caused by skepticism about the whole idea of Tarot.) Or, try asking yourself, "What meaning would I see if this were a reading for a stranger, not for me?"

Finding the meaning of a card can sometimes require extra consideration and internal detective work. It's easy to do: just take pen to paper, or speak aloud, and explore the possibilities without trying to rush to a "right answer." Look over the questions listed for the card in this book and answer those that intrigue you.

Free association offers another path of exploration. Set yourself the task of coming up with three possible explanations without even trying to evaluate how they apply to your situation. Read the quotation on that card's page. How does it apply to the placement's designated label and to your original question?

One challenging case occurs when a seemingly negative card is dealt to a layout placement that requests a positive element. For example, say a layout includes a placement labeled "Benefits of Completing School." If the Balk card (page 193) falls in this spot, you may jot down:

But balking isn't a benefit. When a pitcher balks, it's a mistake. Hesitation. A screwup.

Now, just for the moment, assume that the Tarot is right and the card is indeed trying to tell you something valuable. Ask yourself, could Balk actually represent a benefit? How could a balk ever be good?



Maybe this card is saying that a positive reason for finishing school is that if I don't, I'll regret it. I'll see quitting school as a balk—as not following through.

You may also find insight into your situation in the book's interpretation of Balk, which discusses the fact that balks generally occur when the pitcher is torn between options and under great pressure.

Another way to clarify a confusing message is to consider the card in question in context with the other cards in the layout. For example, if the card that's giving you trouble is the Four of Mitts, look to see if another Mitt appears in the reading. If so, explore the possibility that these two placements' interpretations are intertwined. The same process may work if the troublesome card is connected by its title to another card in your reading. The connection could be a similarity, as with two MVPs or the Catcher and Signs. Or it might be a contrast, such as the Hero and the Goat or Choke and Home Run.

Or try this angle: does the card stand out in any particular way? Is it the only Major? Is it the only card of its suit? Is it the only card with a smiling figure? Or is it the only negative card? The answers to these questions may lead to the meaning. You may also want to try getting a second opinion. Consult a friend or a different Tarot book (sometimes a single phrase the author uses will "click" for you), or let the reading sit for an hour, or overnight, while its potential meanings percolate inside you.



If all else fails—and *only* if all else fails—we recommend that you focus on the placement's designated meaning, deal another card, and use the new card as a clue to interpreting the original one.

If you keep a record of your readings, you'll discover that cards that were confusing at the time are often easy to interpret in retrospect. Looking back this way will help you develop your reading skills. As with any other endeavor, the more you practice, the easier and more rewarding you'll find Tarot reading.

Reversed cards. Many Tarot readers read significance into whether a card happens to be dealt with the picture right side up or upside down ("reversed"). Some believe that a reversed card expresses the opposite of the card's upright meaning, or indicates that the upright meaning is in some way blocked or will be delayed. On the other hand, many Tarot readers simply turn all cards upright, and interpret their meanings with consideration to both the positive and negative implications of the card. Sometimes, a placement's designation helps to clarify this issue; for example, in a placement labeled "My Greatest Strength," it makes sense to look for the card's positive side.

Baseball Tarot cards and interpretations have been created with the intention that readers will turn all cards upright before interpreting their meanings. This book provides you with both positive and negative themes for each card, so however you choose to handle reversed cards, you have all the information you need to interpret the cards.



Idiosyncratic associations and puns. The Tarot has an amazing ability to speak directly to you and will respond to your own world of meanings, memories, dreams, hopes, challenges, and fears. Some cards' baseball meanings may have special, personal associations for you, such as the Catcher, if that was the position you played for years, or the Pitcher, if that's the role you identify with when you watch games. The Sidelined card will have a particular resonance for you if you have recently been "downsized," and Eye on the Ball will seem personally addressed if you happen to be an optometrist. If a person or place on a card looks strikingly like one in your real life, by all means explore that association.

Also, don't be surprised if the Tarot sometimes speaks to you in puns. For example, Rundown would usually refer to a loss of security or to feeling trapped, with no acceptable options. But if this card appears in your reading in a placement labeled "feelings," and your first thought is "That's just how I feel—run-down and exhausted," then that's your interpretation. (The interpretation in the book may also apply, perhaps assisting you to realize that the reason you're feeling so tired is indeed that you feel under pressure with no way to escape.)

### . ABOUT READING FOR OTHERS .

The individual whose question is addressed in a Tarot reading is known as the querent. When you read for a querent other than yourself, it is your duty to be sensitive to his or her feelings and expectations. Your reading of the cards



should not be offered as declarations of fact, and you must absolutely avoid alarming people with dire predictions or exciting them with promises of extraordinary good fortune. As with readings for yourself, look to the cards not for absolute answers but for insight and guidance.

Keep in mind that most modern Tarot readers do not believe there are "good" and "bad" cards. Rather, each card represents a quality or circumstance that has both good and bad elements. Most important, each card's message can be responded to skillfully or unskillfully. For example, even a card that seems obviously negative, such as the Goat, has less to do with a bad person than with a bad attitude (which the querent can choose to adjust) or manipulative behavior (which the querent can choose to alter). The interpretations in this book specifically offer the querent advice on how best to handle the challenges of apparently negative cards.

This is not to say that you should "sugarcoat" your readings. Rather, the recommended approach is to make your reading a constructive exploration. Your readings, for yourself or others, should end on a hopeful note. If at first you don't see the positive direction being offered by the cards, look more carefully. And, if necessary, lay out an extra card specifically seeking clarification of the positive direction the querent can take. You can use the same summarizing questions suggested on page 28: "What did you learn from this reading?" and "What guidance, direction, or 'next step' does this reading offer?"

Another crucial aspect of reading for others is to respect their right to their own interpretations. Do not impose your



ideas on them. Consider yourself a guide or facilitator, not the authority. Especially if you're a beginner, adopt the perspective of showing your friend how to use and read the deck. Phrases that express the appropriate attitude include "This card usually refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_. Does that make sense to you?" or "How might that apply?" or "What do you think that might mean in your case?"

Keep firmly in mind that Baseball Tarot is not a fortune-telling device, but a tool for exploration, insight, and guidance. Even a placement with a label like "outcome" is not meant to be interpreted as a promise or threat; rather, it is indicative of what is likely to occur if all continues in its current manner. Querents have the power to change the course of events by changing their understanding, their attitudes, and their actions. Think of a Tarot reading in terms of a weather forecast. Forecasters can tell you about conditions, but they do not control the weather and it's not their job to supply you with an umbrella. Similarly, the Tarot provides valuable information about yourself and your situation, but it cannot control the future and does not make decisions for you.

### . ABOUT READING FOR YOURSELF .

When you read for yourself, the most common difficulty is the tendency toward wishful thinking (or, for some, toward catastrophic thinking). It's all too easy to put our spin on the cards, obscuring the valuable insights that Tarot offers. (Sometimes this problem comes up when reading for others, too. Especially if someone is close to you, your own opin-



ions of his or her personality and situation may color your interpretations.)

The solution is to develop a "bias control." Be honest with yourself about your wishes—and your stereotypes—and be willing to recognize when you're being swayed by them. Try to look at the reading as if it were an example in a book, laid out for a stranger, and note how you would interpret it. Comparing this assessment to your more subjective reading will turn up any serious errors.

Of course, experience helps. One way to foster this process is to create your own interpretation book with one page for each card in the deck. As the various cards are dealt in your readings, make a brief note of your impressions of the meaning of each card on its individual page. Over time, you will develop a personalized interpretation book, revealing the meaning that each card tends to hold for you.

### . KEEP SCORE .

We strongly encourage you to keep a record of your readings. Whether you use a standard spiral notebook or an elegant cloth-covered diary, the essentials are the same: simply note your query, the layout, the designated labels of the positions, the cards dealt to each position, and your assessment of the cards' meanings and the reading overall. Don't forget to include the day and the year.

Even if you do readings infrequently, you will find benefits in keeping track of them. First, this process will help you focus as you create the layout. Second, it will help you see which cards come up for you often, the changes in their posi-



tions, and the arrival of a new "regular" in your lineup. Third, it will help you develop an understanding of what the individual cards mean to you personally, which will vary somewhat from their generic meanings.

When you inevitably find yourself looking over your notes weeks, months, or years later, you will be able to review a reading with the added knowledge of the situation's actual outcome. In retrospect, you will likely be able to identify elements of the reading that suggested issues you didn't want to consider at the time, or aspects of a particular card which you missed earlier. Keeping "score" this way will provide great depth to your experience and practice of Tarot.

### SAMPLE READINGS

ollowing are a few examples of readings to give you a glimpse into the process of finding meaning in the cards you lay out. The comments titled "My interpretation" are just that: the internal conversation a reader might have in interpreting the message of these particular readings. Notice that the readers here first note their initial impressions of the cards. They then consider the interpretations of each card supplied in this book. Finally, they bring both these sources of information, along with their own knowledge of their situation, to bear on the question.

One last piece of advice: don't make it harder than it is! In Baseball Tarot, as in baseball itself, common sense goes a long way.



### + A ONE-CARD READING +

Working with Jim is driving me crazy. I can't depend on him, and nothing I say seems to change things. Either we're always fighting or I'm biting my tongue trying not to fight. I have to keep working with him, at least for now, and I want to have a more constructive attitude about the whole problem. I could ask what actions I can take to get along better with Jim. But I think what will help me more is to have a different perspective on the issue.

The query: What is the lesson for me in this conflict with Jim?



OUT OF REACH (SEVEN OF MITTS)

My interpretation: My first impressions: In this situation with Jim, I feel just like the player in the picture on the card—trying so hard and still not getting what I want. I notice that Out of Reach is a Minor card, so it refers to current, everyday events, not the biggest underlying issues of my life. And it's a Mitt, so the answer has to do with the areas of life that Mitts address: how I deal with emotions and relationships, with my spirituality. This makes sense—my question is about a daily relationship. What



does Out of Reach mean? That I'm trying for something I can't have? A solution is Out of Reach or hopeless? Then what is within reach? What should I be reaching for?

Phrases from the book's interpretations (page 161): Choosing reality. A wake-up call. Can represent a person who talks about plans and projects that somehow never happen. That sounds like Jim. One of the questions in the book especially hits home for me: What fantasies or activities am I indulging in at the expense of my real life? Answer: Usually, my real-life relationships—family, romantic, and work—don't live up to my fantasy relationships.

The message: The lesson for me is to be more realistic. Even though Jim has never been reliable, I keep trying to make him live up to my standards—to my fantasy of how he should be. This frustrates both of us, and we fight without getting any closer to a solution. Jim's part of this problem is that he isn't reliable. My part—the only part over which I have control—is that I keep going around in circles with him instead of taking another approach. I get so angry that I forget to consider other options. I need to find a different way to deal with this.

The Out of Reach card suggests that I need to examine my expectations and figure out which ones are realistic and which ones are too high. I could ask others for a reality check about Jim's performance. Or maybe I'm not expressing my expectations to him clearly enough. . . .

I've got to admit that my frustration with him is a familiar feeling. I seem to get disappointed in people a lot. I wonder if my expectations are too high in general, or if



for some reason I place myself in the company of people who are likely to disappoint me.

The book also mentions fear of failure as a possible interpretation. I see that I sometimes keep myself in relationships and situations where my greatest potential won't be tested. I'm protecting myself because, when it comes down to it, I'm afraid to find out what my highest capability is. Then I get frustrated with everyone else's failings! This has a spiritual component, too; I would like to be more sympathetic and forgiving of people's failings, instead of so critical.

What did I learn from this reading? Even though Jim's work habits are a problem, the intensity of my feelings about this conflict has to do with me, not him.

What guidance, direction, or "next step" does this reading offer me? To reevaluate my expectations of myself and others, and work on my own shortcomings instead of losing patience with others. To address the problems with Jim within a realistic framework, remembering that nobody's perfect, including me. Instead of wasting energy fighting with Jim, I need to concentrate on setting realistic goals for myself and taking constructive steps toward them.

### + A TWO-CARD READING +

### THE CHANGE-UP LAYOUT

I want to meet someone I could love and have a serious relationship with. I need insight into what I've been doing wrong, and what other options there are.



The query: How do I usually approach love relationships and how could I get better results?



USUAL PITCH

EXTRA INNINGS (TWELVE OF BATS)



CHANGE-UP

HOME RUN (SIX OF BATS)

My interpretation: My first impressions: Both are Minor cards, so this reading applies to my current situation, not necessarily core issues in my life. Both are from the same suit, Bats, so both refer to taking action on my desires. My usual approach is the Twelve of Bats, Extra Innings... what does that mean? Well, sometimes I hang on to relationships far too long. (Though I think I've given up on some relationships too soon!) Another thing: Extra Innings refers to an unusual game, one that goes beyond the standard nine innings. Maybe it's saying I pay too much attention to the "extras" in a person—unusual talents, status, etc.—and not enough to the basic, crucial qualities. Or it could mean that I look at a relationship as an "extra" in my life, directing my attention and energy to it only after I take care of other things.

The reading suggests that Home Run should be my new approach. That sounds promising! Home Run means success, and I also notice it has the word "home" in it, which connects with my question about a serious relationship—one that could lead to a shared home and family.



Phrases from the book's interpretations: Extra Innings (page 267): Pursing adventure. Exploring further; spontaneity; fun-loving. On the downside: difficulty dealing with limits; lack of staying power; cowardice.

Home Run (page 249): Acting with confidence. Victory; fulfillment brought about by persistent belief and focused effort; joy; discovering previously untapped strength.

The message: I need to think more about how Extra Innings describes my usual approach to relationships. I was really struck by the word "cowardice." Too many of the decisions in my love life have been based on fear—either fear of being alone or fear of getting trapped with the wrong person. Or, I get involved with people who are fearful of intimacy. I know people who are more capable of being in a healthy relationship, but I make friends with them instead of falling for them! I usually value excitement and new beginnings—the Extra Innings stuff—in relationships, to the exclusion of more important, but less dramatic qualities like compatibility and trustworthiness.

What about Home Run as my new approach? Well, you don't hit a Home Run just by luck; you have to commit to the goal and work at it. The book says "persistent belief and focused effort." If I really want to have a good relationship, I need to be more determined to make it happen. It seems hopeful that Home Run is such a positive card, representing one of the best things that can happen in a ball game. To me, it says that a solid relationship is well within my reach if I take the right steps—and the first one is to commit to the goal and make it a priority.



The questions from the book that I want to explore further are: "What do I want to add to this situation?" and "How do I feel about standing out above the crowd?" (In this case, what would it be like to be in a successful relationship, when none of my friends ever are?)

What did I learn from this reading? I have to choose between superficial thrills and lasting satisfaction. And I have to take a hard, honest look at the fears that keep me from getting what I want. I have reason to be optimistic about falling in love and having a great relationship if I'm willing to get serious about it.

What guidance, direction, or "next step" does this reading offer me? I need to explore and resolve any ambivalence I have about a serious relationship, commit to the goal instead of wasting time with people who aren't candidates for real intimacy, and persist until I succeed.

### HIT, BALL, STRIKE

**The query:** What should I keep in mind as overall guidance for this month?



My interpretation: My first impressions: One Major and two Minors. The two suits are Mitts and Bases, which repre-



sent feelings, connection, security, practicality. The Coach is the only Major, so I should pay particular attention to this card; it makes me think of someone with experience, an adviser. Double Play suggests teamwork, ability to cooperate well with someone. And Steal: in the real world stealing is bad, of course, but in baseball it's good. I don't understand why a positive card would appear in the "bad move" spot in my reading. What else does Steal make me think of? Doing what you have to do, even though you might get hurt. Acting fast.

Phrases from the book's interpretations: Coach (page 57): Inner knowing; teaching; protecting others.

Double Play (page 145): Bringing together. A balanced, fair relationship. Cooperation. Open-minded. Synergy.

Steal (page 311): Daring to commit. No guarantees. Call to action. On the negative side: lack of dedication; refusing an opportunity to learn.

The message: The Hit, an advisable move this month, is Coach: focus on recognizing and respecting my inner knowledge, and on developing my relationships as both a teacher and a student. The Coach card is a Major, indicating that this is a key issue for me, this month and beyond; which is true. I tend to have a hard time asking for or accepting help, and then I second-guess myself because I'm out of my depth. In the Ball spot, representing an action that might help, is Double Play, which echoes the relationship theme.

Last, in the Strike spot, is what I shouldn't do: Steal. That could mean that I shouldn't make any sudden moves,



even if they seem promising. Oh! Stealing is something you do alone, at great risk; a very aggressive type of action. The Coach and Double Play, on the other hand, both emphasize relationships, not solo action. Also, the book points out that the downside of Steal is a refusal to learn. So the Hit says to learn, and the Strike says to make sure I'm not refusing to learn. Very consistent.

What did I learn from this reading? This month is a good time to develop myself through my relationships with others.

What guidance, direction, or "next step" does this reading offer me? Remember to cooperate. Instead of working against others, or off on my own, I should look for opportunities to work with others—and especially with people who support my growing competence and self-confidence, who help me trust my own wisdom and abilities.



n a traditional Tarot deck, the first 22 cards (0 through 21) are known as the Major Arcana (or Trumps). In Baseball Tarot, these become the Majors, which represent the archetypal elements and profound forces that shape our lives inside and out. While the majority of the cards in the deck, the Minors, refer to daily life and its activities, the Majors call our attention to the larger, ultimate truths and struggles. The Minors report and discuss today's scores and stats; the Majors are baseball itself.

Relatedly, the Minors are usually interpreted in terms of positive and negative meanings (in this book described as "Ahead of the Count" and "Behind in the Count"). But the Majors transcend such good/bad interpretations. They illustrate powerful themes that simply are, and identify core



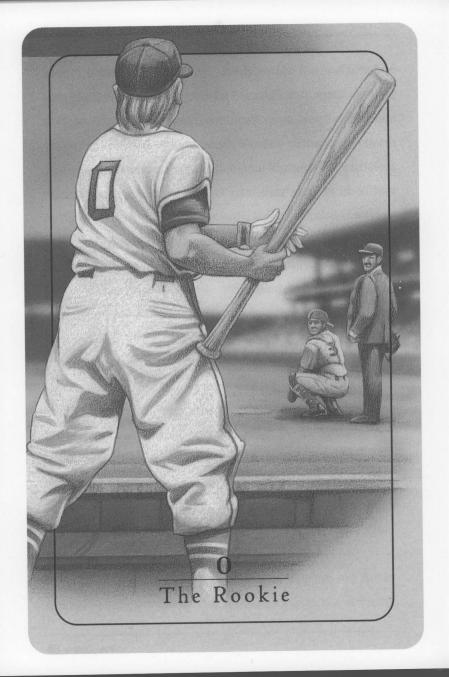
issues raised by your inquiry. The question is not whether a particular Major is positive or negative, but whether your relationship to that Major is constructive or destructive. Each Major asks, how do you live with the issue that I symbolize?

Most of us have little trouble embracing the more obviously friendly Majors, such as the All-Star and the Hero. But in Baseball Tarot, as in life, we are faced with the challenge of accepting and dealing constructively with Slump and the Goat as well. Additionally, even the most apparently positive of the Majors raises potential difficulties as well as a worthy goal. (For example, in a reading, you may see that the overt blessing of Batting 1.000 can bring with it the danger of an impossible-to-satisfy perfectionism.)

As a group, the Majors represent the whole world of possibilities—all our potential strengths and challenges. If you lay them out in a circle, you can watch the Rookie (the first card) go through many roles and phases, utimately to reach the World Series (the final card) . . . which leads back to the Rookie, now on a new quest. In traditional Tarot, the Major Arcana is often described as a path, the cards as illustrations of our steps on the way to fuller understanding.

The Majors offer us opportunities to explore our fundamental beliefs, our underlying fears and hopes, the strengths and weaknesses of our character. As the Majors turn up in your readings, you discover where you are open to learning and where you snap your awareness shut. The Majors remind that while today's game counts, baseball is bigger than the final score of any one game, or any one season, just as life is greater than any one gain or loss, any single moment or day.

Through the Majors, we connect our everyday activities to our lifelong purpose, and our individual lives to the universal human experience.



### The Rookie

0

NEW EXPERIENCES • INNOCENCE • BEGINNINGS •
POTENTIAL • OPPORTUNITY

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE FOOL
PLANETARY LINK: URANUS

In baseball, you don't know nothing.

-YOGI BERRA

he Rookie steps out of the dugout for the first time, wearing the symbol or figure of "0," signifying the absence of quantity and number value. The zero on the back of the uniform represents pure potential and unlimited horizons. It's a brave beginning for a player who's young, naive, unseasoned, and full of dreams. As the player joins the game, those dreams confront reality.

Experience can be earned only by those who take the chance to try. Talent, dedication, skill—these are all vital. But what the Rookie needs most is nerve. The only way to move forward at this point is to take risks. And the Rookie represents that mix of excitement and fear that flavors every new step.



One approach here is to consider the Zen concept of "Beginner's Mind," a clear viewpoint free of outdated stereotypes, ingrained habits, and ancient grudges. Sometimes being a newcomer is a powerful advantage.

In traditional Tarot decks, the Rookie card is titled the Fool, an innocent, open and carefree, preparing for the journey of life. While "foolishness" may relate to silly or stupid behavior and lack of wisdom, it also suggests emptiness, the void, and the potential and willingness to be filled. In the traditional image, the Fool carries a wand, indicating the willpower needed on the spiritual path.

In Baseball Tarot, the Rookie holds a magic wand in the form of the all-powerful bat, a tool that can be used with precision to lay down the perfect bunt, to guide the ball past opposing players, or to hit a towering home run that electrifies the crowd.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

magine that you are a novice in the situation, experience, or relationship under examination. Look for the wholeness, the complete picture and entire circle or scope of what is now facing you. Be open, honest, sincere, and straightforward. Let go, be receptive and, above all, listen to your intuition. As the Rookie, there are no strikes against you. No blemishes, flaws, or discordant marks in your record. Destiny awaits.

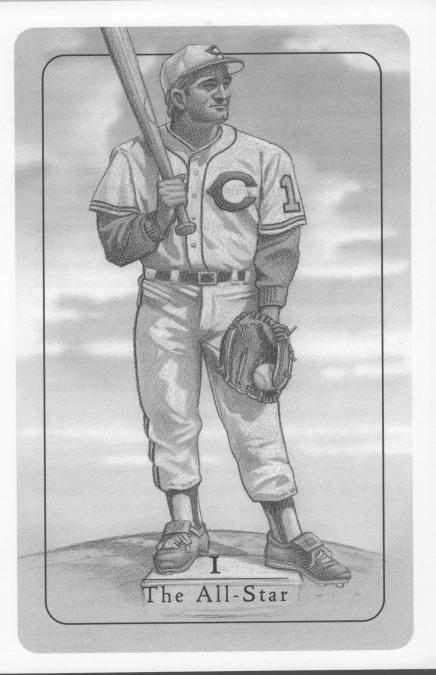
While not pictured in this card, the baseball Rookie's first experience may be in the field rather than at the plate. There you need to stay focused, centered, and grounded to



avoid "spacing out." There's no sense in making a foolish move or error when making your debut on any playing field.

To better understand a current problem or challenge, ask yourself any or all of these questions: What new step am I facing? Am I ready to take it? What "game" do I want to get in on? What do I dream of trying? Are there opportunities I'm missing because being a Rookie feels too awkward, scary, or embarrassing? Where do I need to make a fresh start, to adopt a "Beginner's Mind"? What misconceptions, prejudices, and habits can I eliminate?

Remember that having Rookie status implies the possibility that you have already excelled at a lower or different level of performance in your profession, schooling, or in a relationship. Now arriving perhaps in the "big leagues" as a neophyte, an uncertain quantity, a cipher or Rookie, you are still untested on this more distinguished level of the action.



### The All-Star

1

CONTROL • SKILL • SENSE OF SELF • FAITH IN SELF

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE MAGICIAN
PLANETARY LINK: MERCURY

For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name—

He marks—not that you won or lost—
but how you played the game.

-GRANTLAND RICE

ollowing the innocence, purity, and openness of the Rookie, the All-Star represents an eagerness to play the game on the highest level possible, to excel in all aspects of the sport. The cosmic slate is no longer blank because the Rookie stage of initial awkwardness is over. There is a heady self-assurance that the fundamentals can be mastered within a relatively short time. It is not unusual for the great All-Stars in all walks of life to reveal their expertise early in their careers.

Just a quick glance at the All-Star card will tell you that something magical is afoot. The four elements of baseball—



base, ball, mitt, and bat—are represented and are being controlled with finesse by the superconfident player. People with "All-Star" qualities and traits are rare. They may have received extensive training and encouragement at an early age; there may just be that "special something" in their psyche or heredity that carries them farther than the average player.

Realize that to qualify as a true All-Star, there must be a kernel of greatness present within all the elements. Simply being deft at batting or snagging fly balls won't cut it. Here is someone with an aura of magnificence in all-around play, someone so sharp, intuitive, and adept that any observer will be impressed.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

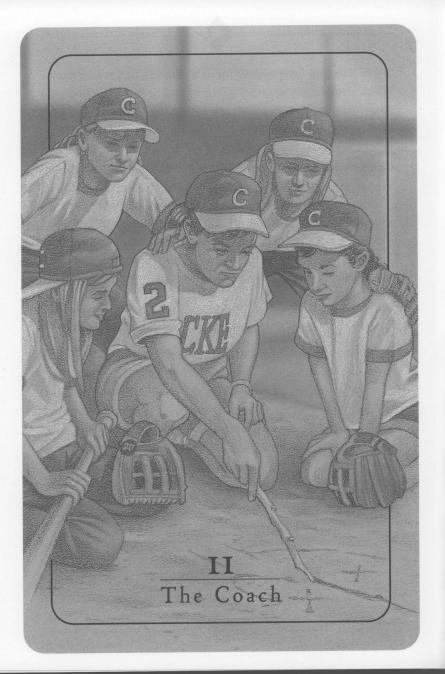
ou may be involved in a social situation, business deal, career move, or relationship demanding complete mastery of all elements. Having a strong will, being a good listener, or knowing when to act decisively will not be enough—if each quality is expressed by itself. There needs to be a feeling of total control of the basics, a realization that all your faculties are razor sharp and that nothing is escaping your attention. The All-Star appearing for you is a sign to review all aspects of your current goal with confidence—then go all-out, knowing you've got everything under control, and you will succeed with extraordinary flair.

If you're falling short with a skill or talent you know you possess, turning up the All-Star can be a signal to work more deliberately on that quality.



When this card shows up in a reading of several cards, check the images appearing just before and after. They may give you a hint of the area of your life requiring an all-star, stellar performance.

Ultimately, the appearance of the All-Star card at this time in your life is a powerful evocation of the sterling qualities in your personality and spiritual self. Here is a magical moment that can change your destiny, a chance to "put it all together" and know you've got it made.



### The Coach

II

INNER KNOWING • TEACHING • PROTECTING OTHERS

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE HIGH PRIESTESS
PLANETARY LINK: THE MOON

I had the spiritual strength of knowing I knew.

-RED BARBER

hether rookie, all-star, or player with average skills, everyone has need of a teacher, guide, or mentor from time to time. An aggressive hitter with a keen eye may have a problem rounding the bases or making that quick jump to snag a long fly ball on the warning track. The all-around champion who has won accolades and awards for many years may suddenly lose that edge and be in need of assistance. And the adequate fielder and batter may want to improve dramatically to reach peak performance.

The Coach is adept in a specific skill after long years of practice. Having experienced it all, reaching great heights as well as knowing futility and failure, the Coach has gained a wisdom few possess. The Coach may even be endowed with such a wealth of insights as to be considered a living oracle,



offering up ingenious solutions to players plagued by chronic problems.

While the Coach may have a contagious enthusiasm and be the master of the pep talk, there is also an inner calm and serenity to this figure. That conscious peace and tranquillity comes from *inner knowing*, an intuitive understanding of what needs to be done. The wise student-player who watches and listens carefully will not only pick up the external skill required, but simultaneously absorb the quiet, internal awareness necessary to keep the skill functioning well for years to come.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

his card represents two main possibilities: either you need to find a mentor or your abilities as a teacher are required now.

In the first instance, the appearance of the Coach suggests seeking out guidance from a reputable source. You may require a new adviser to help you succeed in business, a different guide to spur you onward in educational pursuits, a counselor or therapist to aid you and a loved one in forming a stronger relationship. This is a time for looking up to someone, to recognize that you need assistance and don't have all the answers.

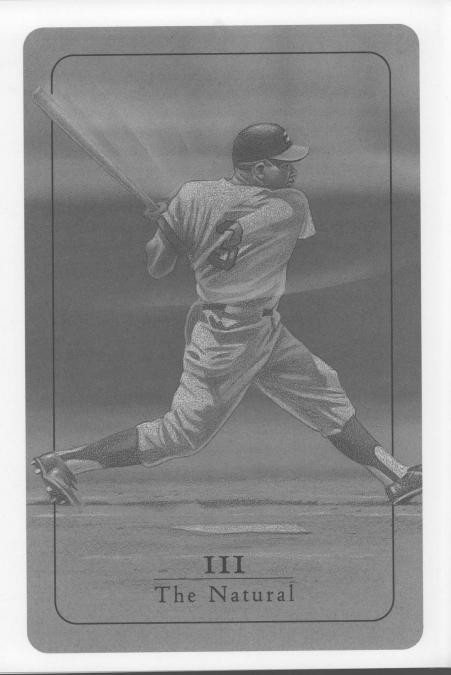
On the other hand, you may currently have the skills to be someone else's Coach. What are your areas of expertise? Where do you so excel that others now need your presence and attention?

Keep in mind that living up to the status of Coach is not easy. You may have gained knowledge in your field over



many years of hard work, but you also need to keep a humble side to your wisdom. Remember, you did not invent your abilities—you received your talents as gifts at birth and developed them with the help of your own coaches.

When the Coach card turns up, there is another possible interpretation: It is time to listen to the voice within you that guides your destiny. In essence, you are being asked to contact the "inner coach," another name for your higher self, even a guardian angel who keeps you on the path when the going gets tough. While meditating on the meaning of this image, keep in mind the spiritual saying: "When the student is ready, the master appears."



### The Natural

**CREATION • ABUNDANCE • SECURITY** 

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE EMPRESS
PLANETARY LINK: VENUS

There ain't much to being a ballplayer—if you're a ballplayer.

-HONUS WAGNER

he sweet swing, the graceful moves afield, the ability to be at ease with oneself and express a magnetic personality that charms opponents as well as teammates—all of these combine to make up the Natural. Here is someone with a richness of character, an abundance of love and joy, a presence larger than life who relishes every moment of the game.

While the Natural may be as gifted as the All-Star in every aspect of the game, this player is more likely talented in a specific department. The home-run hitter who has a trademark groove, a way of batting, standing, and smacking the ball that elicits oohs and ahs from the crowd, and a sense



of wonder from everyone on the diamond. The speedster on the base paths who steals second and third with self-assurance to set up the winning run. The magician with the glove who has an uncanny knack for picking up ground balls that another fielder would miss or boot. The outfielder whose rifle arm cuts down a runner tagging up from third after a long fly ball. The hurler with complete control, an artist on the mound, baffling batter after batter.

The Natural is not without flaws, momentary lapses, and personal failures, but that doesn't take away from the player's greatness. The Natural, even swinging for the fences and striking out, is still a symbol of harmony, confidence, integration, and beauty. On the field, in the dugout, and around the clubhouse, the Natural reminds you of why you play the game, the fun and pleasure involved, the inherent goodness of the sport.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

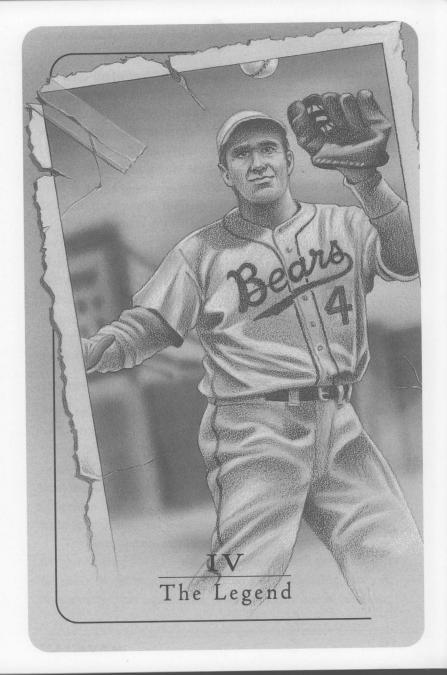
he Natural card reminds you of a special skill or talent that you have in abundance but may need to hone. You may be underestimating the value—including market value—of an activity you love but do "just for fun." This is a time marked by creativity, happiness, feelings of exuberance, contentment. Stop trying to make things happen through willpower or ego. Go with the flow and simply be yourself.

The appearance of the Natural heralds celebration, festivity, enjoying life to the fullest, rejoicing and giving thanks for one's blessings. The Natural may be suggesting that you host a party, plan a gathering, or expand your social calendar.



You could be the center of attention right now, all eyes on you, a star attraction, drawing in admirers by the dozens.

This optimistic card points you toward the beauty and joy that exist in your heart, mind, and soul. Imagine yourself as a beloved child of a benevolent universe, eager to face the world and feeling a vital part of the way things work, when everything is operating smoothly and humming along.



# The Legend

IV

AUTHORITY · AMBITION · AN IDEAL IN MATERIAL FORM

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE EMPEROR
ZODIACAL LINK: ARIES

They knew what to do when an object was hurtling towards them and people were running every which way. They knew how to relax and pay attention at the same time! They had a gift, a precious gift, for getting to the heart of the game, where there was joy.

-Oona Short

ou set a goal for yourself, you work long and hard to reach it, but you don't always succeed. You fall short and experience disappointment. The vast majority of players fall into this category. But there is a small group of stellar performers who not only achieve their initial aims but may even surpass them. They are recognized universally as exceptions to the rule, standouts, unique individuals who play at the top of their game for decades.

The Legend is a figure of authority, respected by the community, honored for a greatness that cannot be calculated by



a single feat. This is an individual who struggled when the team was in the cellar and reveled in the ecstasy of winning a championship. Time and again, the Legend won the game with a hit in the bottom of the ninth or grabbed the soaring line drive in the webbing of the glove to end a rally or slid into home plate with the winning run, just missing the outstretched reach of the opposing team's catcher.

Over the long haul, the Legend has accumulated accomplishments with an elegance and style that approaches perfection. This player's accomplishments have reached mythic status, hovering over the scoring, playing, the game, and the field. The Legend has truly become "one for the ages," a symbol of success and durability, a Hall of Famer for whom monuments and shrines are erected, an immortal.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

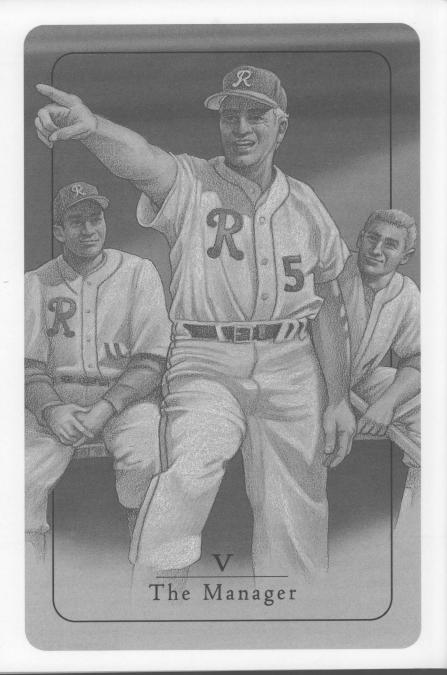
ither someone in a position of authority is making demands on your attention, or you are the authority figure who needs to take action.

This card suggests that you listen carefully to the person in charge. It makes no difference whether you admire that person or not. What is crucial is recognizing that someone in a superior position requires your receptivity and focus. At school or within the household, the Legend coming up may refer to a person with power, one who is in control, or an elder in a commanding position.

The other possibility is that you are the authority figure and the Legend card is a mirror image upon which you need to reflect. How do you handle admiration from others, your



own ambition? Perhaps you've made it to the top of your profession only to find success not deeply satisfying or otherwise disappointing. Maybe you have a tendency toward ruthlessness, a way of manipulating and lording it over others, that estranges you from people and the joys of daily life. The appearance of the Legend suggests that you need to take charge of your psyche and bring your dynamic personality into alignment with your highest ideals.



## The Manager

Y

TRADITION • CONFORMITY • ETHICS •
"MY WAY IS THE ONLY WAY"

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE HIGH PRIEST, OR HIEROPHANT
ZODIACAL LINK: TAURUS

You're the leader, you're the boss, and you can't blame others. You must give direction.

—GEORGE STEINBRENNER

hen a player has revealed a thorough knowledge of all aspects and rules of the game of baseball, an opportunity to manage a team may be in the cards. This is a difficult job, a fine art, and something that requires years of experience to truly master.

The Manager has usually risen through the ranks and become established as a veritable font of insights and expertise. This individual has learned to see things, often in a comprehensive flash, that escape the eyes of others. To manage successfully you have to deeply understand each of your players, assemble a top-notch coaching staff, "play the per-



centages," juggle your lineups, and know the strengths and weaknesses of all the opposing teams—plus serve as a conduit for the suggestions and idiosyncracies of the team owner(s)! The pressure to perform in this role is often maddening and many managers survive only a few seasons.

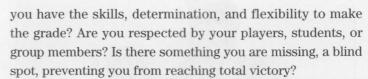
The great managers realize the highest potential of their teams and are able to motivate players to live up to their personal best. The adept Manager will know when to bench a player in a slump and which pinch-hitter to substitute. While the All-Star, Natural, and Legend can inspire fellow players during a game, it is the Manager who is the team leader, crafting the strategy for the game beforehand and improvising on demand.

As the game progresses, the Manager holds the keys to victory or defeat, rallies the players to stay on course even when the outlook seems bleak, reminds down-on-their-luck individuals that they are part of a team. The Manager has the position of final responsibility.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

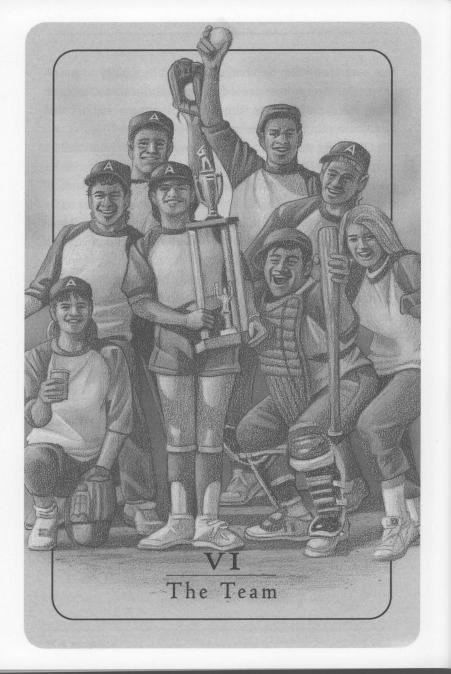
ou may be the literal manager of a team, factory, plant, gym, office department, group, or center. You may be a parent, a school principal, or a person in charge of community fund-raising drives. Your job is to organize and maintain an enterprise—and you may be doing it well enough to earn kudos from colleagues and perhaps even a championship on the playing field.

If the Manager comes up, the key questions are: How effectively are you performing as a Manager right now? Do



Generally this card raises the issue of your relationship with tradition. If you usually manage by strict adherence to the old ways, you may want to consider a novel approach. If you usually rebel, on the other hand, perhaps you need to reconsider the value of the tried and true. Think about "Managers" you have admired in the past and how you can apply their lessons to this situation.

The appearance of this card may be telling you something else: you may have a talent you don't completely understand. The Manager showing up is a signal to look beneath the surface rather than acting out of habit. Explore your circumstances, motivations, and actions more deeply, and your new understanding will make everything—including yourself—easier to manage.



# The Team

VI

RELATIONSHIP • SYNTHESIS • BELONGING • HONEST INTIMACY

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE LOVERS
ZODIACAL LINK: GEMINI

You will find that life is a game, sometimes serious, sometimes fun, but a game that must be played with true team spirit—there is no room for the outsider in life.

—SHELAGH DELANEY

ne of the great lessons in life is learning how to work as part of a team. You can be the most talented player to come along in years, but if your ego is too strong and you can't work well with the rest of the players, trouble ensues.

The Team is the magical blending of talents, skills, and attitudes that becomes more than the sum of its parts. You cannot simply collect a bunch of great players and have a sensational team. In fact a great team is *not* necessarily composed of the best players around. Often it is one that generates a certain spirit that transcends the individual gifts of the players. When functioning at its best, the Team is a mysterious union, a collective life, a unique entity all its own.



Without the Team, the player is caught up in individual achievements, personal statistics, breaking records, and asserting self-will. Within a successful Team, the fine art of relating—on a one-to-one basis and with an entire group—is learned a day at a time.

Confident, successful teams are able to grow, accepting, absorbing, and energizing new players who join the group. The rookie or traded player just arriving can feel a special kinship with everyone else in the club, knowing that this is a family, a union of hearts and souls, not merely an odd collection of individuals.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

sk yourself, "Where do I feel a sense of belonging?" Think of your community, your family, your workplace, and the groups, organizations, clubs, teams, unions, and other associations of which you are a member. Are you pulling your own weight? Are your individual accomplishments contributing to the well-being of others? Do you feel satisfied that you are working successfully toward enhancing the life of your group?

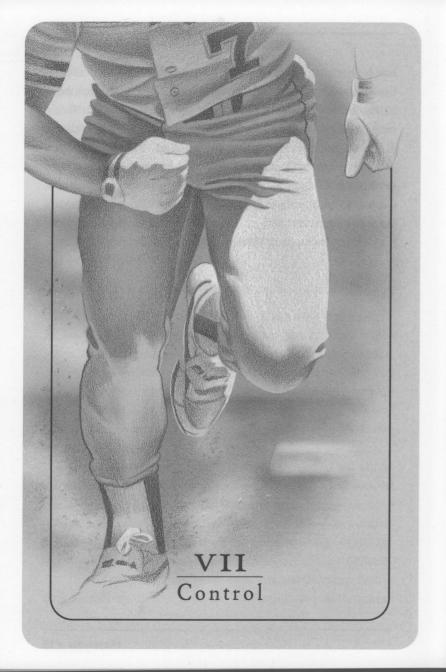
The Team card may be alerting you to search out something currently missing from an educational, business, or social project. The enterprise may be foundering because several individuals are strong-willed, each going in a different direction. This may be the time for a meeting, a refocusing, a soulful contact that rekindles feelings of togetherness.

The Team card may refer to a key partnership rather than to a group. In this case, the card reminds you that there



is a higher purpose and destiny within the core of that relationship. Are you taking someone for granted? Are you honoring the love that nurtures that unique bond? The Team may be suggesting that you balance personal needs with the ability to listen. Be receptive and open to change.

This card can turn your attention to a spiritual union or contact that exists within your own psyche, too. Use it as a device to help you remember the importance of working from the heart as well as the mind to enhance your contributions to the various teams to which you belong.



## Control



WILLPOWER • HARNESSING OPPOSING FORCES
TOWARD A GOAL • DIRECTION

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE CHARIOT ZODIACAL LINK: CANCER

Baseball gives you every chance to be great. Then it puts pressure on you to prove that you haven't got what it takes. It never takes away the chance, and it never eases up on the pressure.

—JOE GARAGIOLA

hen baseball is considered in general, images often cluster around high points: home runs, no-hitters, come-from-behind victories, a circus catch, double play, or blowout. The fans are eager to witness, and cheer for, amazing plays. But there are many skills that lead to success, and one of these is something that is often hard to see and more difficult to measure.

Control cannot be gauged by physique, rippling muscles, or swagger on the field. It is far more subtle and involves coordination of body, mind, and spirit. The player who is



able to maintain a steady focus, a "be here now," Zenlike awareness, may accomplish feats on the ball field that seem impossible.

The hurler who targets the corners of the strike zone manipulates pitches with pinpoint Control. The outfielder, who correctly judges the trajectory of a long fly ball and manages to be well placed to snag it and save the game, portrays Control in action. The alert batter who hits a dribbler toward third and outruns the throw to first is displaying an aspect of Control. The deft runner on first, who times the pitcher's windup and toss homeward perfectly, in order to run like blazes and steal second base, shows the magic of Control.

We are dealing here with focus, an ability to avoid all distractions, to tune out the roar of the crowd, the shouts, taunts, and jeers, and harness total energy for the immediate task. A player who is this centered has intuitive knowledge of what's about to happen, almost a psychic rapport with everything going on in the field and at the plate. This is the payoff for the self-discipline we call Control.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

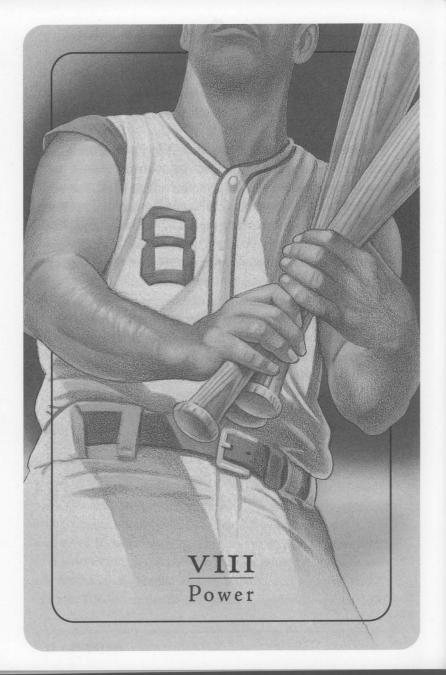
he Control card allows for two different areas of analysis and interpretation. In the first, it may be suggesting that a tangible goal is within reach. However, to reach it, you will need to seize and control the reins of both your mind and your emotions. Too much intellectualizing, without taking into account feeling and sensitivity, and you will go off-course. Too much desire and passion, without reason, logic,



and order, and you will lose your way. Control reminds you to clarify your goal, carefully determine the direction you need to travel in to reach it, and then work to get there in a balanced fashion.

In the second area, this card may be suggesting that your life, or some aspect of it, is "out of control." Follow the advice offered as you begin bringing things back into balance. The answer may lie in affirmations, meditation, visualization practices, and learning more about your internal life. This "inner sensitivity training" will also be of enormous help if you have become too "controlling" in your behavior and attitudes at home, in business, or with friends.

Finding an interior place of serenity, nurturance, hope, and reassurance is a first step toward rediscovering a positive form of Control. When you develop a quiet, calm awareness to tap into, your exterior performance will reflect your internal sense of ease.



### Power

vIII

STRENGTH • ENTHUSIASM • PASSION • THE POWER OF WELL-CHANNELED SKILL AND ENERGY, BUT NOT BRUTE FORCE

TRADITIONAL TITLE: STRENGTH
ZODIACAL LINK: LEO

Sweat is the cologne of accomplishment.

—HEYWOOD HALE BROUN

here are times in baseball when Power becomes the key to victory. A team has been on a losing streak and morale is low. Chins are down despite managerial pats on the back. Trick plays, fine teamwork, and good fielding are not enough to bring in a winning performance. What's needed is a "power surge," a show of strength that acts like a thunderbolt, bringing the crowd to its feet, wowing the opposition, and awakening the players recently caught in the twilight zone.

Power is usually manifested in a slugging exhibition; tape-measure home runs, or three or four in one game by a single player; a go-ahead grand slam in the bottom of the



ninth; a scoring fest in one inning that reminds the team of its collective might. But Power can also be seen in the head-first slide into second base that breaks up a sure double play, or the catcher standing ground to tag out a runner barreling in from third, or the pitcher throwing fastballs that whiz past batters shaking their heads in disbelief.

Sometimes a player becomes a living incarnation of Power. That person can be a tower of strength when the game hangs in the balance or runs have been scarce. Nevertheless, living up to this ideal is difficult and a "power failure" may loom as a kind of shadow for the individual placed on the Power pedestal.

One way to ensure that Power is kept "turned on" is to understand that it is a gift of mind, body, *and* heart. The love of playing, an enthusiasm for the game, and a positive demeanor keep the electricity flowing at all times.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

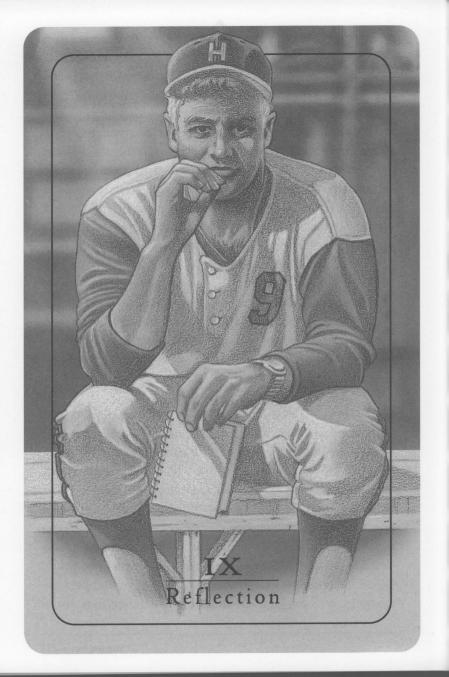
ou are facing issues of Power, yours and others', and how it is expressed. You may be experiencing a surge of Power, suffering from a lack of it, or failing to recognize the Power you hold.

If you are having difficulties, zero in on the area affected and strengthen that Achilles' heel, that vulnerability. Perhaps you are not a crafty wheeler-dealer in business and don't understand that, in fact, you are holding all the aces. Or it may be that you were taught at an early age to avoid drawing attention to yourself, to refrain from being center stage, in the spotlight. Now is the time to recognize your Power,



the source of your strength, and what it can do for you in the real world.

Do not confuse constructive Power with an ego power trip: using bullying tactics or brute force to accomplish your goals. Strive for a healthy expression of Power—both an inner strength and an outer drive that work harmoniously for you and for others.



### Reflection

IX

SOLITUDE • INNER SEARCH • INNER GUIDANCE

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE HERMIT
ZODIACAL LINK: VIRGO

You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time.

**—**JIM BOUTON

layers who have been around for many seasons, and feel as if they've seen it all, sometimes experience a kind of epiphany, revelation, an enlightened state of consciousness about themselves, and their past, present, and even their future. Reflection mirrors that insightful glimpse.

This is *not* the daily wondering and consternation about that bobbled catch or costly strikeout. Reflection is an introspective realization by a player that the days of playing will one day be over. Retirement from the game is no longer a distant abstraction.



In Reflection, the player takes time to pull away from the action in order to gain perspective on the individual path, away from the team, that lies ahead. There may be reunions with teammates and their families, "old-timers" games, and a scouting or coaching job in the future, but the days of youthful exuberance, of "anything is possible," are shifting into the past tense. However, at this reflective moment, the talent of the past has not been lost. It is in the process of maturing into a wisdom that can be transferred to future players.

Reflection speaks of an evolution in your perspective. It is a signal that your understanding has expanded to a wise veteran's comprehension of the game.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

It's time for serious contemplation. Perhaps you're at a turning point, facing a crisis, or needing to make a key decision in life. No amount of external pushing, begging, borrowing, or running around will bring you closer to the truth. You need to take some time away from the influences, demands, and distractions of others in order to seek a more profound level of guidance.

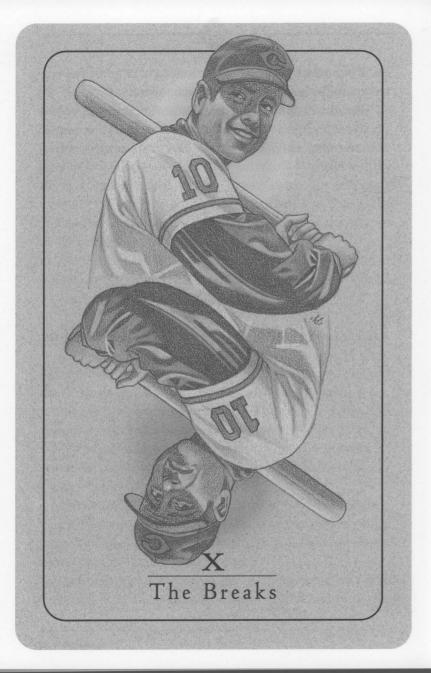
See the Reflection card as a doorway to a deeper, higher, or alternate realm of consciousness, one that allows you to fathom personal and universal truths and face the world again on a more solid, wiser footing.

Alternatively, someone dear to you may need your wisdom right now. Don't ignore the signs; make the time to lis-



ten. Your offer of support or expression of comfort can contribute to the healing of the person in distress.

Finally, Reflection suggests following the path of simplicity, eliminating the nonessentials from your life, retreating somewhat, and learning to be true to your higher self.



### The Breaks

x

FORTUNE • KARMA • "WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND"

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE
PLANETARY LINK: JUPITER

Every star gets humbled. Every mediocre player has a great moment.

—LOWELL COHN

ood luck. Bad luck. Do they really exist? Or are they a story we tell ourselves in an attempt to make sense of life's fickleness? The trouble is, you can't believe in one without accepting the other; they are as inextricably linked as sunshine and shadow.

The Breaks calls up the image of the booted grounder that opens the door to an unexpected rally by a team that was, moments before, out of the running. The Breaks can be the home run that stays fair by mere inches, the grounder that skitters off the glove, an umpire being momentarily blocked by a runner and not seeing a crucial play, a batter striking out but reaching first base because the catcher dropped the ball and couldn't make the throw in time. There



is something almost supernatural about the Breaks. Are there angels, gremlins, invisible elemental forces that hover around the playing field, causing these strange twists of fate? Or is it just "the way it is," odd coincidences, the ups and downs of the game?

The Breaks may remind you of the biblical injunction that "as you sow, so shall you reap," Newton's Second Law of Motion ("For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction"), the wheel of karma in Buddhist teachings, and the Wheel of Fortune at a carnival—"Round and round she goes. Where she stops, nobody knows. . . ." Whether the Breaks go your way or against you, it's wise to remain humble and accept your place in the bigger picture of life.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

here is the likelihood of a lucky or unlucky break occurring in your life. But which will it be?

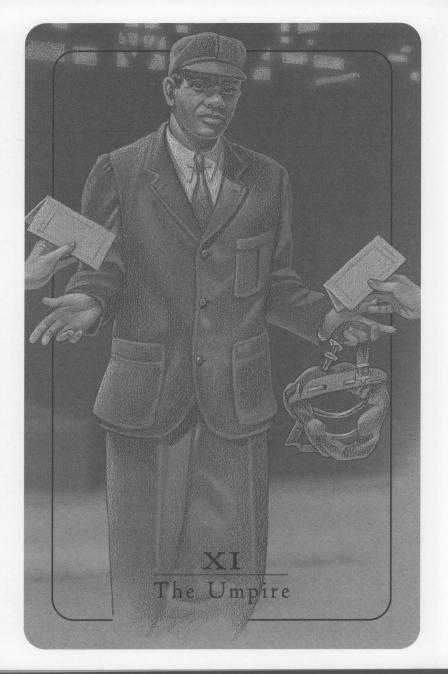
On the positive side, the appearance of the Breaks suggests good fortune, prosperity, opportunity knocking, a promotion, business success, expansion, and gains. You may be in line for a raise or perhaps an investment you made will turn golden. Maybe you will receive a social, educational, or artistic opportunity. Maybe you will meet the love of your life.

On the negative side, this card is a warning that a bad break may be on the horizon, your luck has "run out," or old karma may be coming back to haunt you (due to a misdeed, error, or harmful action in the past). The Breaks in this mode can also be seen as a prompting to help steer you away from overoptimism, extravagance, and reckless behavior. This



card may also be a reminder to be grateful for good fortune and not arrogantly claim it as all your own doing, nor, in the case of misfortune, to blame yourself for circumstances beyond your control.

The Breaks could be encouraging you to realize that human beings have the capacity to create their own good luck by altering their actions, thoughts, and feelings. A sudden change of consciousness may put you in the catbird seat—ready for a happy turn of events.



## The Umpire

XI

UNBIASED DECISION • CAUSE AND EFFECT FAIRNESS • EQUILIBRIUM • PROS AND CONS

TRADITIONAL TITLE: JUSTICE
ZODIACAL LINK: LIBRA

It ain't nothin' 'til I call it.
—BILL KLEM

ecause each individual and team has a vested interest in winning, fair judgments would never be possible on the field if left to the players themselves. Hence, there is a need for impartial decision-makers, objective arbiters who know the rules backwards and forwards, who can be entrusted to make a call that everyone can accept—at least in theory.

The Umpire is the minister and dispenser of absolute justice on the diamond. The presence of umpires keeps the game in motion, for without their calls—balls and strikes, safe and out, fair and foul—the two teams would be at constant log-gerheads. Even with the pronouncements of umpires (and



sometimes because of them), players become unruly and teams resort to fighting. It is then the job of the Umpire to restore order on the field, send the most egregious players to the showers, and possibly toss out one or both managers.

As the ultimate interpreter of the rules of the game, the Umpire is an emissary and archetype of reason, balance, equilibrium, and wisdom. The home plate Umpire carries the greatest workload and responsibility, calling the pitches and determining runs scored. But other umpires on the field have duties just as crucial—for any single play or call can change the outcome of a game.

If a baseball field can be likened to a courtroom, complete with opposing teams, then the Umpire is the judge. The mere presence of the Umpire officializes and legitimizes the game, allowing the achievements to be duly recorded and entered into the records for all time.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

he fine art of decision-making is required. A problem, challenge, or crisis needs attention, mediation, a solution. Are you the person to render judgment, or is your role now to accept the decision that is made?

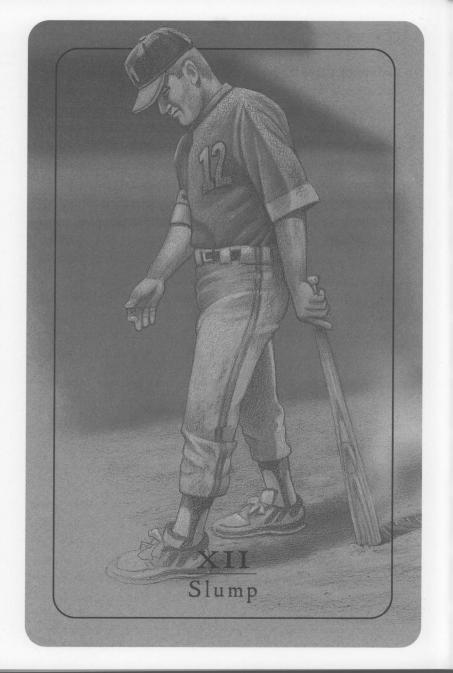
On the most literal level, the appearance of the Umpire may suggest that you are involved in a legal matter or other dispute.

Especially if your reading is about a disagreement, the arrival of the Umpire suggests a cooling-off period, a quieting down, negotiation, reconciliation, and movement toward cooperation. There is an accompanying realization that if



each party plays by the rules—fairly—a positive conclusion will ensue.

Taken to its highest level, this card refers to your conscience, that unique aspect of your psyche which is dedicated to distinguishing between right and wrong, and committed to taking the high road. Communing with your "inner umpire" will assist you in finding the proper path in matters of ethics, morality, civility, and fair treatment. Most important, the Umpire reminds us that our humanity depends on our ability to cooperate with each other within shared rules and agreements.



# Slump

XII

REVERSAL • WAITING • SACRIFICE • SURRENDERING FOR
THE TIME BEING • ACCEPTING OWN FLAWS

## TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE HANGED MAN PLANETARY LINK: NEPTUNE

- 1. There is everything to hope for and nothing to fear.
- 2. Defeats do not disturb one's sleep.
- 3. An occasional victory is a surprise and a delight.
- 4. There is no danger of any club passing you.
- 5. You are not asked fifty times a day, "What was the score?" People take it for granted that you lost.

—ELMER E. BATES, ON THE ADVANTAGES
OF ROOTING FOR A LOSING TEAM

ne of baseball's most dreaded experiences is the prolonged drought. When a player or an entire team hits the skids in three or four consecutive games, the sportswriters, fans, and even players start uttering the "S" word: Slump.

The hitter who suddenly can't seem to get enough wood on the ball, whose hits are scarce and run production is failing miserably, is the classic example of Slump. But no one is safe: a suddenly error-prone fielder, a pitcher who is wild and missing the strike zone, an entire team that can't seem to get out of the doldrums. To be in a Slump is to feel lost, in suspended animation, weak, vulnerable, rudderless.

While Slump conveys the idea of a "reversal of fortune" and experiencing feelings of martyrdom and self-sacrifice, there are benefits to be gained. The astute and contemplative player, while down and demoralized, may begin to understand what has been going wrong. There is the comforting realization that there's no way to go but up, so with renewed dedication, hard work, and help from coaches, that's the direction in which the player heads.

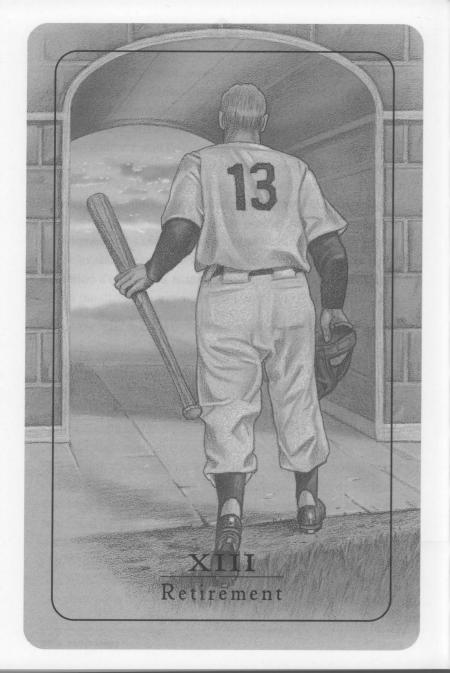
#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

ou are probably in a rut, experiencing self-doubts or a wave of depression, confronting difficulties that just won't go away. Perhaps you're a student whose personal problems are creating excessive worry, interfering with a solid education. Or a business leader whose company falls on bad times and just can't turn a profit. Or a loved one, perplexed and distraught by a partner's behavior, waiting anxiously for a change of attitude. Anyone trapped, stifled, thoroughly confused, in limbo and feeling blue, or overwhelmed by circumstances will identify with the Slump card. And it is precisely that conscious recognition of one's plight that can lead the individual out of the current Slump.

When this card appears, it is important for you to examine your beliefs, your philosophy of life. Where do you fall

short? What are your weaknesses, bad habits, character flaws? Everything is up for review and nothing is sacred right now. You have to look at yourself honestly, without flinching, and know there is a way out of the morass. Make sure you are not simply making yourself into a willing victim, martyr, or sacrificial lamb for some unconscious reason.

Slump is not pleasant to experience or behold, but it can be an eye-opener about your most stubborn faults and deepest fears. It's a critical stage in the learning cycle, a phase of facing one's shadows. The good news is that Slump implies a temporary condition, a hard time between periods of well-being and success. Grasp the lesson at the Slump's core and you will be well on your way to recovery.



### Retirement

×III

TRANSFORMATION • LETTING GO • MOVING ON TO A NEW LIFE

TRADITIONAL TITLE: DEATH ZODIACAL LINK: SCORPIO

Oh say can you see,
Oh say can you see
The world is not ending,
the world is beginning again.

-ANNE NEELON

ears. Sadness. Farewell to teammates, fans, the ball-park, the town or city. A final salute and wave goodbye. The appreciative words that come out in a shaky voice, filled with emotion. Retirement from the game is the player's experience of finality in the sport.

After years immersed in the beloved game, with a mind and heart filled with memories both sublime and haunting, a time of transition has arrived. It is a passage that was inevitable from the first moment the player set foot on the diamond. Rookie and Retirement can be seen as the bookends of the individual player's career in the sport.



It is no easy feat to handle this transformation gracefully and with class. So much drive, joy, learning, and love have gone into the game that it's hard to imagine what life will be like on the outside. But the player must now face, with courage, this "dark night of the soul."

Imagine yourself watching the poignant, final walk of the older player leaving the ball field for the last time through the clubhouse tunnel, through the locker room, and ultimately out into the world. Life in baseball is over, but the past triumphs and failures will remain indelibly etched into the record books and the lives that player has touched so deeply along the way.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

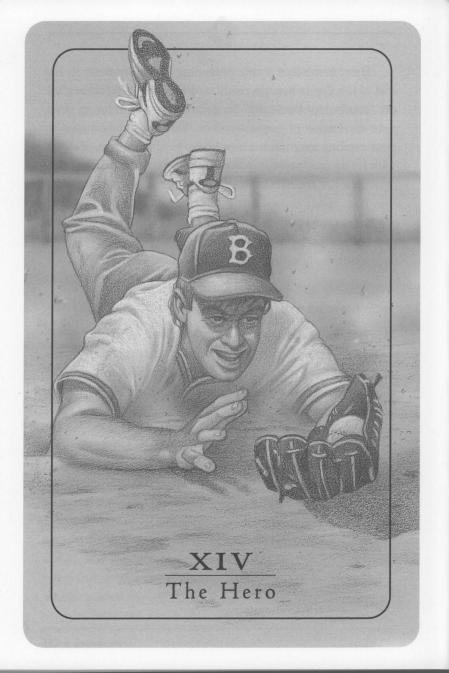
repare yourself for a major catharsis, metamorphosis, transfiguration, death-rebirth experiences. It is time to close a chapter in your life.

When Retirement turns up, you may be literally facing retirement from a long-held position or role. Graduation from school, parting with a lover or spouse, moving to a new location, finishing a rigorous project—all are examples of the central theme of Retirement.

The appearance of this card should evoke a feeling of letting go, and ideally, an openness to what lies ahead. There is some aspect of your life in which you are leaving the known for the unknown. It is natural for feelings of fright, dread, and anxiety to accompany this next step. Acknowledge and accept these responses, but do not let them overwhelm you or dictate your actions.



There is another level of meaning for Retirement. At the end of the day, when we ready ourselves for bed, we say we are "retiring for the night." To go to sleep is to enter an alternate dimension of consciousness. This card showing up in your reading may remind you of the healing power of sleep, with its dream symbols and stories, the internal visions that give your life renewed energy and purpose.



## The Hero

XIV

OPTIMISM • ARTFUL ACTION •

SKILLFUL COMBINING OF ELEMENTS •

ADJUSTING • "GOOD ATTITUDE"

TRADITIONAL TITLE: TEMPERANCE, OR THE ANGEL
ZODIACAL LINK: SAGITTARIUS

Nearly every boy builds a shrine to some baseball hero, and before that shrine a candle always burns.

-KENESAW MOUNTAIN LANDIS

he Hero and the Goat have been used in the history of baseball and its literature as mirror images with opposite archetypal qualities. Since baseball pits two teams against one another, every heroic play implies that someone else, usually on the rival club, has missed an opportunity to shine.

To be a Hero is the dream of every young ballplayer. The Little Leaguer who pitches a no-hitter; the player who squeaks a home run in just on the fair side of the foul pole to win a



classic battle in extra innings; the second baseman who snags a heart-stopping liner to ensure a World Series victory—all are demonstrations of the Hero at work on the diamond. What satisfaction, joy, and pride to have your fellow teammates hoist you aloft, embracing you, and honoring your miraculous display of talent and effort.

Every game has its heroes. And every player can experience being a Hero from time to time. It is not an exclusive province of the All-Star, Natural, or Legend, for the weakest hitter, fielder, or pitcher can rise to the heights and for one magical moment shine at the center of a team's celebration. Some players conduct themselves with such skill and finesse, for so long, that the appellation of Hero sticks to them permanently. They are remembered as glowing figures, above and beyond the ordinary ballplayer.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

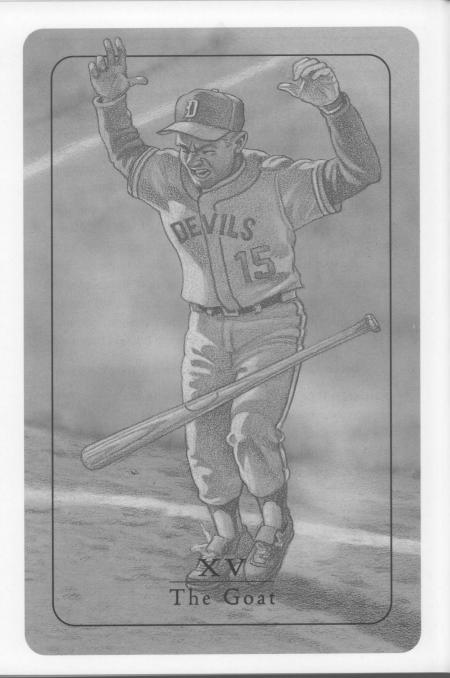
orces are at work to help you rise to the status of Hero—in your home, school, neighborhood, community, business, or profession. Will your optimistic and goodnatured temperament bring you to this moment of glory? Or will you hold back, allowing another to be selected for this accolade?

While much now depends on luck and destiny, to be a Hero is to exhibit character traits that all will recognize as meritorious and beneficial. Try to fathom what is so auspicious and favorable in your life at this time. Accepting the mantle of the Hero—and continuing to live up to that reputation—



offers you a powerfully positive chance to be a force within your home or professional community.

The appearance of this card may signify that you currently look up to someone in particular as a heroic figure. It could be someone you know personally or someone you admire from afar. Your reverence for this person is an important educational step in your own spiritual evolution.



### The Goat

XY

DOUBT • PESSIMISM • STAGNATION •
THE SHADOW • MANIPULATION • SENSE OF HAVING
NO OPTIONS • "BAD ATTITUDE"

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE DEVIL ZODIACAL SIGN: CAPRICORN

I have seen boys on my baseball teams go into slumps and never come out of them, and I have seen others snap right out and come back better than ever. I guess more players lick themselves than are ever licked by the opposing team.

—Connie Mack

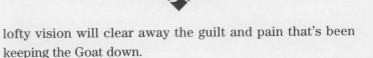
ow often have you seen it? A player, coach, or even manager kicking the dirt on the base paths or around the mound or home plate, angry over a call, shouting, cursing, ready to take on an opposing player or umpire. Then there's the crestfallen player who drops a routine fly ball to let in the winning run; the pitcher who serves up a round-tripper to lose a game; the runner who, in trying to stretch a double into a triple, is called out at third base.

Just as there can be one or more heroes per ball game,

there can be one or more goats. You boot a ground ball that should have been easily handled. You make a wild throw to second or third base and the opposing team takes the lead. You walk in the final run of the game or toss a wild pitch that leads to a loss. Or—perhaps the worst scenario of all—you strike out with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth with the game on the line. You're branded the Goat, and there's nothing much to be done at that point but accept it, keep your chin up, maintain a positive attitude, and move on.

But sometimes the shadow side of being the Goat takes over the player's personality, resulting in a consistent bad attitude. There is constant grumbling over called strikes at the plate; thoughts that the umpire doesn't like you, or that the opposing pitcher is deliberately trying to hit you. There may even be problems away from the field, at home or in private life, that are causing the player to lose it, project anger onto others, blame everyone else for the lousy breaks. At this point, there is the risk of becoming a perpetual Goat, whose horns are more devil-like than goat-like. The ultimate tragedy of this condition is that this individual becomes an outcast, a pariah in the game, branded a "bad sport."

Is there a solution to the quandary of the miserable Goat? Yes! The Goat is an expert climber, with sure footing in even the rockiest terrain. So while the Goat may have succumbed to the temptations of arrogance, self-centeredness, and the spoiler role, wreaking havoc in every ballpark, this player also has the skill to rise from self-doubt and pessimism, leaping to higher ground, where the altitude and



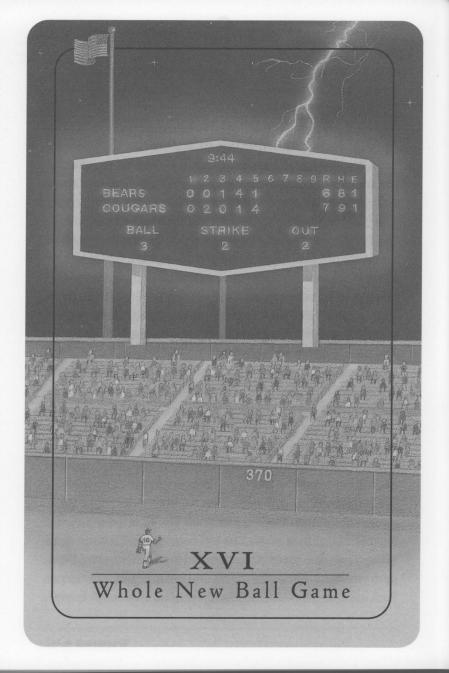
### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

ou may be suffering due to self-created fears, limits, restrictions, or negative attitudes. Losing out to someone else for a job promotion, ruining the family celebration with an uncalled for display of anger, being the constant nag, critic, judge, and jury—all of these call forth the image of the Goat.

The appearance of this card suggests that somewhere, in some part of your life, your negativity is causing others to turn away. It's time to knock some good sense into your head and count your blessings for a change. Being the Goat teaches you lessons of humility and reminds you it's time to plan a comeback after experiencing failure and weakness of character.

The Goat coming up can be a crucial wake-up call for anyone mired in persistent doom-and-gloom attitudes and thought patterns. Be advised: The habits of blaming, resentment, and negative thinking will take their toll over the years, damaging or destroying your emotional, social, spiritual, and/or physical well-being. Thus, the Goat can be a warning to eliminate bedeviling notions before they take up permanent residence in your psyche.

Happily, there may be a quick fix when you see the Goat. Accept that there are things that are wrong in your life, and instead of dwelling on them, shift your focus. Find a way to make a positive contribution, and do it now. One good deed, performed in a spirit of altruism and compassion, can restore faith in yourself and the future, and set you on a better course.



## Whole New Ball Game

XVI

SHOCKING CHANGE • BOLT OF INSIGHT • THE DEEPER TRUTH
COMES OUT • CHAOS LEADING TO NEW KNOWLEDGE

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE TOWER
PLANETARY LINK: MARS

If anything could happen, it could happen here.

-RED BARBER

ometimes a bolt comes out of the blue and suddenly everything's changed. The circumstance to which you're accustomed, and perhaps even your sense of reality itself, is shaken to the core. In a baseball game, you may know the score and feel sure that the outcome is obvious; then an unexpected play thunders across the diamond, and everyone is startled into recognizing that actually anything might happen.

When a team that's being badly beaten makes an astounding comeback in the last inning; when a prized pitcher is injured midgame and the only reliever available is a far lesser talent; when a previously sluggish defense makes a barely



believable triple play; these are the times you hear the announcer declare: "Well, folks, it's a Whole New Ball Game!"

One of the most familiar images of the traditional Tarot deck is titled the Tower, Number 16 of the Major Arcana. Corresponding to this card, it features an intense, chaotic scene: a Tower of stone being cracked to pieces by a bolt of lightning. The Tower's top half crashes to the ground as its inhabitants are thrown aloft to face an uncertain destiny.

Whole New Ball Game refers to scenarios within a single game, and also to profound historic transformations in baseball's practices and world view, such as when the major league color barrier was finally broken or when the Hall of Fame first opened its exhibit honoring female ballplayers. Other expressions of Whole New Ball Game include the breaking of long-established records; league expansion and reorganization; the invention of "free agent" status; the designated hitter rule; a players' or umpires' strike; a trade of major players; or an accident that claims the life of a star.

These pivotal moments set off shock waves. All is thrown into question. In the immediate future, chaos, discord, and grief are likely to ensue. But in retrospect we can often recognize that the temporary disruption was a necessary price to pay for the gift of transformation. Even in the worst cases, the lightning that brings destruction also brings illumination and a bracing demand for a fresh start.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

Startling changes may be on their way. Whole New Ball Game suggests various types of breakdowns and alter-

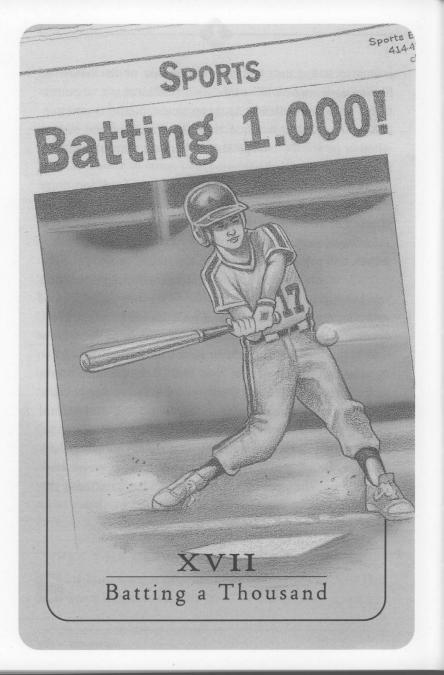


ations, including the endings, realignments, or disclosures of hidden aspects of well-established relationships, organizations, or belief systems. At these times, denial is counterproductive and resistance is futile. You have no say in whether or not the change should happen; your only choice is in how you deal with it.

It may help to try to expect the unexpected, but don't waste time simply worrying. Rather, focus on grounding yourself so you will be best prepared to cope with surprises. Take this opportunity to reevaluate your assumptions, habits, values, and principles before you are forced to.

The Whole New Ball Game card may be suggesting that you have grown too conventional or rigid in some area of your life. Are your attitudes and routines set in stone? If so, develop your flexibility. Follow the example of the willow tree: it survives the storm because it can bend.

The lightning in Whole New Ball Game can also represent a flash of insight that grants you a different perspective. You may realize you're due for an emotional and mental purging to rid yourself of self-righteous, materialistic, prejudiced, or otherwise overly narrow concepts. Though the new view may be scary at first, try to stay calm and open-hearted. You will benefit most by accepting the wisdom offered you in this revelatory moment.



# Batting a Thousand



AN INSPIRING IDEAL • TALENT • FREEDOM •
NONCONFORMITY • WHOLENESS • CALM

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE STAR
ZODIACAL LINK: AQUARIUS

All baseball fans believe in miracles; the question is, how many do you believe in? —JOHN UPDIKE

ometimes it's as if you have a magic touch. You glow from within with a sense that you just can't lose, and you may even have to stretch your ability to accept and enjoy good fortune. When all's going so well you can hardly believe it, that's Batting a Thousand. But what does that familiar phrase really mean? The "thousand" comes from the figure "1.000," the batting average statistic that would represent a player who succeeded to the utmost, getting a hit every single time at bat.

Here's the interesting part: Batting a Thousand is every batter's ideal, but it's no one's goal. Why? Because in real life,



it can't be done (or at least, not for long). This symbol of perfection soars far above the constraints of earthly endeavors. For a reality check, recall that in the major leagues an average of .300 ("three hundred") or higher is considered excellent. In the entire history of the game, only a handful of players have ever achieved a season batting average of .400 or more.

The outrageous idea of Batting a Thousand calls our attention to the immeasurable value of cultivating a vision. Without this higher purpose, work is just stress and sweat, and love is reduced to superficial or obligatory relationships. We each need a dream, for though dreams are unreal their inspiration brings meaning to reality.

This principle does not discount the need to be practical, to develop plans and time lines, and to achieve actual goals. It simply underscores that a life lived by pragmatism alone is not a full human life at all. When we hold to an ideal, we expand our possibilities. At one time or other, each of us experiences, ever so briefly, the ineffable wonder of our dreams coming to life. Though rare and amazing, such moments are not a mere fluke, but a confirmation that the highest good does exist. Batting a Thousand reminds us that aiming for the stars is the surest path to a stellar experience of life and even a taste of immortality.

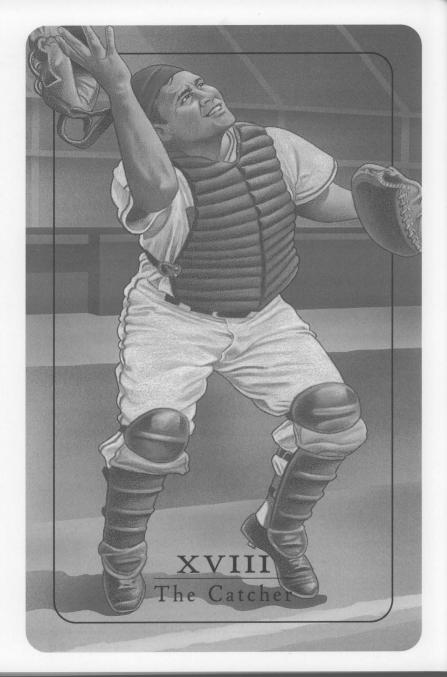
### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

atting a Thousand signifies the potential for a superlative performance or an awe-inspiring event. Euphoria is in the air, and celebrations have a giddy "pinch-me-so-I-know-it's-real" quality.



On a more internal note, this card reminds you to develop and hold fast to a dream. It warns against settling for too little, surrendering too easily, or limiting your attention to the mundane aspects of existence. Is there an area of your life, a project or relationship, in which you're holding back, not giving your all? Where you function routinely, caring only about the minimum requirements or the bottom line? Where you, or others, seem to be living a life of low expectations? Take time to visualize the perfected scenario, and keep that picture in mind. This is not a call to escapism: you must live and act in the real world, but let your vision nurture and inform you.

Batting a Thousand also serves as a suggestion to become attuned to and fully appreciate the everyday miracles that surround you: the sun's reliable rising, the birth of babies, the sustenance of food, the blessings of having a body, heart, and mind. When you think about it, the ability to think is itself an utterly implausible yet completely undeniable miracle. Batting a Thousand asks, why consider yourself "only human" when you're actually quite astonishingly human?



### The Catcher



RECEPTIVITY • FEELINGS • MESSAGES FROM THE UNCONSCIOUS •

CYCLES • OVERCOMING FEAR

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE MOON
ZODIACAL LINK: PISCES

Baseball is like church. Many attend but few understand.

—Wes Westrum

he Catcher's mitt is always ready, up and open, poised to receive. Whatever comes, the Catcher seeks to grasp it, to get hold of it, to handle it with finesse. This card calls attention to the importance of staying open to the unknown, and to the extraordinary value of cultivating your intuition and a deeper understanding of yourself and those around you. The Catcher knows better than anyone else that adaptability is vital: The best defense is being prepared to handle whatever life pitches.

But the Catcher's role is far more complex than one sees at first glance. The Catcher is in fact the hub of a multilevel network of secret communication carried on in the baseball



code known as "signs." Using specialized hand gestures and facial expressions, the Catcher calls for particular pitches to challenge particular batters and relays instructions from the manager or coach to teammates in the field. The signs are ever-changing, to keep their meaning mysterious to outsiders, but the Catcher converses in this language with ease.

In traditional Tarot decks, this card is titled the Moon, ruler of the tides, memory, cyclical patterns, emotions, psychic awareness, and the home. The Catcher, too, coordinates wide-ranging activities without ever straying far from home plate. Indeed, the Catcher is privy to an unusual vantage point, a view of the diamond that is the reverse of the other defensive players'. Even stranger, the Catcher shares this view with both an objective mediator (home plate umpire) and the enemy (batters). They see the same scene, yet to each the combination of players and their positions yields completely different meaning. The essence of the Catcher is in combining talent and wisdom to interpret correctly.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

he Catcher may indicate that someone or something is trying to signal you. At this time you are advised to take to heart, and seek to understand, any apparent coincidences, dreams, or hunches that arise.

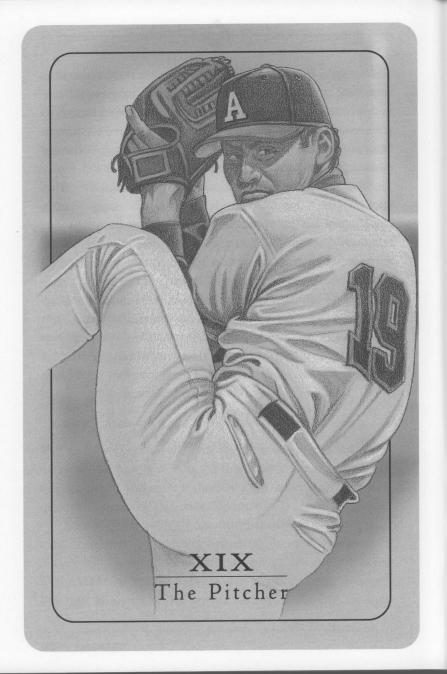
You may be facing a situation that will demand your total acceptance, particular sensitivity, great compassion, or simply emotional strength. Strong feelings are likely to come to the fore. Do not try to repress or discount them. Remember that your emotions are an aspect of the life essence



("élan vital," or, in Chinese philosophy, Ch'i) that animates your very being. The Catcher brings a wide range of pitches under control, not by dodging the ball but by reaching out to grab it and hold it close. You are now being called to learn to embrace, and thereby skillfully handle, volatile moods and intense feelings in this same way.

The concept of home is also evoked by the Catcher. This may refer to a domestic residence or family concern, or it can suggest any comfortable situation or location that you rely on and return to. Or, this card may be reminding you of the need for such a spot, a place where you feel safe and supported, where you feel you truly belong.

Most of all, the Catcher shows up to remind you of an old adage: sometimes you just *know*, without knowing how you know. And even when you really don't know, if you keep yourself truly open to receive, the answer will soon come flying right to you.



# The Pitcher

XIX

CLARITY • COMPREHENSION • CONTENTMENT •
SUCCESS • HAPPINESS

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE SUN
PLANETARY LINK: THE SUN

A baseball weighted your hand just so, and fit it. Its red stitches, its good leather and hardness like skin over bone, seemed to call forth a skill both easy and precise.

-ANNIE DILLARD

n the traditional Tarot, this card depicts the Sun, our central star that radiates the energy from which all life springs. In baseball, the action emanates from the Pitcher, whose initiative begins the game and restarts each new cycle of play. The Pitcher's intensity shines brightly down and out from the mound at the diamond's center, high above all other players, calling them to meet attention with attention, life with life.

This role is weighty. More than any other player, the pitcher sets the pace and tone of the game and holds tremendous influence over its outcome. This responsibility



carries on into posterity: It is next to the Pitcher's name that wins and losses will be tallied. Yet the master pitchers bring more than a sense of duty to the game. They bring artistry, time and again sending the ball to home plate in specific flights perfectly conceptualized and controlled. They bring a dedication to practice, to developing a rich and diverse repertoire of pitches to draw upon. And they bring a purity of focus, an almost superhuman intensity of will. That single-minded concentration often makes a Pitcher seem an enigma as a person, yet it also clearly defines the Pitcher as one who stares down pressures, laughs off fear, and glories in well-deserved attention and accomplishment.

#### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

his card is a positive omen, a burst of sunshine, signifying a dazzling display of success and well-being on all levels. The extra light may help you see options or ideas that were previously hidden from view. At this time, the qualities of the Pitcher are either in evidence or needed. Keep your wits about you and stride into the fray with confidence: you're in charge. Refuse all distractions, whether internal self-doubts or external diversions. Feel the power of allowing yourself to focus solely on the positive.

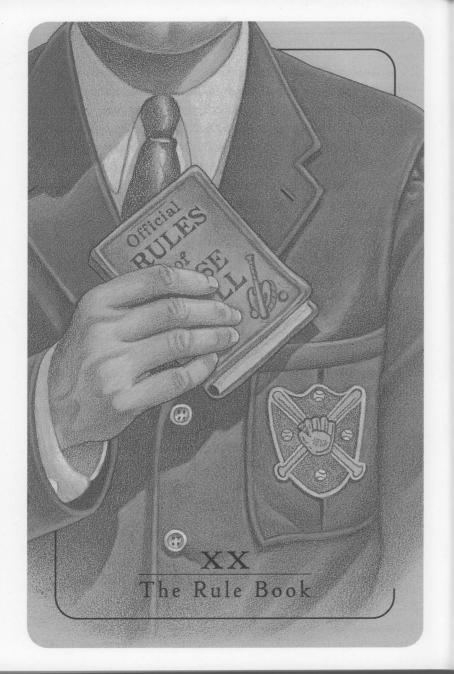
The moves that once felt awkward and forced, that you practiced endlessly, that you endured pain and boredom to perfect, have finally begun to come easily. Your determination pays off in superb performances that feel absolutely natural, accomplishments you can achieve and claim with a smile and full heart.



You may be called upon to remember the influence the Pitcher has on teammates and on the outcome for the group. People may be looking up to you for inspiration, seeking your direction, or needing your energy. The success of a project may rely on your deft maneuvers and fast decision-making.

The Pitcher card may also serve as a warning: manage your energy skillfully, so you don't get burned, or burn out. Seize your moment to shine, then allow yourself the time to recharge. And don't let all the applause make you arrogant; remember to truly appreciate and duly praise your teammates' contributions.

Aside from these few cautions, the Pitcher card suggests only the best of news: happy times, good fortune, and the opportunity to act as master of your fate. The Pitcher heralds the joy of an integrated sense of self and of life, in which work and play, duty and love, body and mind do not conflict, but are blended indistinguishably into a pure energy that glows brilliantly and benefits all.



## The Rule Book

xx

CRITICISM • GUILT • FORGIVENESS • CONSCIENCE •

FINAL ANSWERS • BALANCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALITY

AND COMMUNITY

TRADITIONAL TITLE: JUDGMENT
PLANETARY LINK: PLUTO

No game in the world is as tidy and dramatically neat as baseball, with cause and effect, crime and punishment, motive and result, so cleanly defined. —Paul Gallico

hile Major Card Number 11 revealed the Umpire as a figure who is the main source of law and order on the field, it is the trusty Rule Book that stands behind the umpire as the final arbiter. Umpires, managers, and players turn to it when there are disputes on the diamond. The Rule Book governs the game of baseball just as a set of scriptures forms the bedrock of a religion.

The Rule Book is consulted when there is no other clear means of ascertaining how to call a specific play or action. It spells out to the letter how the game is to be played. Without



a set of rules, a player might run off the base path to avoid being tagged out, teams could return players (possibly now rested and fresh) to the field after they had already been replaced by pinch-hitters, fielders might block and interfere with runners nearing a base, and a player might deliberately drop a pop-up in the infield to start a triple play and end a rally. Without the Rule Book, chaos would take control, shutting the door on respect for the beauty, elegance, and tradition of the game itself.

In baseball, the Rule Book offers the principles, judgments, procedures, and standards that give the sport its structure. But just as amendments can be added to the Constitution, so too can new rules be added to the Rule Book—implying the ability to make wise adjustments, adding contemporary knowledge and judicial expertise to the foundations that govern the sport.

### WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

o beyond personal judgments, opinions, and angles regarding higher truths, ethics, laws, morals, and codes governing human behavior. This is a time to "go to the source" and read the original text or find the most updated and complete record that exists. You may find a rare individual, deeply knowledgeable concerning the Rule Book of Life, from whom you can learn. However, the direct route—to the living rules themselves—will probably be more fulfilling.

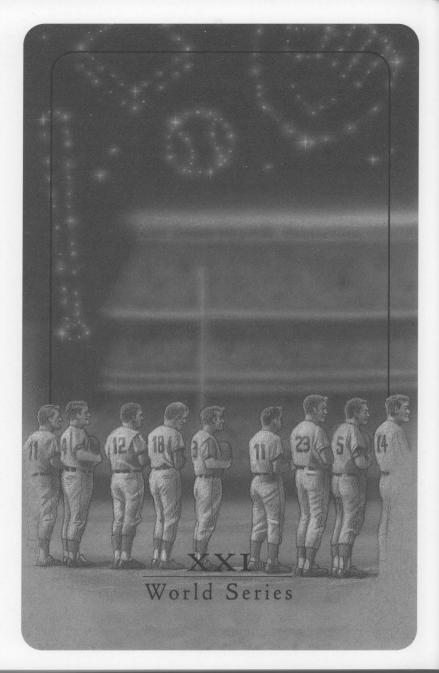
As the Rule Book comes up, you may have a newfound fascination for the study of law, justice, and the history of the court system. Students going to the library to conduct



serious research, scientists investigating the origins of a virus, the master chef tackling a particularly difficult recipe, a teenager reading the driving manual before taking the road test, the citizen dealing with abstruse tax codes and filing procedures, archeologists discovering ancient scrolls and writings delineating a lost culture and way of life—all are instances of the Rule Book in action.

There are strong ties among the Rule Book, Slump, Retirement, and Whole New Ball Game—in the sense that all four connect with the power of revelation to change consciousness and attitude. With Rule Book, you are called to surrender to the higher order of universal canons and principles, foreswear rationalizations and ignorance, commit to knowing and living by the truth.

Don't be afraid to take on the challenge of living a more upright, conscientious, and disciplined life. You can become an exemplar, a paragon of virtue, and a worthy inspiration to others.



# World Series

XXI

ACTUALIZATION • LEARNING OR CYCLE COMPLETED •
PERFECTION • MANIFESTING SPIRIT ON EARTH • ACCEPTANCE
OF RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL POWER

TRADITIONAL TITLE: THE WORLD
PLANETARY LINK: SATURN

Recall every ballplayer you've ever seen, and bring their actions here. —MARY HAYNES

he ultimate goal of the Rookie's journey is to reach the World Series. Just as traditional Tarot's Major Arcana conclude with the World, Baseball Tarot's Majors reach their pinnacle at the World Series.

Whether in the Little League, women's leagues, collegiate division, semipro ball, farm league, or the majors, arrival at the World Series is the collective dream-come-true for players and teammates. Two dominant clubs will battle it out to determine one ultimate champion. To be a participant in the World Series is to experience baseball's ultimate quest for that season. Traditionally the major leagues' World Series occurs in early October—with the Sun illuminating



Libra, the seventh zodiacal sign, an energy zone of union, marriage, ideal partnership, the search for harmony and balance. Even the choice of seven games to determine a winner evokes the divinity linked to the seven days of creation, seven days of the week, seven notes in the musical scale, and seven colors of the rainbow. To join in the wondrous pageantry of this seven-game finale is to partake of a little piece of baseball heaven.

Nevertheless, even in this remarkable celebratory atmosphere, there will be a team of winners *and* a team of losers. And in a culture where winning is so often prized as "everything," the defeated—if they forget the greatness that brought them here—will lose more than just a series. It is important that both teams recognize their stunning accomplishments rather than obsess over "what might have been."

To the championship team will go a prized trophy; to each of the victors will go the long-awaited World Series ring. This ring symbolizes the entire sacred and cyclical journey within Baseball Tarot's Majors, begun by the Rookie and finishing here. We have come full circle, ready to begin a new round, knowing that some youngster watching the World Series is dreaming of someday being a Rookie and stepping from the dugout to the diamond for the very first time.

## WHEN THIS CARD APPEARS IN A READING . . .

ou are reaching a summit of worldly achievement. Press onward, and don't lose your self-assurance and determination. Redouble your efforts—you may be asked to perform on the highest level possible in your field.



Turning up the World Series card underscores your readiness to enter into a serious bond or commitment. It may be time to firm up a business partnership, wed yourself to a higher calling or noble profession, strengthen a marriage tie or lovers' union. And if you're an athlete, envisioning the chance to play for a championship, World Series arising from the deck may be the signal that your hard work will pay off.

There is an implication here that you have completed a cycle of learning, actualized a favorite wish, or manifested spiritual truth in an earthly form. With this attainment comes responsibility and a mature outlook on life. Since many others may not have experienced this triumph, you have a social obligation to pass on your newfound wisdom in an appropriate form.

The World Series card suggests a long-term goal achieved, even a dream made manifest. The confidence and satisfaction you feel are well-earned. Congratulations!



For each card, you will find the following commentary:

Card Title

Number and suit

A description of themes represented by this card

Ahead of the Count: The upside of this card's meaning.

Behind in the Count: The downside of this card's meaning.

The Player: The type of person to which this card refers.

The Signal: The advice this card offers.

The Play: The situations or activities to which this card refers.

**The Stuff:** The emotions, attitudes, beliefs, thoughts to which this card refers.

In the Ballpark: Questions for further exploration.

## THE SUIT OF IN I T T S

LOVE • CARING • RELATIONSHIPS • RECEPTIVITY • FAITH •
FEELINGS • INTUITION • HARMONY • IMAGINATION • ART •

DREAMS • BEAUTY

Ya gotta believe!

—Tug McGraw

n a traditional Tarot deck, this suit is named "Cups." Cups are often depicted as chalices or loving cups; in modern playing card decks, they became hearts. They refer to emotions, imagination, and spirituality. They suggest laughter, tears, compassion, and intuitive wisdom.

In Baseball Tarot, Cups become Mitts, which resemble cups in form and function. Mitts represent the life of the heart, reaching out to catch and hold; receiving and sending; connecting players to one another. Mitts hold our memories,



absorb our fears, and nurture our hopes. They are solid, helpful, protective, and comforting. They increase our hands' capacity, expanding our skill. Mitts seize the flighty Balls from the air, pulling them in toward the body, the chest, the heart. A Mitt is a personal and cared-for piece of equipment, broken in, oiled, worn to match the shape and movement of your hand. Your faithful Mitt is on hand from one game to the next. Perhaps this is why it seems to be the piece of equipment that inspires the most sentimentality: many of us still have a childhood Mitt in the house.

Compared to Bases, Balls, and Bats, Mitts express intimacy both within yourself and with others. Mitts are flexible (compared to Bases), unthreatening (compared to Balls), receptive (compared to Bats). In a game without Mitts, Bats would still hit, Balls would fly, runners would circle the Bases. But the game would be crueler: Balls would more often be dropped, and when caught, would sting fiercely. In a life without the suit of Mitts, we could function, but our hearts would not be in it. The love, caring, support, companionship, soul, faith, intuition, and beauty would be missed.



#### INTERNAL BEGINNINGS

The smell of the earth coming alive again, it just brings back memories that make you want to go get out your baseball mitt.

—SHIRLEY STOVROFF

ach Ace, as the first card of its suit, represents beginnings. The Ace of Mitts represents beginnings in the areas of life associated with this suit: emotion, intuition, receptivity, relationships, spirituality, and love, or a beginning in another area affected by the essence of the suit of Mitts. Perhaps you need to consider your feelings (Mitts) about a new purchase (Bases) or you should heed your hunch (Mitts) about an upcoming creative project (Bats). The Ace is a powerfully positive card, representing an infusion of the sensitivity, imagination, and caring of Mitts into your state of mind or situation.

**Ahead of the Count:** A new period of awareness of feelings, relationships, or intuitive development. The start of a relationship. Love. Sympathy. Nurturing. Emotional openness.





**Behind in the Count:** Overemotionalism. Inability to balance emotion with reason or to put feelings aside when necessary. Or, the experience of emptiness in a life without emotion, dreams, love. Intuition is blocked.

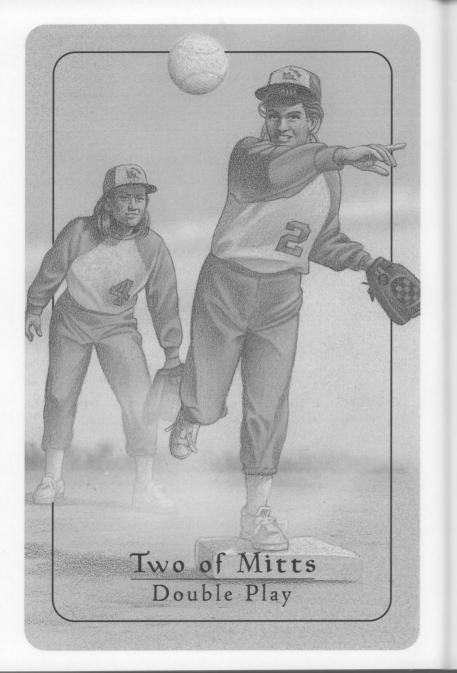
**The Player:** Dreamy. Imaginative. Emotional. Receptive to new people and ideas. A person in love. Possibly an artist, musician, or poet.

**The Signal:** Let your heart take the lead. Feel your feelings, the good and the bad. Pay attention to intuition and dreams. Indulge your imagination. Seek pleasure in beauty and art. Treat yourself and others with loving care and compassion.

**The Play:** The initiation of relationships, especially romances or intimate friendships. Following the guidance of the heart more than the head. Time spent with loved ones. An intuitive breakthrough or emotional shift or realization.

**The Stuff:** A reconnection with emotion. New, or renewed, closeness with a lover, friends, family, or your own inner wisdom and spirituality. An intensified awareness that love is the crux of life.

In the Ballpark: What am I feeling about this situation? Have I had any new feelings or "hunches" lately? Whom and what do I love? Who do I find intimacy with? Who do I want to get closer to? Am I withholding love? Turning love away? Am I avoiding feelings? Taking them too seriously? Do I treat myself and others with compassion? What am I dreaming about? Am I using my imagination? Where is the beauty in my life?



## DOUBLE PLAY Two of Mitts

#### **BRINGING TOGETHER**

Whether the game is a well-choreographed dance, a comedy of errors, a heartwarming drama, an uplifting experience, a valiant effort, or a study in frustration, a team's philosophy is instrumental in shaping the experience.

—YVONNE ZIPTER

wo runners called out in one ongoing play—the proverbial two birds with one stone! Double Play represents bringing together any two elements that might conflict and finding a way to balance and integrate them. While the next card, Triple Play, addresses cooperation, Double Play symbolizes the attraction and complementarity of seeming opposites, the fruitful combination of two into one. More than mere synthesis, Double Play offers synergy.

**Ahead of the Count:** Attraction and/or connection between any two. A balanced, fair relationship between self and another, or between aspects of the self. Apparent opposites



are found to be complementary and are integrated. Love within a couple.

**Behind in the Count:** Polarization. Inability to find common ground. An unbalanced, unfair relationship, with another or between aspects of yourself. Misunderstanding, arguments, or separations. Energy wasted as two related purposes are pursued separately rather than in concert.

**The Player:** Open-minded. Brings people together. A good mediator, matchmaker, personnel recruiter. Someone in a budding relationship.

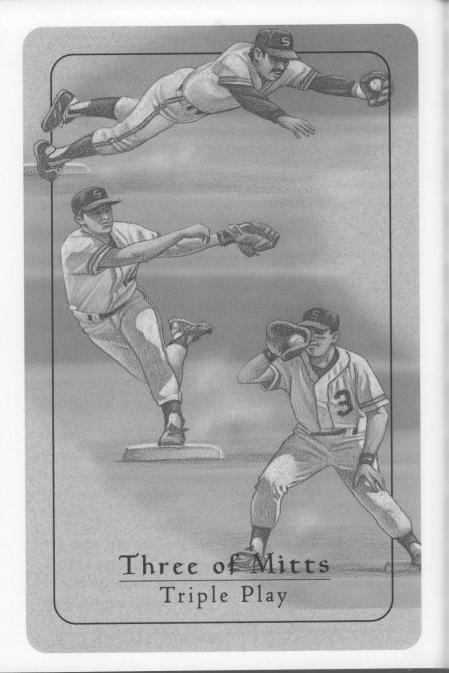
The Signal: Focus on fairness and balance. Listen openmindedly to the other side of the story. Seek common ground with others. Seek peace among conflicting aspects of yourself. Consider that someone who appears to be an enemy may not be. Nurture one-on-one relationships. Pursue your attraction to another.

**The Play:** First meetings of people who will become closely involved, perhaps as lovers. Bringing together two people or elements in order to better understand or integrate them, or to pursue shared goals. Accomplishing two purposes with one act.

**The Stuff:** The pleasure and reassurance of feeling you've found a soulmate. The emotional maturity to understand another's point of view. Empathy. Closeness. Understanding. Feeling well-matched.



In the Ballpark: To what person, group, or project am I attracted? What relationship is just beginning? What qualities or needs are polarized within me? What qualities or needs do I need to balance within me or in my environment? What dispute am I engaged in? How can I seek common ground? Am I being fair, to others and to myself? Who do I think is my enemy? Could I be mistaken? Am I unnecessarily duplicating efforts?



## TRIPLE PLAY Three of Mitts

### CELEBRATING COOPERATION

Baseball is beautiful . . . the supreme performing art. It combines in perfect harmony the magnificent features of ballet, drama, art, and ingenuity

-BOWIE KUHN

hree quick outs to retire the opposing side—all in one ongoing play requiring extraordinary fielding skill. The communication is rich, developed over time and endless practice, until the players' connection seems nearly psychic. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Triple Play reminds you of every coach's advice: "Teamwork!"

**Ahead of the Count:** Success, especially in relationships or collaborative projects, or anything involving three participants or elements. Smooth and constructive interactions with others. Celebration!

**Behind in the Count:** Delay, disappointment, or failure due to lack of support or insufficient coordination. The necessary



elements are available but are not combining correctly. Or, you are trying to go solo unrealistically.

**The Player:** Involved in mutually beneficial relationships, ready to help, communicative. A team player.

**The Signal:** This is a time of positive growth: make the most of it. Cooperation is crucial to success. Develop supportive relationships before you're in need. Express appreciation to those who assist you. Every successful play is worth celebrating for its own sake; don't delay happiness until you win the game or the pennant.

**The Play:** Growth, especially of relationships or joint projects involving three participants or elements. An exceptional accomplishment made possible by collaboration. Celebrations with friends, coworkers, or family.

**The Stuff:** Happiness. Taking pleasure in the results of your efforts. Appreciation of others' contributions, and of your own. A sense of trust and confidence in your relationships.

In the Ballpark: What relationship or project needs to grow or is growing now? Who's on my team? Whose help am I counting on; whose do I need to ask for? From whom do I receive support? How could I behave more cooperatively? Whom can I assist? With whom do I need to improve communication? Do I let others know I appreciate them? Do I appreciate my own contributions? Am I celebrating my small successes as they come?



## Four of Mitts

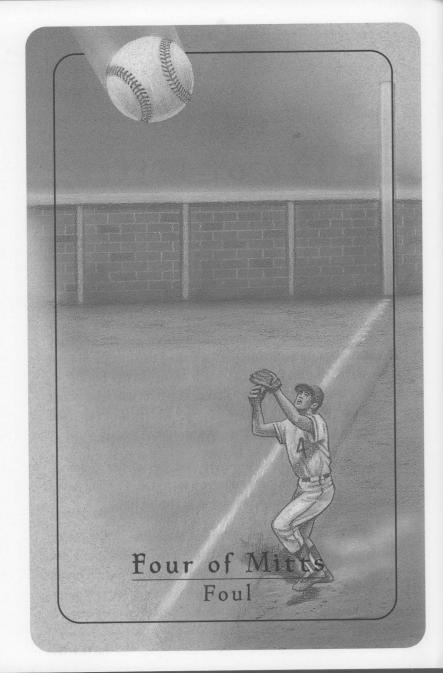
#### **PULLING BACK**

Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time. —Lou Brock

Foul in baseball is an interesting in-between: not exactly a strike or a hit. A batted ball caught in Foul territory is an out; uncaught, it's a strike on the batter . . . unless it would be the third strike, in which case the at-bat continues. With Foul, context is everything: you can't tell what it means unless you know the count.

**Ahead of the Count:** Awareness of the larger context. Acceptance of limitations, your own included. Turning down an opportunity. A temporary pause in the action.

Behind in the Count: Ambiguity. Ambivalence. Withdrawal. Boredom. Missing an opportunity because of a closed heart or mind. Or, feeling overwhelmed but unable to take a break due to fear of negative consequences. Fear of others' judgments. Inability to accept limitations, including your own.





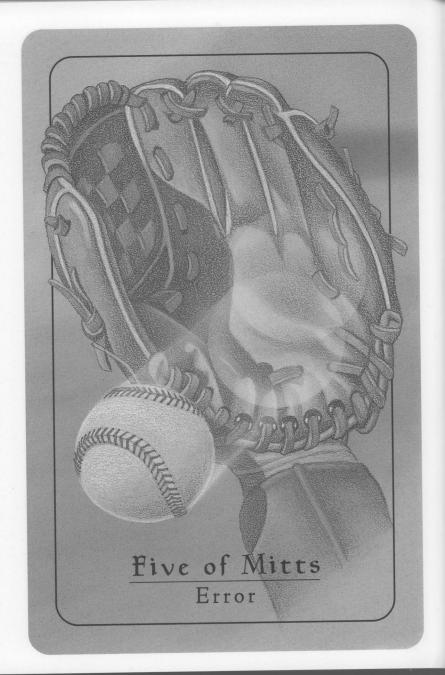
**The Player:** Knows when enough is enough. Introspective, possibly a loner. Anyone in a process of reevaluation. May underestimate the positive potential of an opportunity.

The Signal: Evaluate opportunities carefully in light of what they offer compared to what they demand. Know and respect your limits, especially in relationships. Take time for yourself. Worry less about appearances. Trust that you know when you need to say no.

**The Play:** Turning down or not recognizing an option. Stopping the action in order to better understand the big picture. A small mistake causes a brief delay. Setting and maintaining limits; or, disputes over limits.

**The Stuff:** Discontent. World-weariness. The wish to be alone, but in order to hide rather than to enjoy solitude. Self-protection.

In the Ballpark: Are there opportunities I am turning away or not recognizing? What involvement am I taking a break from, or do I need a break from? What is being temporarily delayed? Am I taking the bigger context into consideration? What limits am I pushing against? Is my heart closed? My mind? Am I bored? By what, whom? Am I able to enjoy time off or time alone, or does it feel like a punishment?





## Five of Mitts

#### **ACCEPTING IMPERFECTION**

I cannot get rid of the hurt from losing.... But after the last out of every loss, I must accept that there'll be a tomorrow. In fact, it's more than that there'll be a tomorrow. It's that I want there to be a tomorrow. That's the big difference. I want tomorrow to come.

-SPARKY ANDERSON

rror: the cry of disappointment and frustration when the ball bounces out of your mitt or rolls right through your legs. The outrage of disbelief, the deep wish to turn back time. Errors happen, yet we return to the field inning after inning, accepting our mistakes, keeping faith in the positive without denying the negative. This card is not about avoiding loss, but about grieving well.

**Ahead of the Count:** Acceptance of imperfection. Coping with and learning from mistakes. Full, healthy grief. The ability to maintain an awareness that life will go on despite the loss.



**Behind in the Count:** Blame. Bitterness. Depression. Perfectionism that makes the game tense, or causes you to withdraw entirely. Lack of tolerance for flaws: your own, others', life's. One error or loss leads to feeling hopeless about everything.

**The Player:** Supportive to self and others in trying times. Or, needs to learn to be. Someone who has sustained a loss, such as a death, divorce, or firing from a job.

The Signal: Accept that perfection is not a workable goal. Learn from mistakes, rather than covering them up or tormenting yourself with them. Be kind to others regarding their blunders and weaknesses. In dealing with loss, allow yourself to grieve fully. Seek support from others to keep your hope for the future alive.

**The Play:** A mistake. A hoped-for event does not occur. A loss. Leaving a relationship or job as soon as imperfections become apparent. Grieving, healthy or unhealthy.

**The Stuff:** Acceptance of flaws and disappointment. Good grief: sadness without despair. Self-acceptance versus self-criticism. Forgiveness.

In the Ballpark: What error is involved here? What mistake can I learn from? Do I expect myself or others to be perfect? Do I expect relationships to be perfect? How does this affect them? Do I forgive others? Can I forgive myself? What do I feel bitter, hopeless, or self-critical about? What have I lost? How can I grieve without despairing? When something goes wrong, do I lose sight of everything that has gone right?



## Six of Mitts

#### LOVING MEMORIES

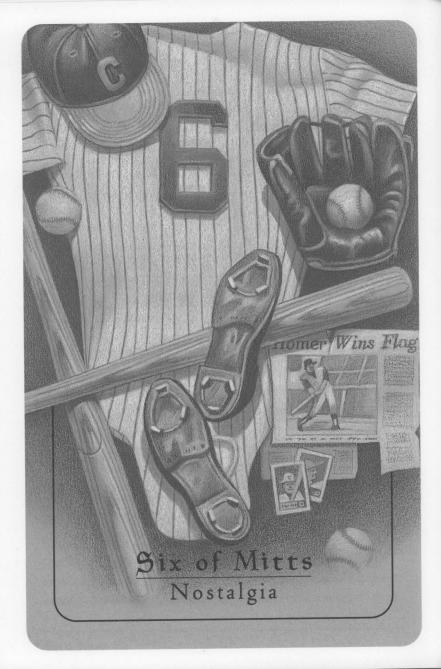
Baseball is a sport dominated by vital ghosts; it's a fraternity, like no other we have, of the active and the no longer so, the living and the dead.

-RICHARD GILMAN

aseball fans are famous for their precise and emotion-laden memories of games and heroes. But Nostalgia is more than a celebration of the past. Our memories profoundly shape our present lives. When you think of the past, do you gain insight and strength? Or are you using it to avoid the challenges of the present? Nostalgia reminds you to use the past well: for perspective, inspiration, support, pleasure.

**Ahead of the Count:** Strength or growth derived from exploration of the past: your own past, family ancestors, or the history of your people. Long-term relationships. Pleasure in sharing memories.

**Behind in the Count:** Memory as escapism. Dreamy refusal to face current circumstances. Idealizing childhood or past





historical times. Inability to let go of the past, whether it was good or bad. Painful memories.

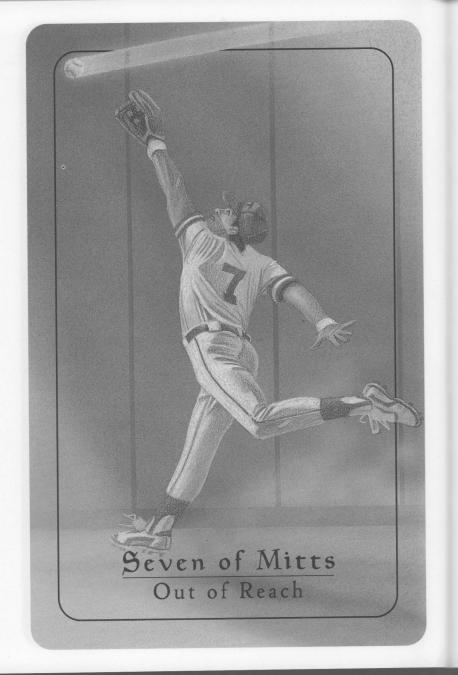
**The Player:** Connected to the past and interested in exploring it. Or, someone who seems stuck in the past, especially emotionally. May be a historian, or counselor.

The Signal: Look to the past for courage, comfort, answers. If you usually avoid thinking about the past, this is the time to give it a try. On the other hand, if you've been obsessing about a past event or relationship, now is the time to snap out of it! Give the past its due, no more and no less. Carry the helpful parts into the present, where your real life is unfolding.

**The Play:** Activities focusing on the influence the past has on the present. Reminiscing. Writing memoirs. Looking through old photos. Attending reunions. Passing stories on to the next generation.

**The Stuff:** A sense of support from historical role models, including relatives. Emotions evoked by memories. Feeling stuck at an earlier level of personal development, or unable to get over a past event.

In the Ballpark: How is my past shaping my future? How can I affect this process? Am I ignoring the past? Escaping into it? Is it time to reconnect with someone or something from the past? Does a current situation remind me of something that happened before? How have I previously dealt with similar situations? What happened? What memories do I draw pleasure and strength from? Are there ways I am stuck in the past? Is it time to let go of something?



# OUT OF REACH Seven of Mitts

### CHOOSING REALITY

The romance of baseball ... is in its capacity for stirring fantasy. We are never too old or too bothered to see ourselves wrapping up a World Series victory with a homer in the final inning of the seventh game.

—Ron Fimrite

ou jump, straining, glove outstretched, but the ball is Out of Reach . . . and so, possibly, is the hope of a come-from-behind win that kept your team's spirit alive. This is different from an error: the catch is an impossibility, a dream that cannot be made real. Out of Reach represents counterproductive fantasies, temptations, and misconceptions. These are not dreams that enrich your life, but day-dreams that distract you from enjoying or improving real life. Out of Reach is a wake-up call.

**Ahead of the Count:** The need to distinguish reality from illusions. Choosing reality over fantasy. Shaking off confusion by committing to a particular relationship, belief, or goal.



Conscious interpretation of fantasies, and action toward materializing their positive aspects.

**Behind in the Count:** Inability to choose. Refusal to face the truth. Belief in illusion or lies. The mistaken sense that wishing, in and of itself, will make dreams come true.

**The Player:** Spacey. Unmotivated. Confused. Expresses imagination mostly through talking about plans and projects that somehow never happen. Possibly abusing substances or in some other way living under an illusion.

The Signal: Get real: prioritize your aims and tasks. Choose a realistic goal and pursue it. Seize your true power by either relinquishing your fantasies or transforming them into real-world plans. Check the accuracy of your assumptions. Reevaluate your beliefs. Playing "let's pretend" and/or avoiding making choices won't be fun for long and will not yield satisfaction ultimately.

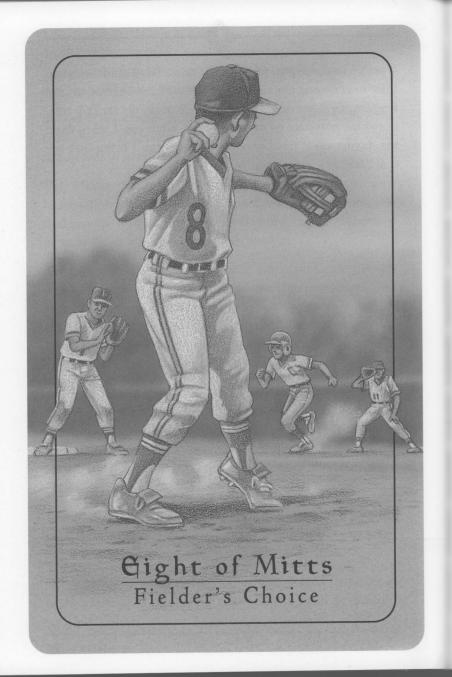
The Play: Overindulgence in activities that keep you from engaging in real life. Being overwhelmed by too many options. Making decisions with insufficient information. Fantasizing without taking constructive action toward ideals.

**The Stuff:** Underlying discontent or even despair about life prospects. Fear of choosing. Fear of failure. Difficulty gauging what's realistic and what's not. Indecisiveness.

In the Ballpark: What fantasies or activities am I indulging in at the expense of my real life? Am I caught up in an illusion?



What's a realistic goal for me right now? What guidelines can I use in choosing among options? What fears or illusions are keeping me from making a choice? How do my fantasy relationships compare to my real ones? What can I learn from my daydreams? What aspects of them can I bring into my real life?



## FIELDER'S CHOICE Eight of Mitts

### TAKING A NEW PATH

Catching a fly ball is a pleasure, but knowing what to do with it after you catch it is a business.—Tommy Henrich

hen fielding, the play is often dictated by circumstances, and you need only apply the skill to carry it out. But in a Fielder's Choice the moment demands a decision. Do you try for the out at first base? Or do you throw to third in hopes of preventing a potential tying run? Though others usually call the plays, now it's your turn to evaluate the situation and act strategically. The standard system just won't do.

Ahead of the Count: Independent decision-making rather than living by others' orders or expectations. Recognizing and pursuing a better opportunity. Trying a new way. A hoped-for goal is accomplished once the means are decided upon.

**Behind in the Count:** Stuck in a mindless habit. Inability to recognize the opportunity to make a different choice. Or,



fears of failure, change, or others' judgment are keeping you from seeking something more.

**The Player:** Trusts and acts on intuition. A trailblazer. May be the first among friends to have a child, or the first female in a particular job.

**The Signal:** Break out of your routine. Consider new options. Assert your ability to make your own choices. Trust your judgment, even if no one else understands or agrees. Listen to your inner yearnings. Don't settle for less! More is available to you if you're willing to pursue it.

**The Play:** Making your own decision, especially in an area usually controlled by another. A choice based on intuition. Pursuing an option that promises more meaning, satisfaction, or love.

**The Stuff:** A display of power, despite some anxiety. Hopeful. Excited. Courageous. Belief in one's own intuition and feelings. If action is not taken, a sense of pessimism or melancholic inertia.

In the Ballpark: Who makes decisions that affect me? Can I make them instead? What choice am I facing? Do I trust my own judgment? Am I listening to my intuition and feelings? What fears or beliefs keep me in my routine even when it's unsatisfying? What's the risk if I try something new? Which expectations, and whose, hold me in place? Is this all there is? Or is there something more for me?



## Nine of Mitts

#### DELIGHTING IN THE DAILY

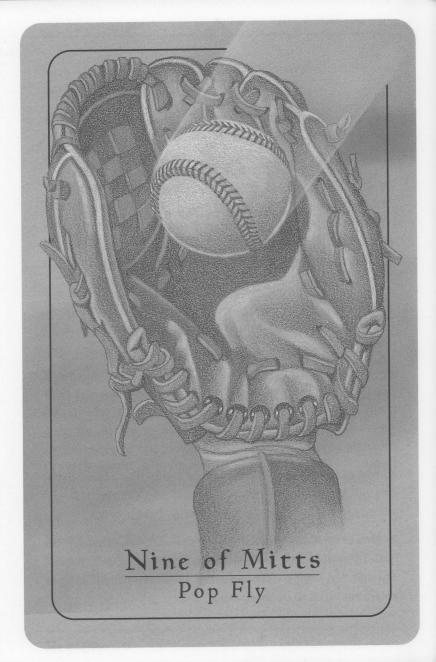
Why do I like baseball? The pay is good, it keeps you out in the fresh air and sunshine, and you can't beat them hours.

—TIM HURST

Pop Fly—the ball is hit and flies in a perfect, predictable arc right to you. You're certain you'll catch it with ease, and you do. The moment is simple and delicious, and you feel it through and through. No tension, no worries, no conflicts, no sense of past or future, no deep meaning beyond the pleasure of playing and playing well.

**Ahead of the Count:** Things falling easily into place. Satisfaction. Relishing the joys of everyday life. Comfortable circumstances. Enjoyment in love, family, health, work.

**Behind in the Count:** Inability to appreciate life, others, yourself. Dissatisfaction: everything feels wrong or as if it's not enough. Or, happy circumstances seem superficial as your attention turns to deeper issues.





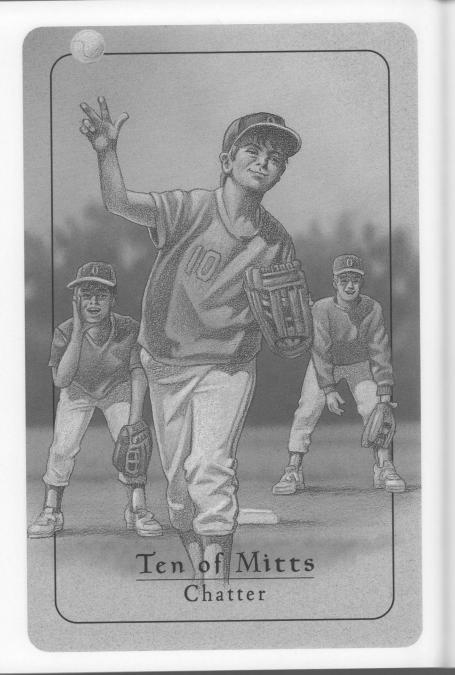
**The Player:** Easygoing. Mellow. Content. Perhaps somewhat superficial. A person in a good situation, or one who seems naturally to make situations good.

The Signal: Enjoy! You have everything you need right at hand. Life is—or can be—easy and fun. If you've forgotten this, make time for activities that remind you how to flow smoothly: playing with children, enjoying your favorite hobby, dancing, riding a bike, laughing with friends. Don't add complications where they don't exist. Delight in simple pleasures.

**The Play:** Getting what you want, especially if what you want is a moderate wish. People getting along well. Relaxation. Spirit-renewing fun. Sensual pleasures.

**The Stuff:** Happy with life, and yourself, as is. Satisfied. Fully present in the moment. Undistracted by either hopes or fears.

In the Ballpark: Do I appreciate and savor the good in my life? Where am I finding sensual pleasure and emotional satisfaction? Do I make time to relax and have fun? What comes easily to me? When do I feel content? What could I enjoy more if I were more present? Do I complicate matters unnecessarily? What's an easier way? Am I taking things too seriously? Too superficially? Is "good enough" ever good enough for me?





## Ten of Mitts

#### LASTING HAPPINESS

This is a game to be savored, not gulped. There's time to discuss everything between pitches or between innings.

—BILL VEECK

hough to outsiders it may sound like joking or even gibberish, Chatter conveys a deep camaraderie among players. Chatter is the reason this sport doesn't need cheerleaders: in baseball, teammates cheer for each other, offering constant encouragement, reassurance, and congratulations. This card represents the same lasting ties of belonging and support, through good times and bad.

Ahead of the Count: Long-lived joy, especially in relationships. Success beyond accomplishments or money: self-respect, faith, a sense of belonging and meaning, true happiness. Blessings. Wholeness. Gratitude.

**Behind in the Count:** Discontent in relationships. Or, the feeling that happiness is shallow and/or fleeting. Disagreements.



Breakups. Or simply the inability to recognize and value the good in other people and in your relationships.

**The Player:** Brings harmony to situations. Loving and well-loved. Nurtures enduring connections. Someone whose relationship, home, or job is apparently permanent. A supporter.

The Signal: Honor and give thanks for loving, lasting relationships. Spend time with loved ones. Open your heart to others; let them know you care. Cultivate meaningful connections that bring true satisfaction. Evaluate current involvements or opportunities in light of their long-term promise. Encourage your teammates and accept their support.

**The Play:** Uplifting conversations. Long-term relationships begun or anniversaries celebrated. Gatherings of friends, family, colleagues. Successful completion of a project, especially a labor of love. An ongoing period of happiness.

**The Stuff:** Tranquillity. Joy. Pleasure in making a contribution. A stable sense of happiness derived from continuing relationships or endeavors.

In the Ballpark: How do I define success? How do I contribute to the long-term well-being of my friends, family, community? Where do I belong? What will make me happy in the long run? What do I find meaningful in the long run? Am I grateful for the gifts life has given me? What is coming to completion in my life now? What do I want to continue? Who and what do I want as a permanent part of my life?



## Eleven of Mitts

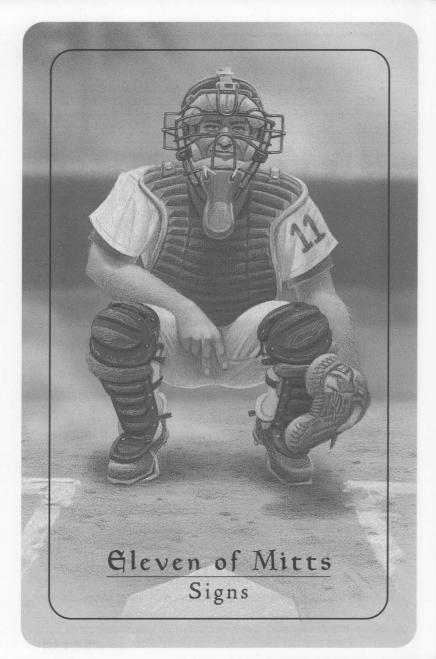
#### DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING

Baseball is a game in code, a game of signs between manager, coach, catcher, pitcher, batter. It's not a lonely game. Unwritten letters, entire encyclopedias of baseball knowledge flutter across the field every minute.

-ROBERTA ISRAELOFF

newcomer can easily follow and enjoy the elementary ups and downs of a baseball game. But those in the know watch a simultaneous conversation that controls the overt action: the constant exchange of information and guidance in the language of Signs. These coded signals between management and players or catcher and pitcher must be properly deciphered to be of use. Like intuition and imagination, Signs are likely to seem silly to those who cannot interpret them.

**Ahead of the Count:** Messages come from the unconscious, through intuition, imagination, dreams. Visionary ideas. Subtle





forms of communication, including the arts. The underlying lesson of a situation.

**Behind in the Count:** Overly literal. Out of touch with all but the most obvious signs. Inner wisdom and imagination are undervalued or blocked. Or, an unethical use of secrets, as in deception.

**The Player:** Draws on intuition in everyday life. Sensitive. Insightful. Artistic. A visionary. However, may get somewhat lost in an idiosyncratic inner world. Possibly an artist, a counselor, or a psychic or other type of translator.

The Signal: Trust your hunches. Look below the surface. Face the truth behind the code. Seek the real significance of others' messages. Search for the deeper meaning of events. Explore your imagination. This is a fertile time to engage in any artistic endeavor. Consider exploring dream interpretation or other forms of developing intuition.

**The Play:** Intuitive realizations. Intense dreams. Creative renewal. Synchronicity: coincidences offering information, advice, or opportunity. Coming to understand the import of an event or person. Learning a language. Any kind of psychic development (including consulting Tarot cards).

**The Stuff:** Imaginative ideas and visions. A sense of intuitive certainty. Artistic inspiration. Connection with nonrational forms of wisdom. Receptivity to subtle types of communication.

**In the Ballpark:** Am I aware of having intuition? Do I trust it? What do I have a hunch about? What signals have I received



or sent lately? Am I missing, or misinterpreting, signals meant for me? What is my imagination up to? Do I remember my dreams? Do I understand them? Am I out of touch with others? With my inner self? What artistic inclinations do I have? How can I pursue them? What is my vision for the future?



#### **FOLLOWING DREAMS**

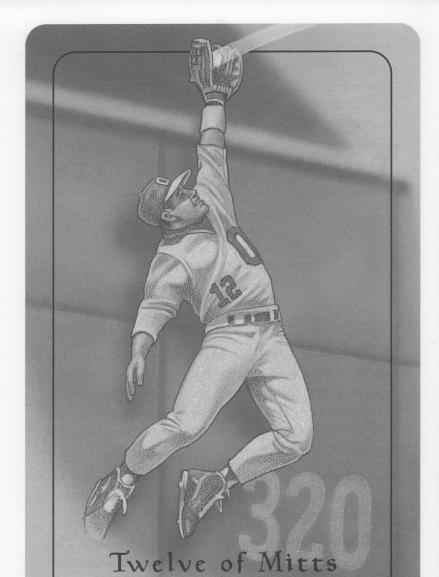
People have the most fun when they're busting their ass.

-TED TURNER

unning backwards, glove up, eyes following the ball's arc against the sky, you know the catch is impossible. But you won't let it go. You can picture making it, and your imagination inspires you to push farther than ever before. You leap up and reach out. And somehow, you make that Circus Catch!

**Ahead of the Count:** Idealism. Utopian beliefs. A rosy view-point. Following your dreams. Attempting the incredible—and possibly succeeding. Unpredictably good fortune.

**Behind in the Count:** Escapism. Passive daydreaming. Fantasies that are never acted on. Deceit of self and/or others through charming ideas, promises, stories. Failure caused by unwillingness to commit or exert yourself.



Circus Catch



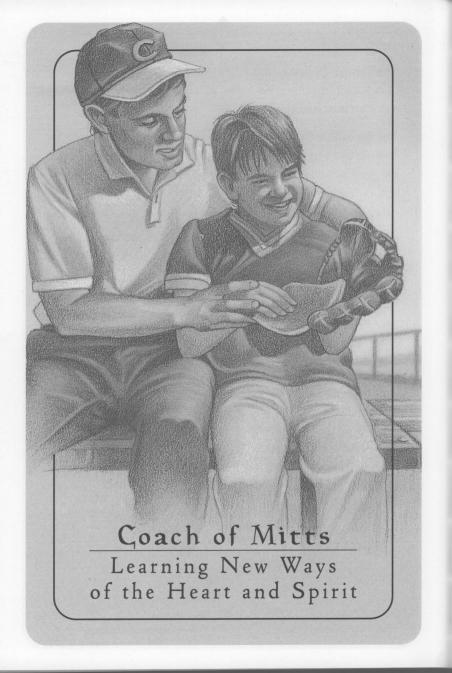
**The Player:** Believes in the best possibilities. Romantic. May be a social or political activist, or anyone who aims to bring a dream into reality.

**The Signal:** Act on your highest ideals and hopes. Don't be discouraged by pessimistic "realism." No one else can see the goal as you do; until you try, you won't know if reaching it is possible. Success *is* a possibility if you go all out. Dedicate yourself to your vision. The results will amaze you.

**The Play:** Striving to perform at the next highest level. Discovering or reevaluating your principles and heroes. Efforts above and beyond the call of duty. Getting a date, job, or apartment that you wanted but feared was too much to ask for.

**The Stuff:** Positive outlook. Idealism. Faith in your own potential. Ignoring others' judgments in order to focus on your goal. Excitement. Hope.

In the Ballpark: What seems impossible right now? Could it be closer at hand than I think? What are my ideals? What is my idea of utopia? What am I dreaming of doing? Of being? Do I sacrifice my dreams rather than risk failure? What happens when the time comes for me to commit? How does the real me compare to my ideal vision of myself? What's the next level for me to reach for?



## Coach of Mitts

LEARNING NEW WAYS
OF THE HEART AND SPIRIT

Life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives. —|ACKIE ROBINSON

n baseball, each Coach's ability to instruct players and develop their potential is crucial to a team's success. Baseball Tarot's Coach of Mitts is a caring mentor in matters of love, from the romantic to the universal. Wise and supportive, this Coach teaches both self-awareness and a greater understanding of others. With the Coach of Mitts as your guide, you'll find yourself crying, laughing, and admitting things you thought you'd never tell a soul. And you'll come out the other end a better player and a bigger person.

**Ahead of the Count:** Opportunity to learn or teach, particularly about relationships, emotion, insight. Loving connection. Developing spiritual and/or emotional potential. Honesty. Sensitivity. Guidance.



**Behind in the Count:** Overemotionalism. Superstition. Inability to observe objectively. Or, fear of entering fully into relationships and the realm of feeling.

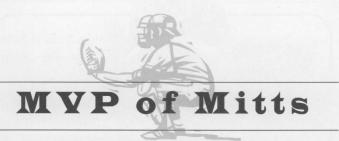
**The Player:** In touch with own inner workings. Comfortable with intimacy. Reaches out to others. A warm, encouraging teacher. May work as a counselor or physical therapist, or in some other form of guidance or healing.

The Signal: Your lessons now are internal and interpersonal. Take time to discover your feelings—your real feelings, not what you think you feel or what you think you should feel. Listen to your hunches. Be more loving—and find out what you've been missing. There may be a coach nearby who would be glad to help. Or, someone may need your coaching in these areas.

**The Play:** Learning to be skillful in relationships—whether within the family, at work, with friends, or in love. A religious retreat. Tarot readings. Therapy. Risking intimacy. Working with or serving as a mentor, especially in these areas.

**The Stuff:** Vulnerability. Yearning. Feeling caring and cared for. Opening up. Trust.

In the Ballpark: What do I know about love? What do I need to learn? What aspect of relationships is most challenging for me? Which of my relationships are fulfilling? Which are not? Do I accept my emotions? How do I connect with my sense of spirit? Who am I closest to? Do I let others really know me? What is my heart telling me?



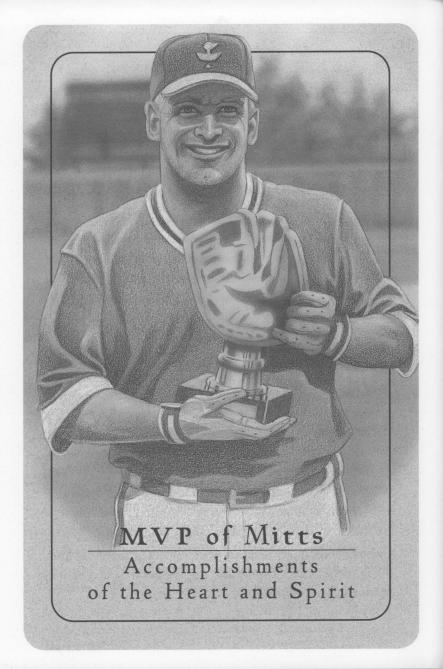
### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HEART AND SPIRIT

Baseball is very much like life. Watch it closely, and you will learn a great deal about things like courage, beauty, strength, finesse, chance, fallibility, and loyalty. Study baseball and you will have a head start in understanding life.

—JIM LANGFORD

VP" stands for Most Valuable Player, a title awarded to the player whose contributions are considered most crucial to the team's success. To the MVP of this suit, nothing is more important than internal awareness. Intuition is a practical necessity, emotions are a critical source of knowledge, and relationships—with people, nature, and faith—are wellsprings of strength. The MVP of Mitts is most alive in the world of the heart and feels a deep sense of connection and support, even when alone.

**Ahead of the Count:** Success in an endeavor requiring love, giving, sensitivity, or intuition. Appreciation of and skill in relationships. Compassion.





**Behind in the Count:** Playing "therapist" or "expert" in relationships. Using emotion to manipulate or otherwise mistreat others. Or, fears of never feeling successful in love.

**The Player:** At home in intimacy. May be someone who is in a long-term relationship, or whose work centers on relationships or intuitive arts. Possibly a spiritual leader.

The Signal: The key to your success in a situation is to be your-self—there's no one better qualified. Trust that your emotions are real—and meaningful, once you know how to interpret them. Trust that your love matters. The outcome will be influenced most by your ability to recognize and experience your feelings, tap into your intuition, and act with compassion toward everyone in the situation, including yourself.

**The Play:** Triumphs of caring. Weddings, anniversary parties, adoptions, family reunions, and other celebrations of enduring relationships. Volunteering your skills to aid others. Reconciling with a loved one.

**The Stuff:** Closeness. Understanding. A sense of belonging. Self-acceptance. Spiritual connection. Inner wisdom. Generosity. Forgiveness. Love.

In the Ballpark: What would happen if I followed my heart? How do I define success? How do I feel in this situation? What emotions do I avoid? How do I show that I value my inner life? Do I spend too much time (or not enough) in the world of heart and spirit? What do I think about the words "spiritual," "emotion," and "honesty"? When I think of "me," do I mean "my feelings"?



RATIONALITY • TRUTH • THEORY • LANGUAGE • ARGUMENTS •

MENTAL CONFLICTS • DECISIONS • SPEED • FLIGHT •

SEPARATION • FREEDOM • INDEPENDENCE

Baseball only becomes dull to those with dull minds. Today's game is always different from yesterday's game.

-RED SMITH

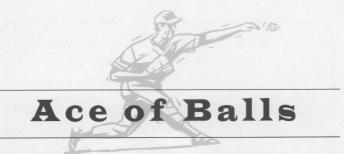
n a traditional Tarot deck, this suit is named "Swords." The decisive cut of a Sword through the air symbolizes the sharp blade of intellect. Swords represent the value of rationality, quick thinking, and articulate expression. They signify the ability to differentiate and analyze. They refer to conflicts within one's mind, as well as with others. They invoke focus and clarity. They foster research and the courage to pursue the truth. They evoke the potential loneli-



ness of independent thinking and the losses that ensue when ties are cut.

In Baseball Tarot, Swords become Balls, which similarly cut swiftly through the air. Whether pitching, hitting, or fielding, we attempt to master the Ball, which zooms with tremendous intensity into the unknown future. A wise player heeds the classic advice to keep both eyes on that unpredictable Ball, as its movements dictate what happens next. A Ball's travels involve myriad tricks and subtleties. In the form of pitches, Balls are analyzed and compared, their variations named and tracked, in an effort to foretell what the next one will do. Each of us seeks to control the Ball's flight, but only the greatest players achieve this.

The suit of Balls expresses the life of the mind. Balls are spontaneous (compared to Bases), aggressive (compared to Mitts), and independent (compared to Bats). In a game without the suit of Balls, Bases would still be perfectly spaced, and Bats and Mitts would be at the ready, but no pitch would arrive to animate the players. There would be no action, no reaction. In a life without the influence of the suit of Balls, there would be no mental consciousness to explore, share, and enjoy. The choices, ability to analyze, to develop a philosophy and sense of wit that informs our lives, would be missed.



MENTAL BEGINNINGS

Ability gets you to the majors, mentality keeps you there.

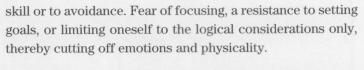
-WILLIE STARGELL

ach Ace, as the first card of its suit, represents beginnings. The Ace of Balls represents beginnings in the areas of life associated with this suit: intellectual or scholarly projects, debates, ideas, analysis, and decision-making, or a beginning in some other area affected by the essence of the suit of Balls. Perhaps it's a need to think more clearly (Balls) about a new relationship (Mitts) or business venture (Bases). The Ace is a powerfully positive card, representing an infusion of intelligence, clarity, and focus into your state of mind or situation.

Ahead of the Count: The beginning of an intellectual or analytical endeavor. A sudden burst of clear thinking. Intelligence. Objectivity. Independent opinion. The courage to face, speak, and act on the underlying truth. Fast thinking, fast moving.

**Behind in the Count:** Lack of clarity. Confusion, belief in false ideas, dogmatism. Slowness, whether due to lack of





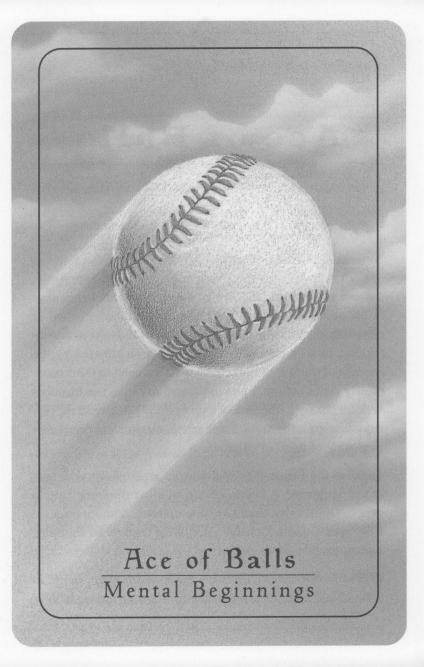
**The Player:** Understands life primarily through thought and analysis. Loves to explore ideas. Possibly a professor, journalist, or scientist.

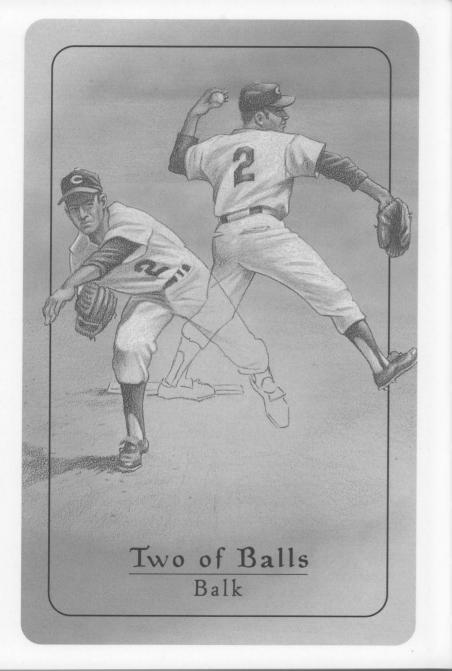
The Signal: Summon the intense concentration of a Hall of Fame pitcher. Use your mind. Cut through your fears and fantasies, and through the opinions of others, to come to your own conclusions. Refuse to indulge in wishful or muddled thinking. Focus—then fly!

**The Play:** The initiation of intellectual pursuits, analytical projects, research, decisions. First day of school, or a new academic direction. Choosing a rational approach. Travel, especially alone.

**The Stuff:** Attention to words and ideas. The sense that it's time to make a decision and get moving. A desire for independence. Awareness that ultimately you're on your own.

In the Ballpark: What new idea am I thinking about? Am I avoiding clear thought? Or, am I pursuing an intellectual approach in order to avoid feeling? What is the truth here? Am I facing it? What decision do I need to make? How is my thinking contributing to this situation, positively and/or negatively? Am I using my intellect to the fullest? Where do I want to focus my mind? What is my theory about this situation? Does my analysis of it make sense?







## Two of Balls

## CONFRONTING CHOICES

The pitcher is happiest with his arm idle. He prefers to dawdle in the present, knowing that as soon as he gets on the mound and starts his windup he delivers himself to the uncertainty of the future.

—GEORGE PLIMPTON

Balk is the awkward and illegal move made when a pitcher interrupts delivery of a pitch to try to pick off or deceive a runner. Rarely will a pitcher make this mistake in a calm moment. Rather, pitchers commit Balks under tension, when facing the conflicting demands of two tasks: pitching to the batter and holding a runner on base. This card refers to choices you wish you didn't have to make, or to decisions you're dealing with unskillfully.

**Ahead of the Count:** Attempting to balance contradictory demands. Trying to make a decision. Postponing a choice until thoughts and feelings are sorted out.



**Behind in the Count:** Difficulty making a decision. Torn between reason and emotion. Starting to go one way, then switching. Avoiding a decision; denying that a choice must be made.

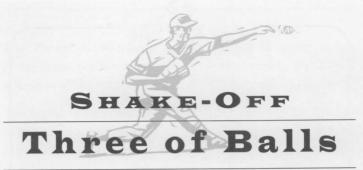
**The Player:** Shies from tough decisions; copes by taking a narrow view. Or, fails to follow through when it counts.

**The Signal:** You face an inescapable choice. Accept the reality that you cannot take both roads. Don't punish others for your pain. Despite pressure, don't rush to action without clarity. The best decision will arise through a collaboration between your mind and your heart.

**The Play:** Choosing among ideas, commitments, plans; or between integrity and dishonesty. False starts. Optionhopping. Pretending a matter is simpler than it is. Making a bad decision based on stress-driven "logic." Or, avoiding an issue.

**The Stuff:** Agitation. Anxiety. Indecision. Defensiveness. Struggling to cope in a strained, complex situation.

In the Ballpark: What matters are competing for my attention? What decision demands to be made? How do I usually make decisions? What are my options? What do I think about each alternative? How do I feel about each? What would a skillful handling of this choice look like? Have I made false starts one way or another? What am I trying to avoid seeing about this situation? About myself? Who am I trying to "fake out"? What would be the cost of postponing the matter?



#### ADMITTING UNHAPPINESS

Baseball has got to be fun, because if it's not fun, it's a long time to be in agony. —Tom Trebelhorn

n constant collaboration, the pitcher and the catcher—together known as the battery—have the most intimate relationship on the diamond. The catcher's signals determine each pitch—except when the pitcher disagrees and "shakes off" a sign with a quick jerk of the head. In Baseball Tarot, Shake-Off represents the moment when you recognize that something's wrong and realize you must make a change.

**Ahead of the Count:** Recognition that the standard method isn't working. Courage to reject the wrong path. The ability to discern positive from negative factors in the situation. Out with the old.

**Behind in the Count:** Disagreement. Separation. Conflict flavored more with sadness than with anger.





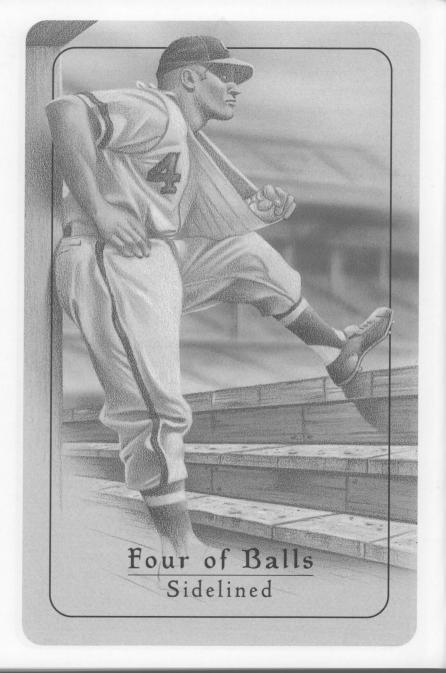
**The Player:** Knows own mind. Listens to inner voice. Accepts the sorrow of change as part of growth. Possibly in a limit-setting profession, such as law enforcement.

The Signal: Your usual source of advice and support doesn't meet your current needs. You aren't yet sure what you want, but you know what you don't want. Now is the time to let go of whatever holds you back or hurts you. Despite the pain, release the wrong to make room for the right. Let yourself grieve.

**The Play:** Saying no. Refusal to continue as before. Making a clean break. Developing self-awareness. Acting on deeper knowledge. Relinquishing a problematic routine, role, or belief system.

**The Stuff:** Internal honesty. Determination despite feeling sad and somewhat worried; relief at having made a change. Temporary depression on the way to better times.

In the Ballpark: What change have I secretly been contemplating? How can I sustain myself through a time of separation and change? What necessary pain or sorrow do I fear facing? Who am I afraid to disagree with? Am I being honest with myself? What do I need to let go of? What do I know I don't want? Is my usual source of guidance and support helpful now? Where can I get the strength to act on my personal truth?



## SIDELINED

## Four of Balls

## HEALING RETREAT

If I knew I was gonna live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself.—MICKEY MANTLE

rom the dugout, an injured player looks wistfully across the diamond, longing to be part of the action. Sure, it's frustrating to be Sidelined, but healing takes time. This card speaks to the wisdom of conscious recovery and the need to pull away from the action to recuperate and recharge. It reminds us that rest can provide a valuable change of perspective.

**Ahead of the Count:** Healing. Renewal. Relaxation. Time away from demands. Distance allows for discovery of new viewpoints. Faith in, and cooperation with, the natural process of recovery.

**Behind in the Count:** Inability to spend time alone or to benefit from quiet. Desire for constant stimulation. Refusal to take needed rest. Or, withdrawal into an unhealthy isolation.



**The Player:** Out of the game, at least temporarily. On the mend. Knows when to take a break. Or, someone who never quite enters the game; may be underemployed.

**The Signal:** Slow down. Or stop entirely. Let the healing happen. If you can't take a day off, at least take yourself on a mental vacation through daydreaming, meditation, or whatever brings you serenity. Engage yourself in solitude. Step back in order to return refreshed.

**The Play:** Recovering from illness, injury, heartbreak, or other stressful experience. Catching up on sleep, recreation. Enjoying time alone. Vacations, retreats. Getting distance from a situation, project, or relationship.

**The Stuff:** Acceptance of the need to rest; feeling rejuvenated, soothed, at peace. Or, unable to cope with life out of the loop; resentful, self-pitying, lonely.

In the Ballpark: How is the health of my body, mind, and spirit? What healing do I need? When was my last day off? Last vacation? Last minute to myself? Where am I pushing myself too hard? What do I need to take a break from? What am I recuperating from? Am I overdoing the play-throughthe-pain philosophy? Where do I find rest and relaxation? Do I know how to enjoy time spent alone and away?

# CURVE BALL Five of Balls

#### WINNER-TAKES-ALL . CONFLICT

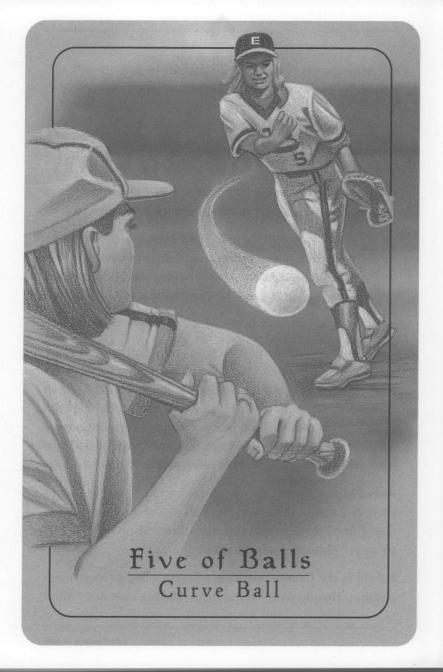
Anyone who doesn't believe a curve ball really curves, can stand behind a tree, and I'll whomp him to death with an obtical illusion.

—WHITLOW WYATT

ou're not likely to see a true Curve Ball in a fun game among friends, for this pitch is employed as a weapon of intense competition. Only those who are driven to win ever put in the effort to learn to throw it. Although the pitch is legal, the common phrase "throw a curve" carries a connotation of unfair advantage, an implication of one person's plotting to catch another unprepared.

**Ahead of the Count:** A win/lose situation. Conflict fought hard, but within the rules. Plans to defeat another. Advantage gained through manipulation. Possession of a "secret weapon." Strategic use of power.

**Behind in the Count:** Nastiness masquerading as mere competition. Hostile plots and attacks. Making enemies. "Mind





games." One-upmanship. Pleasure in others' defeat. Revenge. Winning is everything.

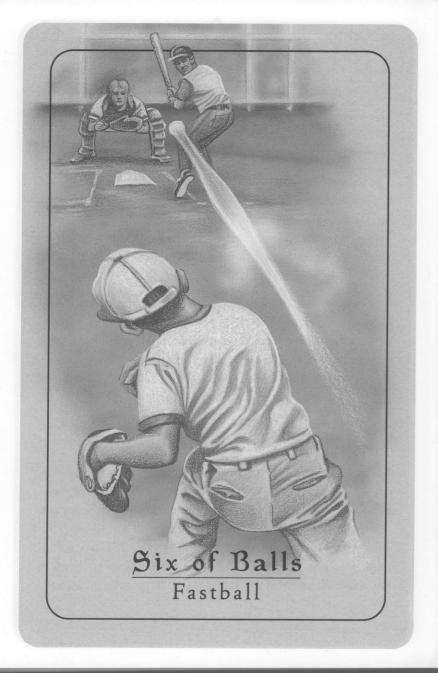
**The Player:** Zealously competitive. Skilled at maneuvering people and events to own advantage. Not unethical, but not necessarily fair, either. A wheeler-dealer.

The Signal: Expect the unexpected—with a vengeance! This is a battle to the finish. Things are not what they appear to be. Representations are probably false or misleading. Trust is low, appropriately, and the likelihood of harm, either to you or by you, is high. If the conflict can't be resolved cooperatively, at least it should be fought cleanly.

**The Play:** Fierce competition for something you want. Any kind of rivalry, in debates, elections, hiring, promotions, acquisitions, romance. Contests with one winner only. Being targeted for attack or targeting another. Being manipulative or being misled.

**The Stuff:** Absolute drive to be number one. Hostility. Mistrust. Satisfaction in another's loss. Insensitivity. Lack of empathy. Or, feeling targeted by another.

In the Ballpark: What turn of events has caught me by surprise? About what am I intensely competitive? Do I feel I must win at all costs? Does my opponent? Am I being overly trusting? Am I trying to mislead someone? Am I being targeted or targeting another? When am I meanest? Have manipulation or misinformation influenced this situation? Is there any way to transform this conflict into a win/win situation?





## POSITIVE MOVEMENT

Luck is the residue of design.

—Branch Rickey

he Fastball is named for its speed, though its precise aim is awesome as well. A pitcher relies on its perfect slicing flight to retire batter after batter. Fastball represents the power of mental clarity to cut through confusion, liberating awareness and directing it toward the future. Your conscious attention jump-starts the journey away from difficulties.

Ahead of the Count: Movement inspired by clear thinking. Increased awareness, new information, sharper analysis. Excising irrelevant or negative ideas and attitudes. Passage to a better situation.

**Behind in the Count:** Mired in a problem. Attempts to move on are misguided, plodding, or stuck. Distraction. Irrational



or haphazard thinking. Ignoring difficulties in hope that they'll disappear.

**The Player:** Sharp-witted. Fearless. Focused. Successful. In transition to a happier position. May be someone who's good at helping others move in the right direction, whether as a wilderness guide or an investment adviser.

The Signal: Use your mind. Be honest in your assessment of problems. Matters will improve exactly in proportion to the amount and quality of attention you pay them. You don't have to plan out your whole future, but you do have to commit to a direction. The next phase of your life is on the horizon.

**The Play:** Movement toward a new situation: quitting a bad habit, researching a new career, leaving a relationship that's going nowhere. Seeing the truth of the matter. Taking decisive action to make desired changes.

**The Stuff:** Newfound clarity and direction. Increased consciousness. Renewed hope. Relief. Curiosity.

In the Ballpark: What have I finally come to see clearly? What do I need to deal with more directly? What am I ready to move beyond? Where am I moving quickly, or where do I need to? What do I tend to pay attention to? What do I tend to ignore? Am I applying my best thinking? What difficulty have I felt confused by? What attitude, habit, or situation have I felt stuck in?



#### UNETHICAL MEANS

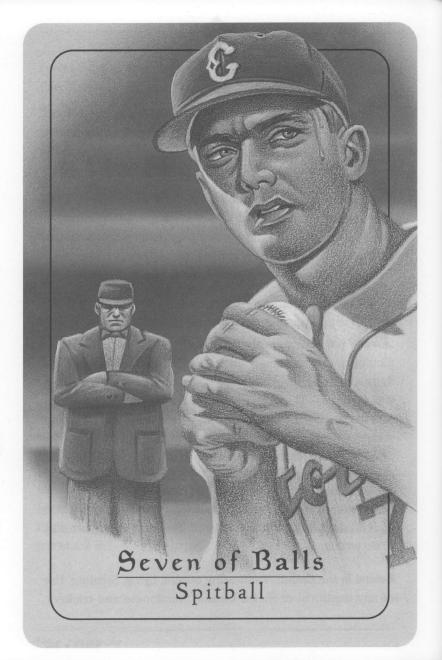
The integrity of the game is everything.

—Peter Ueberroth

y illegally altering the ball's surface with moisture, a pitcher can throw a Spitball, a pitch that flies unpredictably and is extremely difficult to hit. In the short run, the Spitball may help get a pitcher out of an inning, or even help win the game. These immediate payoffs inspire the temptation to cheat. But in the long run, you have to live with your conscience—and with the fear of being caught. Wrongdoing often becomes, ultimately, your own undoing: to betray others is fundamentally to betray your best self.

**Ahead of the Count:** Deception is discovered and exposed. Or, guilt is admitted, restitution offered. Resisting an opportunity to do wrong.

**Behind in the Count:** Victimizing others. Lying. Stealing. Use of any unethical or illegal means. Sneakiness and trickery.





Making excuses for wrongdoing. Dishonor. Or, trust misplaced in an unscrupulous individual.

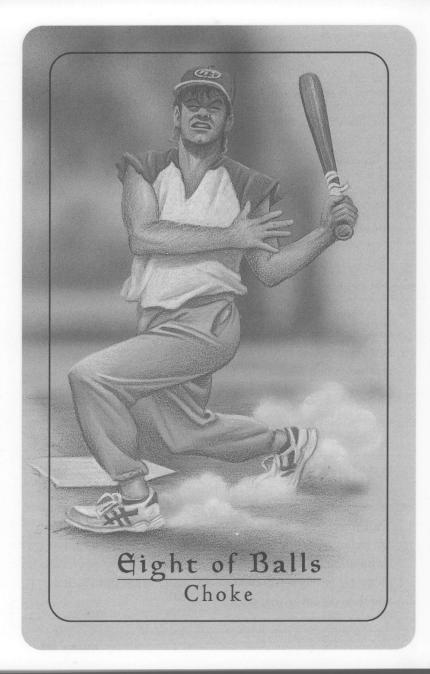
The Player: Untrustworthy. Appears to be decent, but uses underhanded means to advance own interests. May be a habitual liar or a professional con artist.

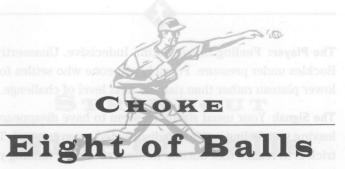
The Signal: Honor fairness and truth. Strive to keep your behavior in line with your beliefs. Cheating may seem unusually alluring, or there may arise a rare invitation or impulse to help yourself to ill-gotten gain. Don't slip into—or fall for—false excuses such as "everybody does it." Keep a watchful eye: maintain a protective skepticism regarding promises and claims.

**The Play:** Any form of dishonesty, from stealing ideas to stealing merchandise. Taking advantage of others. Scams. Double-crossing. Betraying an employer, friend, or lover. Misrepresenting qualifications or other facts. Lying to yourself.

**The Stuff:** Lonely. Selfish. Tense. Superficial. Afraid. Out of touch with morality, spirit, deeper self. Or, anguish and anger at discovering deception.

In the Ballpark: How do I define wrongdoing? What am I trying to get away with? What rules—internal or external—have I broken? What rules have I been tempted to break? With whom am I being less than honest? Is there something I'm hiding? What is weighing on my conscience? What am I rationalizing about? To whom do I owe an apology? Who might be taking advantage of my trust? What did I believe, and then discover was untrue?





## LOSING DIRECTION

I'm putting too much pressure on myself not to put too much pressure on myself.—DANN BILARDELLO

veryone's watching you—and counting on you. The pressure is intense and climbing. You offer up your sweat and prayers, straining to pay perfect attention, to move with precise power. But you're overtaken by anxiety or distraction, and your best try comes nowhere near your true best. Disappointing? Yes. Frustrating? Sure. Embarrassing? Very. Permanent? No. It's just a Choke.

**Ahead of the Count:** Ability to maintain perspective and self-respect despite failure. Awareness that difficulties will pass with time.

**Behind in the Count:** Failure at a crucial moment. Loss of power. Inability to apply ideas or skills. Impasse. Stuck in a negative place, especially in a way of thinking, belief system, or attitude. Fear of failure leads to actual failure. Loss of direction.



**The Player:** Feeling like a victim. Indecisive. Unassertive. Buckles under pressure. Possibly someone who settles for a lower plateau rather than risk the next level of challenge.

The Signal: Your usual strengths seem to have disappeared, leaving you feeling confused, disoriented, even trapped. The trick is to realize that outside influences are not holding you back; the barrier is within. Your powers are not gone; your connection to them is simply temporarily blocked. The current situation requires you to reconsider, and possibly alter, your standard approach.

**The Play:** Inability to perform on demand or to accomplish goals; missed deadlines, stage fright. Failure due to worry or misjudgment. Stalled progress. Trapped in counterproductive patterns, especially mental ones.

**The Stuff:** Feelings of powerlessness, incompetence. Unable to understand the problem. Fear of failure. Unrealistic wishing for a magic solution.

In the Ballpark: What do I fear I may be unable to do? Where do I feel stuck? What strengths do I feel out of touch with? How do I keep myself from my own power? What are my habitual negative thoughts? What fantasies of rescue am I holding on to? What am I confused or indecisive about? What new ideas are arising out of this confusion?



## STRIKEOUT

## Nine of Balls

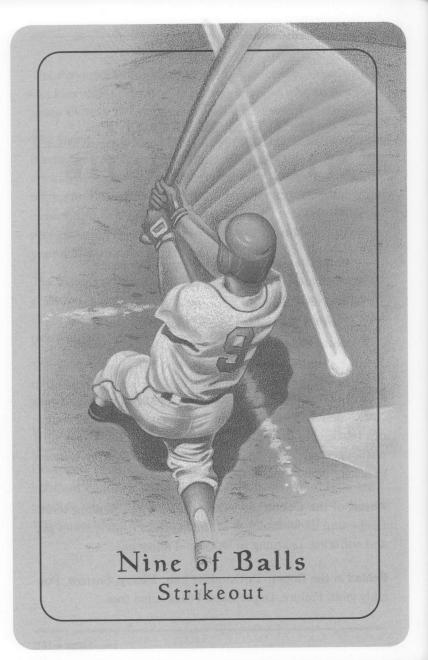
#### MOURNING A LOSS

It's easy to enjoy your job and enjoy other people when things are going good. When you're faced with adversity is when the character of men is measured. There's a Mennonite proverb, "Man, like a tree, is measured best when cut down."—DAN QUISENBERRY

he first two strikes sting, but the third strike confirms defeat. Your turn is over, your chance is gone. Strike-out represents the universal experience of loss. This card challenges us to survive our sorrows and, ultimately, to learn to accept pain as an inevitable aspect of life.

**Ahead of the Count:** At best, healthy grief, healing tears. Deepening understanding of the necessary interplay of joy and suffering. Learning to let go and move on.

**Behind in the Count:** Devastating loss. Misery. Sorrow. Possibly guilt. Failure. Depression. Fears come true.





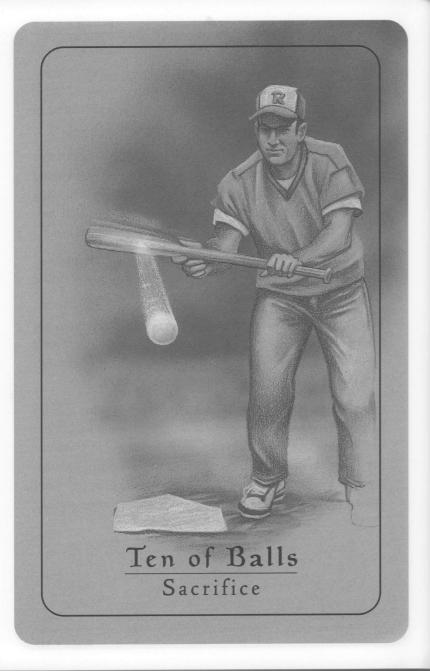
The Player: Is able to weep, as well as laugh, freely. Understands mourning. May currently be in the process of recuperating from a serious loss, or may work in a field related to coping with pain.

The Signal: Do not seek to escape your pain. Rather, strive to understand and move through it fully. Whatever you avoid now will eventually surface again with greater intensity. This is the time to develop your sense of how to grieve well, neither denying pain nor drowning in it.

**The Play:** Loss, whether of a position, belief, or person. Grieving. Questioning the purpose of living. Maintaining faith during dispiriting times—or learning how to.

**The Stuff:** Sadness. Longing. Loneliness. Difficulty remembering that life once felt good, and that it eventually will again. Melancholy. Collapse. Crushing self-criticism. Or, denial of such feelings, inability to grieve.

In the Ballpark: What loss have I experienced? What loss do I fear? What loss have I not fully mourned? What makes me sad? What pain am I trying to avoid feeling? Do I tend to deny pain or drown in it? How can I move toward balance between the two? What do I need when I'm unhappy? Am I able to cry? Where do I turn when everything's gone wrong?



# SACRIFICE Ten of Balls

**EVALUATING TRADE-OFFS** 

Baseball: Almost the only place in life where a sacrifice is really appreciated.—MARK BELTAIRE

o the uninitiated, a bunt looks like a weak hit bouncing nowhere, and an easy-out fly looks like a mistake. But those in the know recognize the strategy: you Sacrifice your at-bat in order to advance a teammate already on base. Making a conscious move to improve a tough situation, and accepting the costs, is the essence of Sacrifice.

Ahead of the Count: Sacrifice for a good cause. Accepting your role; recognizing its downside as well as its benefits. New clarity brings death to an old way of thinking. Hope on the horizon.

**Behind in the Count:** Desire for immediate gratification, no strings attached. Blowing a problem out of proportion. Tangled up in mistaken beliefs. Unearned sense of entitlement.



**The Player:** Has an eye on the big picture, including the long-term future. Understands own power to influence events. Copes well with interim setbacks. A strategist.

The Signal: Keep looking for a way to turn the situation around: there definitely is one, although you may not like the short-term price. Don't be fooled into hopelessness by appearances. Make the most of a negative. Watch out for deals that are unspoken, or perhaps even unconscious. Awareness makes all the difference.

**The Play:** Weighing pros and cons. A loss that is worthwhile in the long run. Valuable insights. Discovery of a new viewpoint resolves an old issue. Making a commitment to change.

**The Stuff:** Realism. Practicality. Moving from hopelessness to hope. Eagerness. Growing pains.

In the Ballpark: Am I sacrificing something, and why? What do I hope for? What is it worth to me? What is it time to give up? What do I want to change? What commitments will this change require? How do my established beliefs and attitudes shape my experiences? How can I get a new perspective? What do I need to deal with more consciously?



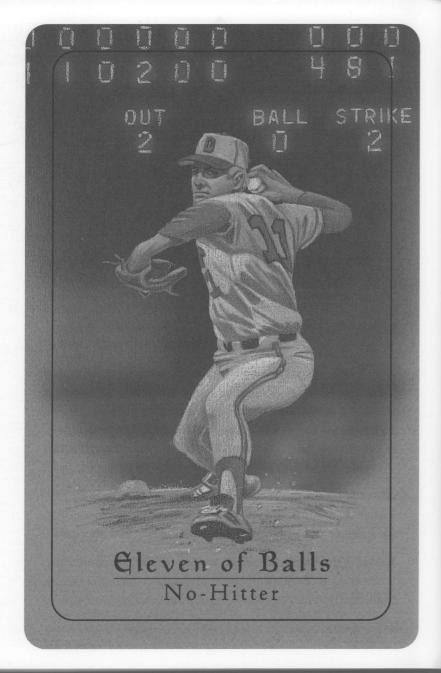
## **DETERMINED ATTENTION**

One of the beautiful things about baseball is that every once in a while you come into a situation where you want to, and where you have to, reach down and prove something. —NOLAN RYAN

he pitcher stares down one batter after another, retiring them all as the outs add up inning after inning. That intense gaze reveals the pitcher's blazing will—a driving ambition not just to win, but to control the game completely. Supreme skill must be fueled by phenomenal determination to create a No-Hitter.

**Ahead of the Count:** A battle, especially of ideas. Self-control. Vigilance. Aloofness. Victory. Seeing through distractions to the essence of the matter. Intellectual daring and success.

**Behind in the Count:** Demands are too harsh. Overcontrolling. Intellect used cruelly. Purposeless fighting over abstract ideas. Hostility. Defensiveness. All-or-nothing thinking. Arrogance.





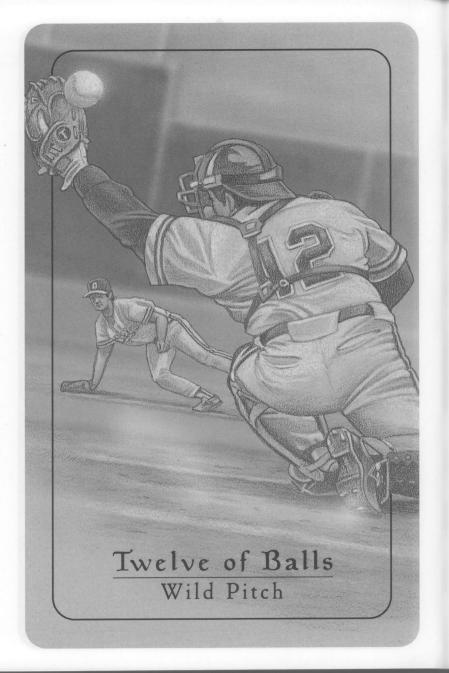
**The Player:** Displays an agile and aggressive mind. Self-defined; unfazed by others' opinions. May have an intellectually challenging career.

The Signal: "Concentration" must be your keyword now. Hold yourself to a standard of excellence at each step of the way and success will ultimately accrue. Risk a solo effort, especially an intellectual one. Cultivate a laser sharpness to slice through the fog of fear and emotionality. But remember to apply your high expectations to yourself, rather than inflicting them on unwilling others.

**The Play:** Independent research, study, or theorizing. Hotly contested debates. Triumphs of mind over matter, rationality over feelings, willpower over bad habits. Bringing actions into line with personal philosophy.

**The Stuff:** Zeal in pursuit of an ideal or goal. Deep concentration. Perseverance. Single-mindedness. High estimation of own ability and worth. Self-absorption.

In the Ballpark: Where do I use my intellect constructively? What is my current goal? What is my ultimate purpose? Where is my attention focused? What requires more of my attention? What endeavor must I take on alone? Where do I use my intellect to intimidate, control, or hurt? Am I being confused, or distracted from my purpose, by moods?





## Twelve of Balls

#### IMPULSIVE ACTION

The great thing about baseball is that there's a crisis every day.—Gabe Paul

hat happened? One minute, the routine's rolling along in the familiar rhythm of pitches, swings, catches, hits. Then the pitcher loses control and throws the ball so wildly that the catcher can't rein it in. A Wild Pitch seems to be on an adventure all its own—but patience and discipline can restore order where chaos and force once ruled.

**Ahead of the Count:** Tremendous energy. Thrills. Spontaneity. Assertive advocacy. Drawing attention. Surprises. Wild ideas.

**Behind in the Count:** Aggression. Impatience. Impulsivity. Power without sufficient skill to direct it. Refusal to stay within bounds or agreements. Insistence on own way. Arguing for the sake of arguing.

The Player: Energetic. Outer-directed. Charismatic. Impetuous. Possibly overly aggressive or unfair. May consider self to be above the law.



The Signal: Slow down. Calm down. You have extraordinary powers available to you: the challenge is to use your best judgment in employing them. You're in danger of squandering the gift of your energy by indulging your impatience and sense of self-importance. Commit time to practice and planning. Don't let a strong belief in your viewpoint rigidify into closed-mindedness.

**The Play:** Potent but misguided acts. Breaking the rules, then rationalizing away any responsibility. Inflaming conflicts. Getting attention instead of paying attention. Acting out rather than looking within. Moving too fast and unilaterally, without necessary consideration of long-term aims or the concerns of others. Or, supporting ideas that others consider too wild.

**The Stuff:** Vigor. Enthusiasm. Highly charged excitement. Love of the spotlight. Need to impress or intimidate others. Lack of insight or self-discipline. Immaturity.

In the Ballpark: What seems out of control? What are my greatest powers? What is their most common misuse? Their best use? Do I take rules too seriously or too lightly? What rules or agreements do I feel constrained by? With what or whom am I impatient? Does my eagerness lead me to skip crucial steps? Where am I acting without understanding? When do I direct myself outward to avoid looking inward? How can I tell the difference between helpful intuition and harmful impulse? What am I willing to speak out for, even if it may be unpopular?



## LEARNING NEW WAYS OF THINKING

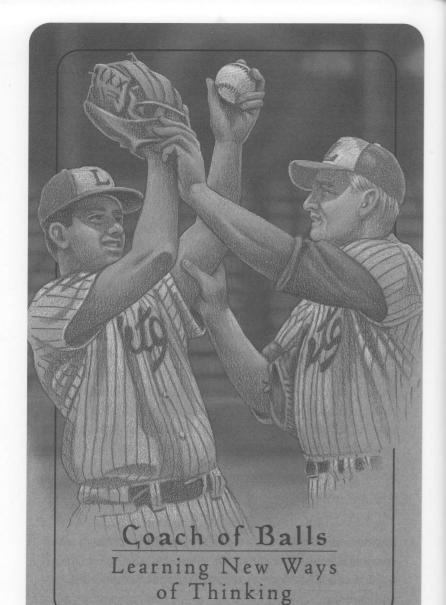
I think we can win it—if my brain holds out.

—JOHN McGraw

n baseball, each Coach's ability to instruct players and develop their potential is crucial. Baseball Tarot's Coach of Balls is a dedicated mentor of analytical and philosophical matters. This Coach knows all the angles and will fill you in—if you can keep up. Such a commanding intelligence can be intimidating as well as inspiring. The Coach of Balls demands rigorous attention and the willingness to stretch your mind in unusual directions. Your initial confusion and effort pay off in the form of valuable new perspectives.

**Ahead of the Count:** Opportunity to learn or teach, particularly a subject involving logic or analysis. The "spark" of connection between coach and player. Guidance.

**Behind in the Count:** Rational, advice-giving responses when emotional support is called for. Closed-mindedness. Hoarding information. Competitive feelings toward talented upand-comers.





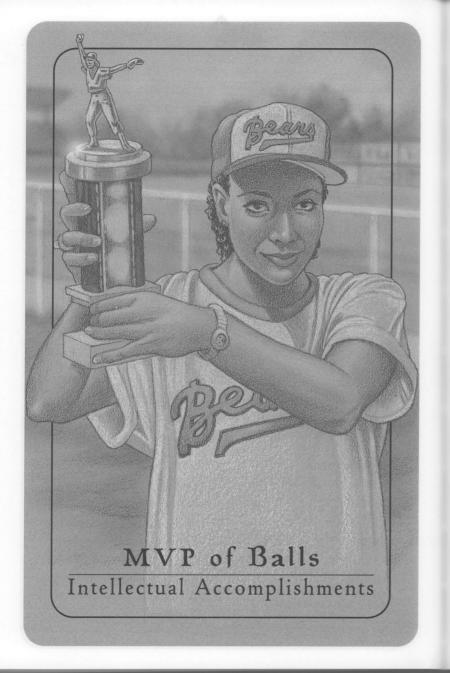
The Player: Generous with expertise. Pushes, challenges students or supervisees, or anyone who asks advice. May be a manager, seminar leader, teacher. Or a writer who popularizes technical ideas.

The Signal: Take a logical approach. Review the situation from the beginning: is there something you've missed? Could there be another explanation? Expand the parameters of your inquiry. Question your assumptions. Run the situation and your ideas by someone whose intellect you respect. Seek information, advice, or training from those more experienced, or just plain smarter. Is there someone who would be willing to coach you, or someone who needs your coaching?

**The Play:** Learning about a technical or abstract matter. Reexamining long-held but possibly irrational beliefs. Any intellectual endeavor. Working with or serving as a mentor, especially in a context related to education or ideas.

**The Stuff:** Intellectual expansion and discovery. Greater emphasis on thought than on feeling. Satisfaction in helping someone else find the way.

In the Ballpark: Where do I get new ideas? Do I welcome or resist new ways of thinking? Where am I stuck in old ways of thinking? What am I avoiding thinking about rationally? How do I feel about people who are more intellectually alert or informed than I am? To whom do I look for a logical perspective? Is there someone who needs my coaching to take a more logical approach? Do I have the best information I can get?





## MYP of Balls

## INTELLECTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.—Bob Feller

VP" stands for Most Valuable Player, a title awarded to the player whose contributions are considered most crucial to the team's success. To the MVP of this suit, nothing is more important than freedom of thought: developing ideas and thinking them through, experimenting with philosophies. The MVP of Balls is most alive in the world of the mind and most admired for intellectual achievements.

**Ahead of the Count:** Success in an endeavor requiring analytical ability. Brainpower. Brilliance. Rigorous logic. Intellectual flexibility, speed, innovation.

**Behind in the Count:** Belief that all problems can be solved through rational thought. Using intellect to manipulate or



otherwise mistreat others. Emotional distance. Or, fears of intellectual inadequacy.

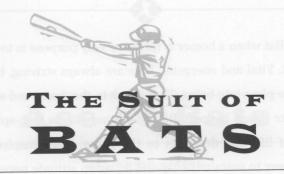
**The Player:** A noted authority. Facile with ideas, words, numbers. Well-versed; informed; sophisticated. May work in a mathematics-related field as a professor or scientist.

The Signal: The key to success is clear thinking. Brains rule! Sloppy errors, missed details, or vagueness could dramatically undermine you now. The outcome will be influenced most by your level of knowledge, accuracy in analyzing the situation, and ability to communicate articulately.

**The Play:** Winning through brainpower. Structuring a complex deal, acing an exam, triumphing in a debate. A research or conceptual breakthrough. Functioning at the top of your intellectual capacity.

**The Stuff:** Investment in reason over emotion or physicality. Clarity. Objectivity. Authority. Efficiency. Extraordinary performance, and/or perfectionism.

In the Ballpark: Am I using my head? What is my analysis of this situation? Whose mind do I admire? How do I define success? What concept is crucial to success in this situation? Are there people or situations that make me feel stupid? What do I avoid thinking about? Do I spend too much time (or not enough) in the world of ideas? How do I feel about the words "logical" and "objective"? When I think of "me," do I mean my mind, my ideas, my opinions?



ACTION • SELF-ASSERTION • ENERGY •

ENTHUSIASM • PASSION • ADVENTURE • CREATIVITY • GROWTH •

WILL • EXCITEMENT • ANGER • OPTIMISM

I'd walk through hell in a gasoline suit to keep playing baseball. —Pete Rose

n a traditional Tarot deck, this suit is named "Wands." Wands are depicted as freshly cut sticks with new leaves bursting from their ends. They invoke the life force itself: the will to exist, to take action, to assert oneself. Wands represent passion and the pursuit of its fulfillment. They also symbolize the enthusiast's potential for foolish action or zealotry.

In Baseball Tarot, Wands become Bats, which also are wooden sticks containing great potential power. The biggest cheers in baseball greet the resoundingly uninhibited crack



of the Bat when a homer is hit. Bats' very purpose is to have impact. Vital and energetic, Bats are always striving, bringing new plays into being. They speak to the desire and ability to make things happen. Bats also symbolize a high-spirited love of life and devotion to the game. They inspire the willpower to sustain the try-and-try-again attitude necessary to the batter's box. Bats are not discouraged by the fact that for every hit, you'll rack up many strikes and fouls. Their fiery intensity and bold optimism tend to override doubts (and subtleties). Bats "go for it," relishing the moment's experience of feeling fully alive more than the accomplishment of any particular goal.

Compared to Balls, Mitts, and Bases, Bats are big, exciting, and noisy. Bats work their magic almost as an extension of your body, compared to Balls, which fly independently. Bats are aggressive (compared to Mitts) and mobile (compared to Bases). In a game without Bats, Balls could fly unobstructed, but toward no end. Mitts would be pointless, Bases empty. In a life without the suit of Bats, we would be purposeless, bored, depressed, without desire or will. The energy, passion, adventure, excitement, and creativity would be missed.

## Ace of Bats

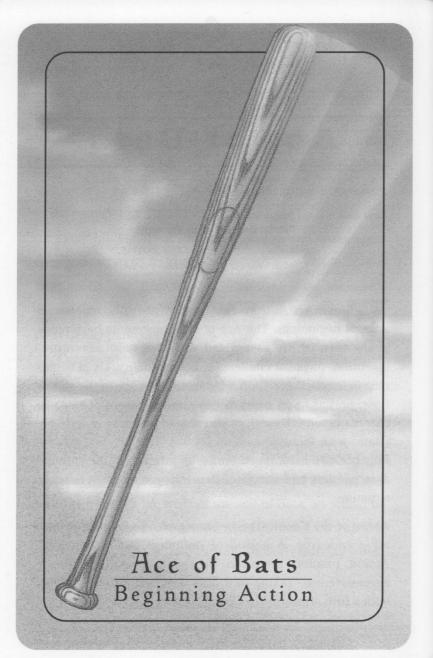
BEGINNING ACTION

No, sir, the cork is in the arms.

—George Foster,
WHEN ASKED IF HE CORKED HIS BAT

ach Ace, as the first card of its suit, represents beginnings. The Ace of Bats represents beginnings in the area of life associated with this suit: adventure, invention, physical challenges, and sexuality. Or, a beginning in another area is affected by the essence of the suit of Bats: perhaps you need to bring more passion (Bats) to career pursuits (Bases), or you should act more assertively (Bats) with family members (Mitts). The Ace is a powerfully positive card, representing an infusion of the enthusiasm, passion, and energy of Bats into your state of mind or situation.

Ahead of the Count: The beginning of a passionate or creative endeavor. A period of optimism and enthusiasm. Action, passion, invention, physicality, assertiveness, or aggressiveness. Taking your life's direction into your hands with a firm grip.





**Behind in the Count:** Overaggressiveness, violence, cruelty. Unwise impulsive actions, especially stemming from anger or lust. Inability to notice or understand the subtler things in life. Or, a blockage of energy: boredom, depression, feeling powerless.

**The Player:** Ready to step up to the plate. Spirited. Confident. A go-getter. Impassioned, possibly hot-tempered. A live wire.

The Signal: Get that bat off your shoulder and swing. Take a chance; get involved. Find ways to spark your excitement and love of life. Engage and express your enthusiasm. Connect with your passion. Live it up!

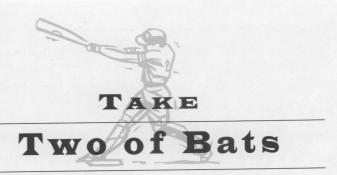
The Play: Initiation of active pursuits, especially inventions, creative projects, sexual relationships, physical challenges, spur-of-the-moment travels. Fiery emotions such as anger, frustration, jealousy, impatience. Bursts of energy. Parties, sports. Exuberant fun for fun's sake. Living life to the fullest.

The Stuff: Zest. Passionate feelings for a person, project, or life itself. High energy. Optimism. Enthusiasm. Desire and the will to fulfill it. The sense that the time to act has come. Engagement with and enjoyment of the physical, the obvious, the immediately gratifying rather than the complex and mysterious aspects of life.

In the Ballpark: What new passion do I feel? What new action am I taking or could I take? Where do I need to assert myself more? Where am I too aggressive? Where do I need



more energy, enthusiasm, optimism? How am I handling anger, jealousy, impatience, frustration? What's the most overt and obvious matter at hand? Where do I need to "connect"? Am I having fun yet? How am I expressing my creativity? My physicality? My sexuality?



## WAITING TO SEE

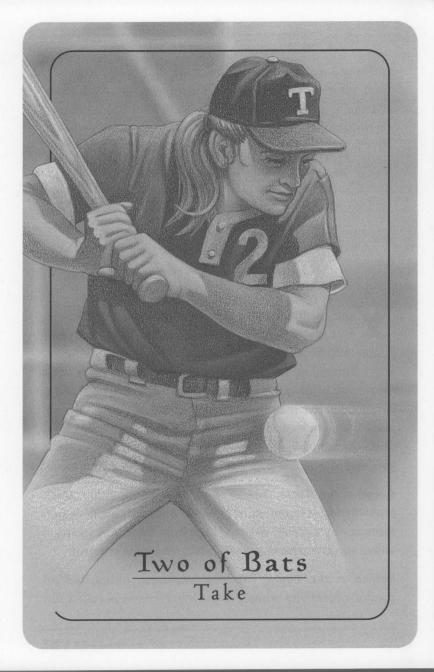
You can observe a lot by watching.

—Yogi Berra

our natural impulse is to try to get wood on the ball. But under some circumstances, the best course of action is to Take a pitch, that is, to refrain from swinging. Why? Sometimes, batters do it in order to get a look at what the pitcher is throwing. Or, when the count is 3-0, the Take is a calculated risk that the pitch will be outside the strike zone, making it a walk-earning fourth ball. Either way, Take represents the valuable opportunity to find out what's coming at you, and to evaluate your options, before making your move.

**Ahead of the Count:** Wisely resisting the temptation to act immediately. Awareness of context. Ability to improve performance by mentally stepping back from the action. Distance within involvement; objectivity while remaining engaged.

Behind in the Count: Anxious hesitancy; hiding behind pseudo-objectivity when greater involvement is called for.





Or, jumping prematurely into action without sufficient consideration. Either way, decisions are made without integrity or conscious evaluation.

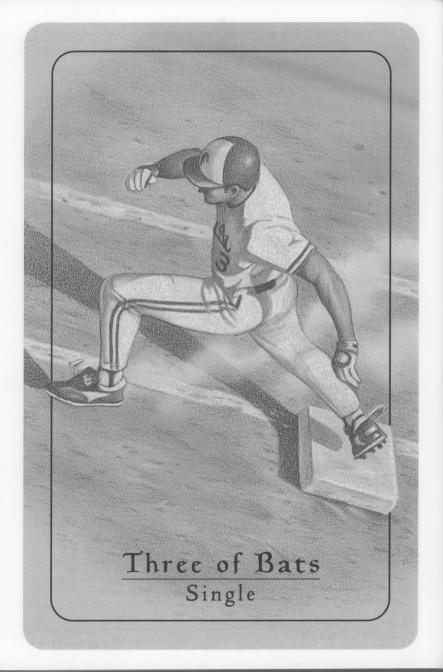
The Player: A methodical, accurate decision-maker. Smooths transitions by gathering information along the way. Unlikely to be caught up in the heat of the moment. A mediator, evaluator, or planner.

The Signal: Wait before acting. Size up a new situation before trying to have an effect on it. Consider your alternatives, and honestly examine the motives drawing you toward or away from each one. Seek a sense of perspective without actually withdrawing from the circumstances.

**The Play:** Observation and evaluation. Considering rather than acting. Objectively analyzing a situation and studying the options. Making the most of the time before a deadline. Choosing to wait. Resisting impulses.

**The Stuff:** Quiet self-confidence. Open-mindedness. Calm, measured attitude toward events and others. Patience.

In the Ballpark: What's coming at me? What would a more objective look at this situation show me? How can I adopt a more objective view while remaining engaged? Am I springing into action too quickly? Am I hesitating too long? What action am I afraid of taking? What factors do I consider in deciding when to wait, when to act? Have I taken time to survey the situation before trying to make my mark? Are there options I haven't considered?



## SINGLE

## Three of Bats

#### **BUILDING SUCCESS**

You can't get a hit with the bat on your shoulder.

-BILL BYRON

he Single, the basic building block of a baseball game, offers the promise of advancement and eventual success. Sure, a base hit isn't a homer, but it's still reason to cheer, because you know it's the first step toward scoring a run. In all areas of life, the rewards of a positive move kick-start your momentum and encourage you to keep up the good work.

**Ahead of the Count:** Making things happen. Bringing ideas to life. The early, favorable outcomes of your actions. Initial positive feedback. Accomplishing the first phase of a multipart process.

**Behind in the Count:** Delay, disappointment, or failure regarding the first phase of a process. Problems are probably caused either by impatience or by lack of initiative.



**The Player:** Gets things done independently, step by step. Fully involved in efforts. Relishes each small victory. No longer a novice, but not yet an expert.

The Signal: Actions taken now will likely yield positive results. This is an ideal time to make a fresh start. Identify and take the first step toward your dream. Make sure to give yourself credit for your singles, not only for your runs. Put your passion into play.

**The Play:** Getting off to a good start. Successful beginnings made possible by total commitment. Receiving positive reactions. The first phase of a process is adeptly completed. Fun first date, smooth first rehearsal, high grade on first exam.

**The Stuff:** Enthusiasm. Encouragement. Well-earned self-confidence. Satisfaction with progress so far, and eagerness to continue.

In the Ballpark: What relationship, project, or process is in its first stage? How do I evaluate my progress? Am I celebrating my small accomplishments as they come? Do I know how to take the next step? In what area do I feel as if I can't get ahead? What am I going through or working on alone? What might I be happier or more successful doing alone? What idea am I bringing to life? What dream would I like to act on?



## **CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

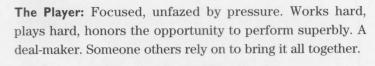
God, do I love to hit that little round sum-bitch out of the park and make 'em say "Wow!"—REGGIE JACKSON

oes it get any better? Or any more thrilling? You score, and so do your three teammates who were on base when you hit the ball out of the park. Whether your team was ahead or behind, a Grand Slam homer can't help but improve the score dramatically in your favor. Happily surrounded by cheers and waving banners, you glory in back-slapping congratulations.

**Ahead of the Count:** Complete success, especially with multiple results or achieved under great pressure. An accomplishment that benefits others as well as yourself. Celebration. Thanksgiving. Extraordinary victory.

**Behind in the Count:** Failure to seize a huge opportunity. Overwhelmed by the challenge, or by the weight of your expectations or those of others. Inability to help those who seek your assistance.



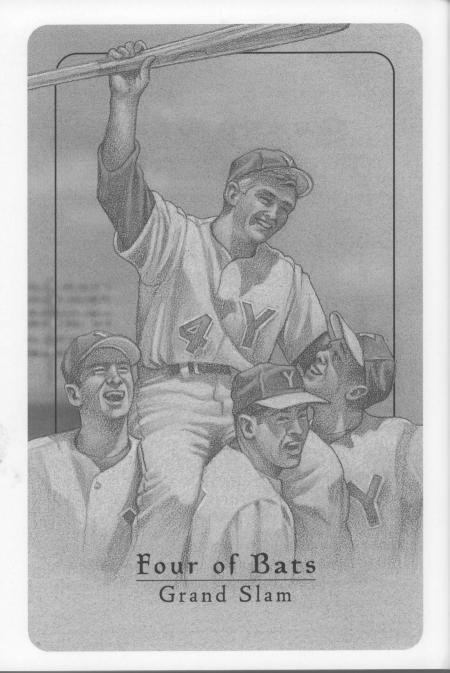


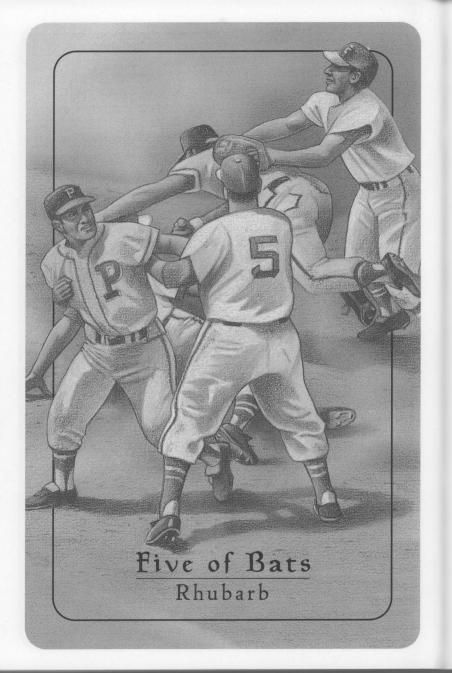
The Signal: A great accomplishment has occurred or is within reach. A single act well done can maximize the benefits of current circumstances, while a mistake can squander the moment. Others have made contributions, and now it's up to you to bring them to fruition. Appreciate and make use of the opportunities presented to you. The praise you receive is deserved—celebrate!

**The Play:** Extraordinary success, especially when others are counting on you. A triumph achieved by building on previous efforts. The right move at the right moment brings unusually great rewards. Goals exceeded. Awards ceremonies, opening nights, election winners' celebrations.

**The Stuff:** Determination and drive. Joy and appreciation. Delight! The positive sense of completing a process involving many steps.

In the Ballpark: What have I accomplished? What do I want to accomplish? What opportunities are lined up, awaiting my action? How can I best make use of current circumstances? Who is depending on me? What pressures and expectations are bearing on me? How can I best handle them? How can I build on the contributions of others or on my own previous efforts? Am I enjoying my success? Am I sharing my happiness with others?





## RHUBARB

## Five of Bats

## DESTRUCTIVE FIGHTING

For all its gentility, its almost leisurely pace, baseball is violence under wraps.

-WILLIE MAYS

rustration explodes into fury. Competitors become enemies. A Rhubarb develops on the field as players go toe to toe, face to face, even fist to jaw. Conflict over a call or an injury to a player can override the game's usual civility. The fight is fueled by lost perspective. Principles are abandoned. A Rhubarb is the result not of planned aggression, but of the inability to resist the urge to act on flaring anger.

Ahead of the Count: At best, a somewhat constructive conflict that brings to the surface feelings or issues that needed to be expressed. A situation in which passion overrides thought or convention.

**Behind in the Count:** Rash, hostile, destructive action. Breaking agreements out of spite or rebellion. Attacking others.



Responding to hate or violence with more of the same. Inability to solve a disagreement reasonably or peacefully.

**The Player:** Impatient. Immature. Takes problems out on others. This person's actions are dictated by mood rather than by principles.

The Signal: The impulse to brawl is strong. Get some distance before you lash out or get attacked. Work to settle disagreements before they become wars. Express your grievances without being hurtful. Recognize that the dispute has gotten out of hand. Seek peaceful means to resolve it. If you must fight, fight fair.

**The Play:** An argument or fight, especially one in which more heat than light is shed. A disagreement comes to a head and must be addressed. Tirades. Picking fights. Undisciplined wrangling that makes matters worse.

**The Stuff:** Anger. Frustration. Rage. Rising temper. One-sided viewpoint. Self-righteousness.

In the Ballpark: What conflict is brewing or under way? What triggers my instant fury? Am I escalating a minor problem into a major conflict? How can I contribute to cooling this fight down? What choices do I have besides blaming, threats, and causing harm? How can I address others' anger without becoming their target? Can the parties agree to a constructive method of resolution? What are my beliefs about responsibly handling conflict? What are my agreements with others about conflict? When should passion override the rules?



## ACTING WITH CONFIDENCE

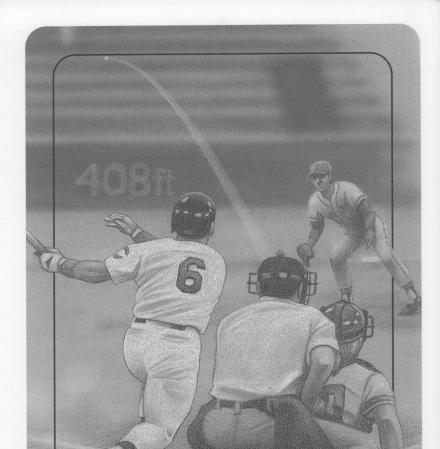
It ain't braggin' if you can back it up.

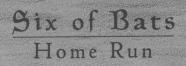
—DIZZY DEAN

t's going, going, over the fence, and gone! An out-of-thepark Home Run fills you with assurance: no fielder's play can stop you from running the bases and safely crossing home plate. You are showered with cheers as you trot easily around the diamond. A hit is always good news, and a home run is pure delight.

Ahead of the Count: Confidence. Victory, especially by an individual. One person or one action stands out, excels above the others. Fulfillment brought about by persistent belief and focused effort.

**Behind in the Count:** Actions are weakened by self-doubt, ambivalence, or fear of failure. Strength is hidden. Hesitancy to stand out from the crowd. Fear of having to cope alone. Or, limited success; second place.







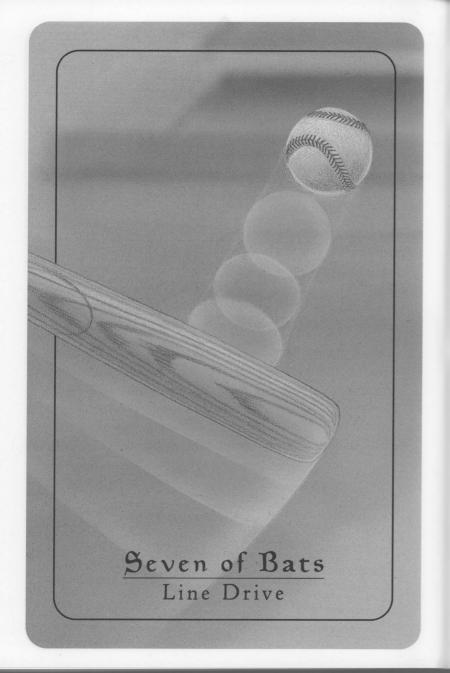
**The Player:** Self-assured. Capable. Believes in self, but not arrogant. Has a solid reputation in profession or community.

The Signal: Swing away! Excellent results are likely. Self-confidence is key to positive results. If you're facing difficulties, internal or external, seek support to sort out and transform the fears that underlie the problems. Identify and fortify your strengths. Bring your best aspects into play.

**The Play:** Success in some area. Enjoying the spotlight. Discovering previously untapped strength. Getting hired or promoted. Receiving a grant or contract. Making it to the top, or being chosen for it.

**The Stuff:** Joy. Confidence. Optimism. Pleasure in success, including the attention it draws to you.

In the Ballpark: What am I trying to achieve on my own? What would be a "home run" in this situation? What is my dream solution? In what areas do I feel confident? How do I feel about standing out above the crowd? About what do I feel ambivalent? What strengths am I hiding? Why? For what qualities or abilities do I wish others would cheer me? What do I fear about succeeding? What do I fear about failing?



# LINE DRIVE Seven of Bats

## MAINTAINING POSITION

Love me or hate me, you can't ignore me.

-REGGIE JACKSON

ard, fast, intense, and uncompromising—the Line Drive travels nearly parallel to the ground from the time it leaves the bat to its destination in the field. Line Drive emphasizes the importance of solid, assertive connection with the demands that face you. You inhabit a position of power, but must act to protect your lead. Settle into your stance and take on the challenge. Drive all your energies into that swing.

**Ahead of the Count:** Defending a position. Constructive action despite resistance. Maintaining your beliefs. Self-protection. Dealing directly with issues and individuals.

**Behind in the Count:** Defensiveness. Inflexibly holding to a position despite legitimate reasons for change. Fear of being challenged. Interpreting any disagreement as an attack. Or, trying to avoid a necessary conflict.



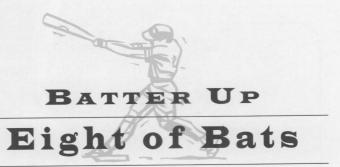
**The Player:** Protective. Forthright. Assertive. Has a strong sense of integrity. Not intimidated by pressure from others. May be an advocate or spokesperson.

The Signal: This is a time of confrontation. Your best response to hostile questioning or criticism is to communicate straightforwardly while holding your ground. Stick up honorably for your concerns, values, and feelings. Act on your ideals. But, if you sense that this conflict or standoff is itself destructive, consider the possibility that you're being overly rigid. Others may have a viewpoint worth hearing.

The Play: Speaking up, especially when your view is not popular. Protecting a belief, feeling, or project from outside threats. Conflicts in which you feel your position—whether a title, role, or opinion—is challenged, or in which you challenge another. Stand-offs in which one or both parties are too defensive to allow any resolution.

**The Stuff:** Serious concern. Commitment to beliefs. Strength of convictions. Self-knowledge. Self-definition.

In the Ballpark: What belief, plan, or role of mine is being challenged? How can I maintain my position without attacking others? Is there a conflict I am trying to avoid? Am I challenging someone else's beliefs, plan, or role? From whom am I encountering resistance? Do I feel threatened when others disagree with me? What position or belief am I clinging to out of fear, habit, or narrow-mindedness? What helps me to be less defensive or stubborn?



## SPEEDY MOVEMENT

You can't hit 'em if you don't swing at 'em.

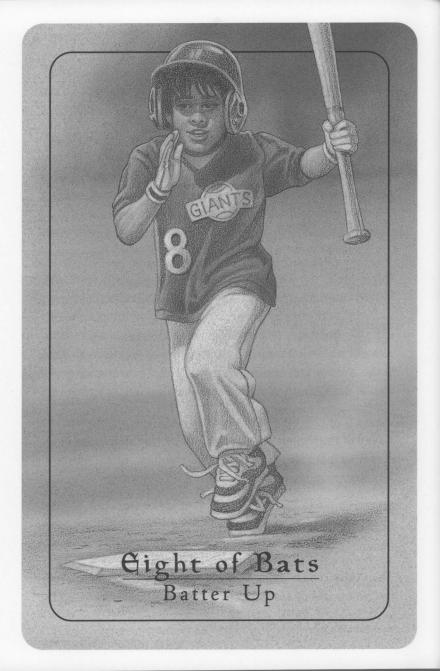
-BABE RUTH

atter Up"—baseball's traditional summons to the plate—offers a heady invitation to opportunity. Past is the waiting and hoping in the dugout, the preparations of the on-deck circle. Now it's your turn at bat. Anything can happen—and can happen fast!

Ahead of the Count: A good time for action. Rapid developments. Opportunity. Sudden movement after stalling. Another try at a challenge you've faced before.

**Behind in the Count:** Missing the call due to fear, distraction, or burnout. Or, stepping up to the plate seems like a burden instead of an opportunity. Lack of desire. Lethargy.

The Player: Optimistic. Fast-paced. Lively. Eager to explore the potentials of self and circumstances. Unintimidated by





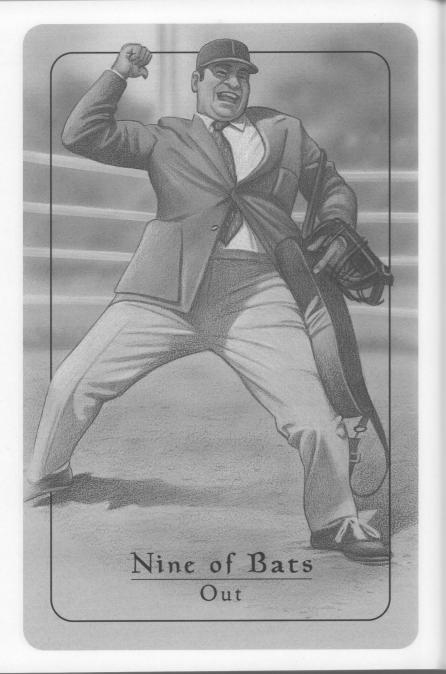
high expectations. Possibly someone who moves from place to place often, or whose work involves speediness.

The Signal: This is your chance. Momentum is with you: be ready to zoom. The situation welcomes your involvement. If you've tried and tried, this is the time to try again. An idea launched now will soon flourish. Seek out new possibilities. Any feeling of being held back comes from within. Release yourself to action.

**The Play:** Fast-growing plans and results. Taking an opportunity. Attempting something new, or making a renewed effort. Lots of action in an area that has languished. Change. Travel.

**The Stuff:** High hopes and energy. Quick pace. Open-mindedness. Excitement about new developments. A sky's-the-limit feeling.

In the Ballpark: What have I been invited to try? What opportunities are arising? What opportunities am I missing or discounting? What have I given up on? Is it time to try again? Am I ready to move? What am I waiting to do? What am I committed to? What do I hesitate to commit to? Am I underestimating my potential?



## OUT

## Nine of Bats

#### ACTIONS FAIL

Any time you think you have the game conquered, the game will turn around and punch you right in the nose.

—MIKE SCHMIDT

he umpire's gesture is unmistakable: you've tried and failed. Whether you fantasized a homer or more modestly relied on a base hit, you were caught before you reached base and your hopes are dashed. Whether you take it in stride, yell at the umpire, criticize yourself, or blame others, for right now, you're Out.

Ahead of the Count: A temporary setback. A loss kept in perspective. A break in the action. Ability to cope with personal failure. A clear signal to change course. Possibly, a sacrifice made on one front in order to gain on another.

**Behind in the Count:** Wasted efforts. Bitterness. Blame. Despair. Defensiveness. Inability to accept or cope with a negative turn of events. Rejection, actual or perceived.



**The Player:** Someone experiencing a failure or loss. Or, a person who is currently out of the action.

The Signal: The odds are against you. Safer now to step back and delay action. Arguing a decision will make matters worse, perhaps leading to more negative repercussions. Remember: you win some, you lose some. The lineup will continue its cycle, and you'll have another turn at bat. Examine your actions to find the flaws, and determine how to correct them.

**The Play:** A negative judgment or decision. A temporary or partial defeat. Failure to reach a goal or fulfill a wish. Finding constructive ways to contend with setbacks.

**The Stuff:** Sadness. Frustration. Feeling battle-weary and guarded. At best, emerging patience, learned equanimity. Acceptance of disappointment.

In the Ballpark: What disappointment am I facing? Who has rejected me? From whom do I fear a negative decision? How do I deal with personal failure? How do I cope with loss? How can I keep perspective in hard times? Can I accept defeat with grace? To what do I attribute this setback? Is this my first, second, or third out? Am I an outsider in this situation? Do I feel "out of it"?



#### CARRYING RESPONSIBILITY

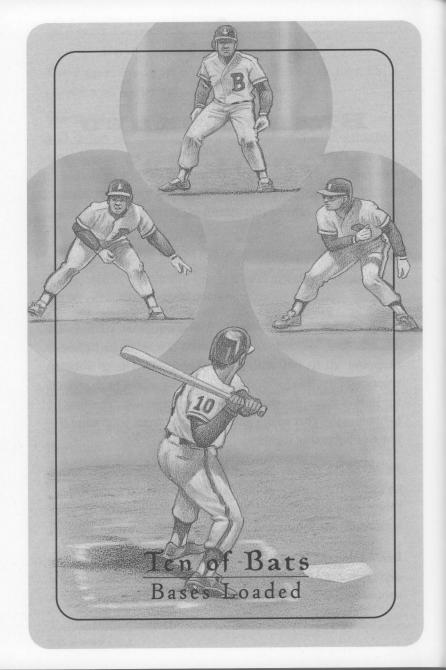
Problems are the price you pay for progress.

—BRANCH RICKEY

scenario both promising and ominous: runners on first, second, and third with a win in the balance. Stepping up to bat with the Bases Loaded is a weighty responsibility. All that you and your teammates have strived for in this game depends on your performance. The fear of becoming the goat of the game can push from your mind the hope of becoming its hero.

**Ahead of the Count:** Responsibility. Accountability. Duties to fulfill. Hard work at high stakes. Respecting the importance of your actions. Recognizing the effects of your actions on the future and on others.

**Behind in the Count:** Overwhelming stress. Too many demands, from others or self. The weight of the world on your shoulders. Punishingly high expectations. Perfectionism.





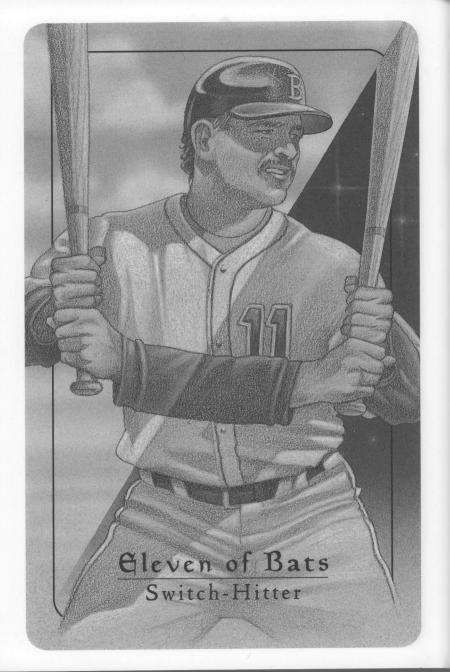
**The Player:** Conscientious. Concerned more about doing the right thing than about appearances. Someone with a mission, or a great array of duties. Perhaps the sole owner of a business, or the worker on whom everyone else relies.

The Signal: Do your part. Don't shirk. Your dedication creates its own long-term value, regardless of the short-term results. But, release yourself from the effort to control that which is out of your hands. The outcome will inevitably be affected by a multitude of factors, not solely by your action. Doing your best is the best you can do, and that is enough.

**The Play:** Coping with the stress of a serious responsibility. Showing up for duty. Determined effort despite anxiety and difficult circumstances. Struggling with the limits of your power over a situation.

**The Stuff:** Acceptance of responsibility, and also of your limitations. Gratified to contribute to the cause. At worst, overextended; burned out.

In the Ballpark: What responsibilities am I carrying? Am I trying my best? If not, what keeps me from doing so? How do I handle times of great demands? What obligations have I sought to avoid? What duties intimidate me? In which areas do I know my limits? In which do I tend to overextend myself? Do I hold myself accountable for events that are out of my control? Am I taking things seriously enough? Too seriously? How can I prevent burning out?



# SWITCH-HITTER Eleven of Bats

Considering difference at

## CHANGING CREATIVELY

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

—EARL WEAVER

he Switch-Hitter displays the extraordinary advantage of adaptability. Able to bat from either side of the plate, the Switch-Hitter can effectively face the challenges of both right- and left-handed pitchers. Like a chameleon, the Switch-Hitter changes to make the most of shifting circumstances. This card represents the exploration of your multifaceted nature and the tremendous power of flexibility.

Ahead of the Count: Looking at things from all sides. Previously unseen possibilities. Curiosity. Experimentation. Taking a different approach, or a variety of approaches. The unusual. Appreciation of diverse methods and people.

**Behind in the Count:** Inflexible routine. Rigid beliefs. Stuck in habits. Keeping to the usual. The expected. Boredom.



Considering difference and change threatening. Or: superficial changes are adopted only to impress or to shock.

**The Player:** Versatile. Unfazed by mercurial events. Confident that a way will be found. Loves to learn. Multifaceted. Possibly someone with a "multidisciplinary" or "interdepartmental" approach or position. Or, someone making a bold change.

The Signal: Look at the situation from different perspectives. Remember, there is nearly always more than one right answer. Open yourself to the many alternatives available. Develop a part of yourself that you've ignored or disowned. Explore and value differences. Stay loose and flexible with whatever circumstances arise.

**The Play:** Finding that you've previously grasped only one side of a complex matter. Recognizing and trying a new option. Making changes, especially in yourself. Surprises. Bringing together diverse viewpoints or activities.

**The Stuff:** Delight in discovery. Relaxed responsiveness. Expansiveness—the sense of becoming a bigger person.

In the Ballpark: What sides of myself am I aware of? Which one do I tend to express? To hide? In what areas am I most adaptable? How do I deal with change? How can I become aware of options I'm not seeing? What viewpoint or action would be completely different from the one I would usually take? What is unusual in this situation? What new direction am I considering? What am I curious about?



## **PURSUING ADVENTURE**

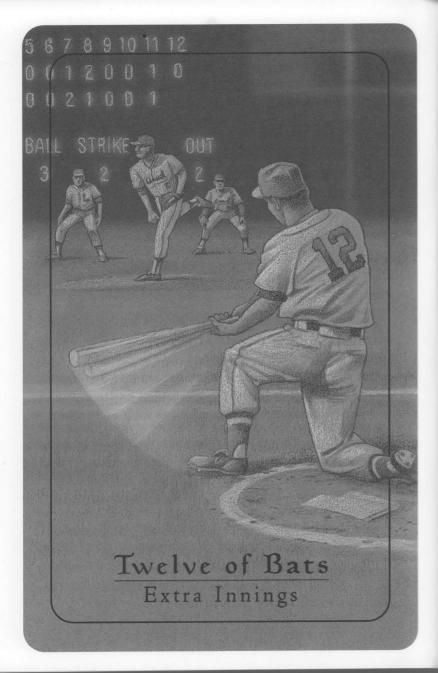
It ain't over 'til it's over.

-Yogi Berra

ach game is shaped by the players' batting and fielding skills, by the decisions made during play, and of course, by luck. Will the game end after the regulation nine innings, or will a tied score keep it going until a win is decisive? Extra Innings inspire an intensified excitement and increased devotion for the unpredictable spirit of the game.

Ahead of the Count: Going beyond the usual bounds. Stretching the traditional framework. Exploring further than you have ever ventured. Ambition. Persistence. Spontaneity. Humor. New beginnings based on established foundations.

**Behind in the Count:** Difficulty dealing with limits, possibly expressed through aggression or through lack of evaluation before taking action. Or, refusal to make a reasonable exception or special effort due to excessive obedience to the standard procedure. Lack of staying power. Cowardice.





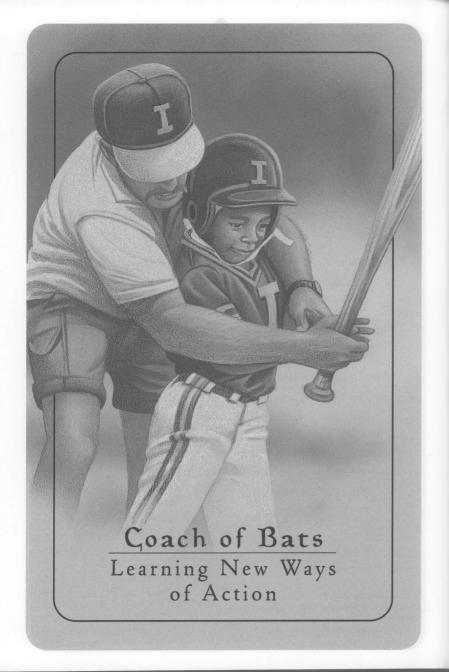
**The Player:** Fired up. Raring to go. Fun-loving. Rowdy. Up for anything. Eager to further develop current circumstances. Possibly an entrepreneur, or an entertainer.

The Signal: Don't quit now. Trust your enthusiasm. Listen to your passion. This is the right time to dive into adventures. Expand upon the existing situation; do whatever it takes. However, take a moment to think your initiatives through, and to show respect for others, before taking irreversible actions.

**The Play:** Adventures, whether travel, challenging new work, or a love relationship. Pursuing an interest. Putting out extra effort to get what you want. Off-the-cuff action.

**The Stuff:** Intense, directed desire. Feeling vibrantly alive. Courage. Daring. Willingness to throw yourself into things.

In the Ballpark: What do I want to take further? What do I want to add to this situation? What am I passionate about? What are my ambitions? What am I tempted to quit? What limits am I coming up against? Where could I use more courage? Am I doing all I can? Do I get bogged down in planning and miss the moment to act? Am I overly impulsive? Or not spontaneous enough?



## Coach of Bats

LEARNING NEW WAYS OF ACTION

If you aim at nothing, you're sure to hit it.

—Anonymous

n baseball, each Coach's ability to instruct players and develop their potential is crucial to a team's success. Baseball Tarot's Coach of Bats is a dedicated mentor in the arena of action. This Coach does not settle for merely advising, but brings you to the plate and keeps you swinging through as much batting practice as it takes to get your rhythm. A teacher who is intense, or even explosive, the Coach of Bats may sometimes be hard to take—but you're guaranteed to learn what you need to know.

**Ahead of the Count:** Opportunity to learn or teach, particularly a subject involving creativity or adventure. Guidance. Pursuing an ambition. Enthusiasm. Learning to deal well with fiery emotions such as anger, passion, jealousy.

**Behind in the Count:** Lack of skillful action or movement toward goals; lack of the right teacher or supporter. Poor handling of "hot" emotions and issues.



**The Player:** Generous and helpful. Pushes and challenges students or supervisees. May work in sports, theater, politics, or another field that's both physically and emotionally intense.

The Signal: Play ball! Learn by doing. Move boldly toward your goal, making use of the guidance of those who've gone before. Stop thinking, planning, worrying, going over your feelings, or waiting for the perfect time: take action! Whatever mistakes you make, you'll learn something from them—and at least you'll be in the game rather than on the bench. Also, keep an eye out for others who may need your encouragement to act.

The Play: A learning opportunity, especially one that feels like an adventure, involves creativity, and/or relates to a passion, whether romantic, sexual, artistic, or for a project or cause. Working with or serving as a mentor in such a context.

**The Stuff:** A sense that there's enough good luck and opportunity to go around. Wanting to get going. Greater emphasis on outward action than inner reflection.

In the Ballpark: What lessons am I learning now, especially about my feelings of passion, anger, jealousy, or my need to take action? Do I know what I'm aiming to do? What do I feel passionate about? Am I acting on it? What do I hesitate to do? Is anyone holding me back? Am I holding myself back? Who raises my spirits? Who needs my help to get moving?

## MVP of Bats

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTION

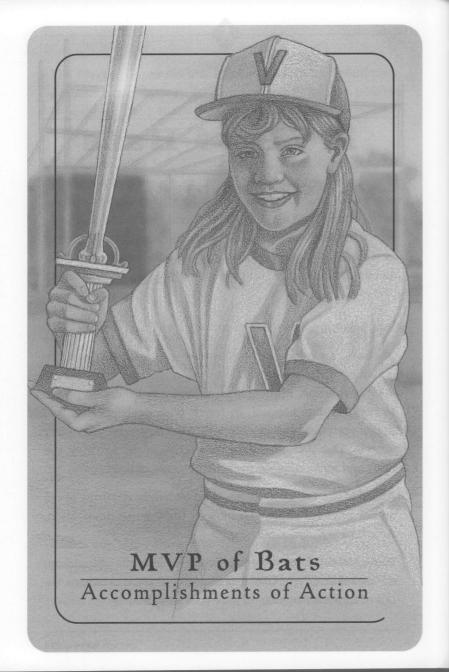
There is always some kid who may be seeing me for the first or last time. I owe him my best.

—Joe DIMAGGIO

VP" stands for Most Valuable Player, a title awarded to the player whose contributions are considered the most crucial to the team's success. To the MVP of this suit, nothing is more important than the power to make things happen. In touch with deep passion and fueled with high energy, this MVP lives large and with every muscle. The MVP of Bats is most alive in the world of the body and most admired for achievements of bold action.

**Ahead of the Count:** Success in an endeavor requiring nerve and/or physical ability. Willpower. Confidence. Innovation. Ardor, Unself-consciousness.

**Behind in the Count:** Negative actions that are rationalized as "adventures," but that are harmful to oneself or others. Or, out of touch with instinct; boredom and passivity.





**The Player:** A respected mover and shaker. A "character." Uninhibited; gutsy. May serve as the motivational member of a team, or as a leader in a field requiring enormous drive and tolerance for risk.

**The Signal:** The key to success is to start right now. Banish timidity—life is for living! There's no time like the present; in fact, there's no time *but* the present. Don't miss the adventure. The outcome will be influenced most by your ability to take action, despite the lack of guarantees.

The Play: Winning through boldness and assertion. Making your move. Acting on what you want, whether it's asking someone for a date or traveling around the world. Leaving a job, relationship, or place that's unsatisfying. Creating a job or relationship, or moving to a place that you love.

**The Stuff:** Ambition. Courage. Get-up-and-go. Zest. Lust. Also, anger, jealousy, impatience.

In the Ballpark: Which people or situations make me feel powerful? How do I define success? Whose courage do I admire? Which people or situations make me feel powerless? What do I avoid doing? Do I spent too much time (or not enough) actively asserting myself? How do I feel about the words "passion" and "ambition"? Is my definition of "me" based on what I do, what I create, what I cause to happen?

## THE SULT OF BASES

SECURITY • ROOTS • HOME • EARTH • RESPECT • TRADITION •

WORK • CAREER • FINANCES • RESPONSIBILITY •

PRACTICALITY • HEALTH

The taste of dirt is almost sweet; such a long-forgotten pleasure; the taste of dirt in the mouth when you've finally landed at home plate; a hero and singer of sweet songs for the rest of the day.—MARY CECILE LEARY

n a traditional Tarot deck, this suit is usually named "Pentacles" or "Coins," symbolizing competence and earned worth. Pentacles refer to the material world and all its responsibilities, worries, and satisfactions. They express a realism and support our reliability, loyalty, and caution.

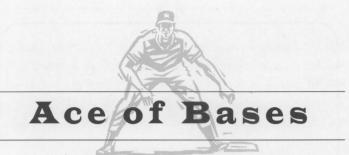
In Baseball Tarot, Pentacles become Bases, which also measure our worth in terms of our ability to earn them. Bases are the most stable element of the game. Each is



located in the same spot on every ball field: their placement defines the diamond. They rest on the ground, as players run toward them seeking safety. Bases are not proud: their home is the dirt, where they are stepped on, kicked, slid into. Yet they never waver in their commitment. They are confident of their purpose and value. Bases are always reliably present, but they make no effort on your behalf. You must face and master challenges in order to possess them.

The game literally revolves around the Bases. Hitting the ball sparks the action, but it's only a means to the goal: to get on base, advance players around the bases, and ultimately work your way to home base.

Compared to Balls, Mitts, and Bats, Bases represent humble practicality. Bases are predictable (compared to Balls), rooted (compared to Mitts), calm and self-satisfied (compared to Bats). In a game without Bases, Balls would still fly, Bats would hit, and Mitts would catch and throw, but all would occur in a structureless space that rendered the activity meaningless. In a life without Bases, we would never feel safe; we would be at a loss, stranded in daydreams, without an understanding of what we value or where we fit. The commitment, the solidity, the satisfaction of hard work, and the enjoyment of simple pleasures would be missed.



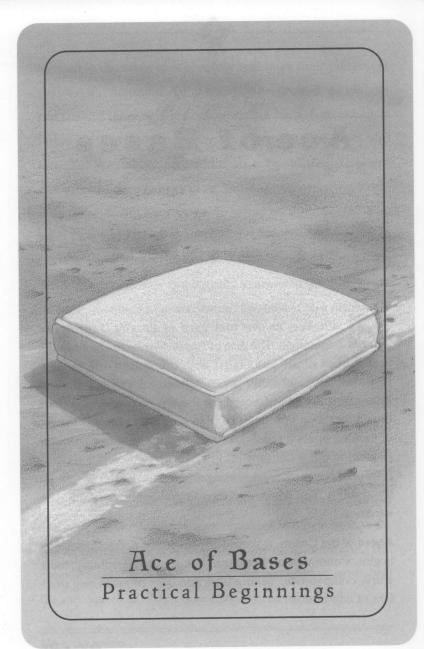
PRACTICAL BEGINNINGS

I have only one superstition. I make sure I touch all the bases when I hit a home run.

-BABE RUTH

ach Ace, as the first card of its suit, represents beginnings. The Ace of Bases represents beginnings in the areas of life associated with this suit: work, money, responsibility, and other practical matters. Or, a beginning in another area is affected by the essence of the suit of Bases: perhaps you need to plan carefully (Bases) for an upcoming speech (Balls), or you should be more realistic (Bases) about a hot new affair (Bats). The Ace is a powerfully positive card, representing an infusion of the practicality, stability, and comfort of Bases into your state of mind or situation.

**Ahead of the Count:** A period of prosperity, security, solidity begins. Commitment. Tradition. History. Responsibility, hard work, competence. Taking time and care in managing matters of importance.





Behind in the Count: Lack of resources or protection. Inability to commit or adapt to changing circumstances. Delay, frustration, or loss regarding job, finances, home, health. Irresponsibility. Mindless following of tradition. Overwork, or obsession with money. Cautiousness or conservatism that stifles.

**The Player:** Reliable, hardworking, organized. Patient. Trusting and trustworthy. Someone who plans and follows through, whose energy goes primarily into responsibilities and structure. Possibly a business owner or manager.

**The Signal:** Touch base. Get grounded. Focus on the basics and the bottom line. Connect with your home, physically or emotionally. Act in accordance with your deepest values. Honor tradition—or establish new traditions. A terrific time to start a business, new job, or other practical enterprise.

The Play: The initiation of attention to practical matters: money, work, health, buildings, land, protection. Preferring home over travel. Supporting others. Making the most of—and feeling grateful for—the resources at hand. Material wealth or accomplishment. Building or crafting objects; fixing physical problems. Developing and maintaining investments, financial or otherwise.

The Stuff: Persistence. Dedication. Satisfaction in hard work and accomplishment. Willingness to struggle to reach goals; willingness to pay more for better quality. Purposeful. Useful. Desire to contribute to well-being of self and community. Enjoyment of—or wish for—security.



In the Ballpark: What responsibility, investment, or work am I beginning? What am I invested in? Dedicated to? Am I working hard enough? Too hard? Where are my loyalties? What am I responsible for? Too much or too little? Which traditions do I uphold because I believe in them? Which traditions am I trapped by? Where am I overly cautious? Where am I overly careless? What do I want in the practical world? Am I willing to work for what I want? Where am I grounded? Ungrounded?



## Two of Bases

SKILLFUL JUGGLING

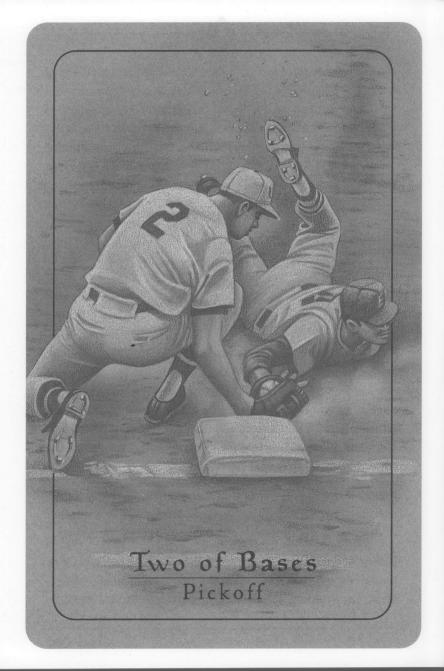
The umpires always say "play ball." They don't say "work ball."

-WILLE STARGELL

he runner takes a big lead off the base, aiming to steal, or just to get a head start. Suddenly, the pitcher or catcher zips the ball to the baseman, where it arrives before the runner can return. The runner is out! Perfectly done, and all in a flash. The Pickoff requires the continuous expert appraisal of a complex and changing situation, as well as the expertise to respond with flawless accuracy.

**Ahead of the Count:** Work that feels like play. Ability to balance many responsibilities at once. Awareness in a number of directions. Flexibility in response to varying conditions.

**Behind in the Count:** Overwhelmed. Stretching self too far or resources too thin. Unsuccessful attempts to juggle obligations. Or, avoiding responsibility; playing to escape work.





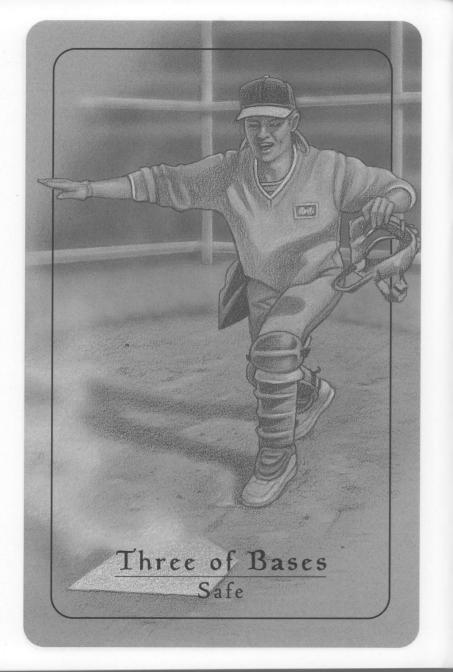
**The Player:** An excellent organizer and coordinator. Someone who does it all, and does it well. Able to thrive amid change.

The Signal: Cover your bases! Your attention and adaptability are absolutely crucial. This is not the time to let things slide. Accuracy is necessary; success is in the details. Draw on whatever helps you maintain balance under stress: family, friends, faith, fun, or fantasy.

**The Play:** Managing simultaneous commitments to work, school, hobbies, causes, romance, and/or family. Learning about time management. Performing expertly in the nick of time. Adjusting to altered conditions.

**The Stuff:** Confidence under pressure. Enjoyment in performing to high standards. Excitement at being in the midst of the action. Feeling that you're needed.

In the Ballpark: How can I best juggle the variety of demands facing me? Are all my bases covered? What needs my attention? What responsibilities do I excel at and enjoy? What kind of work is fun for me? How can I bring more playfulness to my duties? Do I like being this busy, or do I want a change? Is everything changing except me? How could I adjust to make managing easier? Where am I feeling overwhelmed? How can I regain a sense of balance?



#### SAFE

## Three of Bases

#### GOING PLACES

Baseball, like Pericles' Athens (or any other good society), is simultaneously democratic and aristocratic:

Anyone can enjoy it, but the more you apply yourself, the more you enjoy it.

—GEORGE WILL

es! You watch with relief as the umpire's arms swing out to signal to all that you're Safe on base. For a moment in the ongoing challenge of the game, you can rest in the assurance that you're doing fine. You've arrived—and you're going places.

Ahead of the Count: Good work builds a good reputation. Approval from higher-ups. A firm grasp of the basics underlies the development of advanced skills. Moving toward mastery.

**Behind in the Count:** Results are acceptable, but just barely. Incompetence due to lack of respect for the craft. Or, results are mediocre because you're trying your hand in a new area, outside your established sphere of talents and training.



**The Player:** Capable. Dedicated. Puts in the required time and effort to develop into a pro. A very promising student, intern, or rookie in any field.

The Signal: Keep up the good work: you're making it. Daily tasks done well, over and over, will add up to expertise and recognition. Don't underestimate the value of an authority's endorsement, not only in the marketplace but within your own mind. If you neither rush nor slack off, your persistence will lead to prosperity.

**The Play:** Working hard and well. Coming into your own. Receiving positive evaluation, certification, awards, opportunities stemming from your efforts.

**The Stuff:** Sweat and satisfaction. Heartened by encouraging response from outside yourself: mentors, clients, colleagues. Integrity. A reassuring sense that you're on the right path.

In the Ballpark: Where have I achieved competence? At what do I hope to become an expert? From whom am I receiving recognition? From whom do I want it? What daily practice can I commit to? Where do I seek approval? What authorities am I modeling myself on? How well do I handle being evaluated? In what role do I feel safe? With whom do I feel safe?

## Hugging the Base Four of Bases

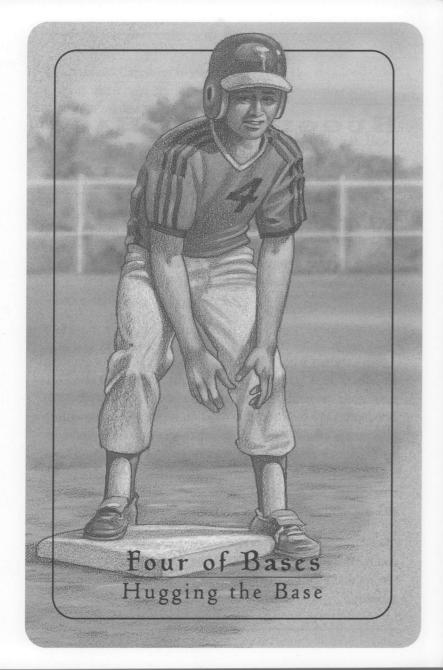
#### **ENSURING SECURITY**

Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first.

—FREDERICK B. WILCOX

runner who is "on base" is usually, in fact, a number of feet *off* the base, either getting a head start on running to the next base or aiming to steal it. To decide how close to stay to the base, you must consider the possible loss against the possible reward, a balance which varies in each circumstance. Some players, though, find the chance to advance irresistible, even if the odds make the move reckless. At the other extreme, some err by clinging to safety, missing new opportunities while Hugging the Base.

**Ahead of the Count:** Survival needs met. Appreciating what you have. The desire to maintain the status quo. Ownership. Strong need for security. High level of caution. Comfort in stability.





**Behind in the Count:** Fears and self-doubt prevent new experiences and progress. Inability to take reasonable risks. Stuck in a rut. Unhealthy possessiveness. Extreme need to control circumstances and others. Fear of loss.

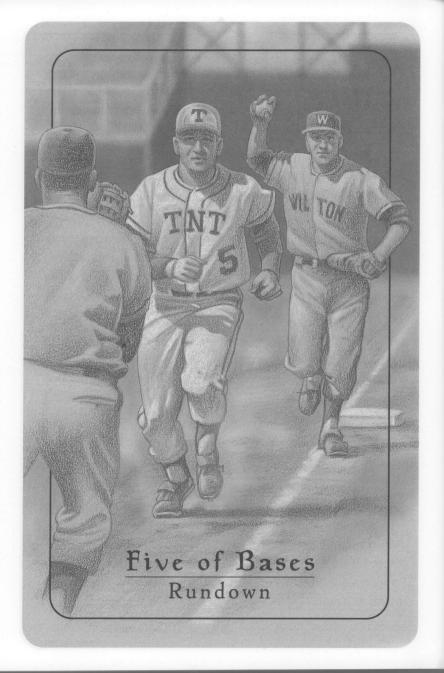
**The Player:** Cautious, even anxious. Prefers routine to innovation; chooses a sure thing over a chance. Prosperous. Conservative. May work in banking, or insurance.

The Signal: Honor what you have. A focus on basic survival may be necessary now. If not, reevaluate your current balance of security and risk-taking. You may be overestimating the dangers of moving on, and underestimating the dangers of staying put. Begin to experiment with letting go in small ways.

**The Play:** Trying to keep a situation as is. Asserting rights of possession, which may or may not be legitimate. Discounting or refusing opportunities. Routines that are comfortably familiar, but numbing.

**The Stuff:** Feeling insecure despite apparent well-being. Grasping. Fear drowns out excitement, growth, and fun.

In the Ballpark: Am I holding on too tightly to something or someone? What do I fear will happen if I loosen my grip? What is the price of holding on? How do I deal with anxiety? How does my cautiousness affect my options? What do I worry about most? What am I trying to keep the same forever? Where am I in a rut? What direction holds promise for me, even though it's scary to act on? What small risks can I take as a start?



### RUNDOWN

## Five of Bases

#### COPING WITH DEFEAT

You can learn a little from victory. You can learn everything from defeat. —CHRISTY MATHEWSON

Rundown is precisely the disaster the base-hugger fears: being trapped between bases with no way back to safety. As the fielders zip the ball back and forth past you, you're forced to face that your best efforts have failed and your teammates can't help you. You have been defeated by your own flawed judgment combined with circumstances beyond your control.

Ahead of the Count: Forced to face serious problems head on. Loss of security. Ability to cope with failure. Surviving despite lack of a sure place or purpose. Accepting that the competition won this time. Faith endures.

**Behind in the Count:** Feeling trapped. Desperation. Isolation. Defeat leads to depression or despair. Loss of faith. Blaming others in order to avoid responsibility.



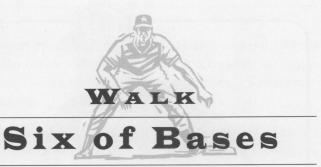
**The Player:** Handles negative events squarely. Able to learn from painful experiences and to move on. Possibly temporarily unemployed, job-hunting.

The Signal: Accept the fact of your loss. Allow yourself to grieve fully. Though support from others helps, you must go through the heart of this experience alone. Take an unflinching look at how this situation developed: you will learn the most if you neither underestimate nor overestimate your contribution. If you feel stuck between untenable options, it's probably time to opt out entirely.

The Play: Can't find a safe place: loss of a job, profession, home, relationship. Scrambling for excuses instead of owning up to failure. Or, accepting accountability. Sorting through the wreckage in order to better understand what happened, and especially your part in it. Grieving.

**The Stuff:** Feeling that your situation is impossible. Disappointment, sorrow, and anger arise as options disappear. Worry that the future will be no better.

In the Ballpark: Where do I feel trapped? Are there serious problems I'm pretending I can outrun? What have I lost? Do I know how to grieve? What did I do wrong? What pressures or competition worked against me? Even though I didn't succeed, what did I do right? What parts of the failure were due to me, what parts due to other influences? What decisions would I make differently in retrospect? Can I accept this failure without considering myself a failure overall?



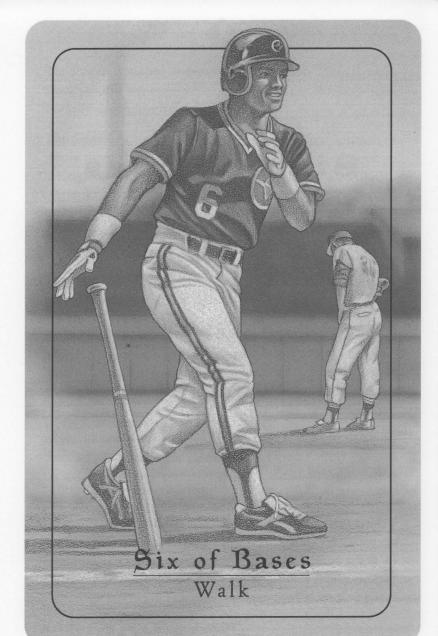
#### SHARING GIFTS

Crumbs on another man's table may be a main course on mine. —CHARLES O. FINLEY

he count is two and one . . . two and two . . . three and two . . . ball four: the batter earns a Walk. All the benefits of a single without having to race the throw to first. A Walk is a gift that helps you move forward fairly effortlessly.

**Ahead of the Count:** Receiving benefit from someone else's actions. Gifts. Charity. Good things are shared. Assistance, perhaps unintentional. Positive results despite minimal or no work. A fortunate opportunity.

Behind in the Count: Difficulty receiving from others or accepting good luck. The belief that accepting help or charity is shameful. Unwillingness to give in turn. Or, you're suspicious about this "gift" for good reason: you're a slugger being purposely held in check with an intentional walk.





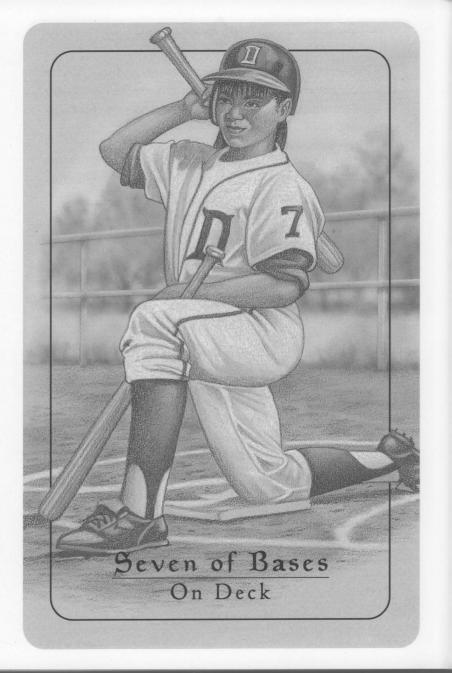
**The Player:** A generous spirit toward others and self. Able to flex easily between giving and receiving. A regular contributor to worthy causes. May work in social services or a charitable organization.

The Signal: Open yourself to life's offerings. Accept favors and presents graciously. Appreciate lucky breaks. Outgrow pointless self-denial. It's okay to get something for nothing when you come by it honestly. Identify what you have to give, and share freely with those in need.

**The Play:** Receiving or giving gifts. Donating to good causes. Volunteering. Offering assistance to coworkers, neighbors, friends, family. Receiving help, perhaps from unlikely sources. Surprisingly big rewards for relatively little effort.

**The Stuff:** Gratitude. Relief. Openness. Hope. Receptivity and generosity.

In the Ballpark: What benefit is being offered to me? Who has given to me, or is trying to? Is this a true gift or a form of manipulation? Am I more comfortable giving to others or receiving from them? Where could I share more? Can I accept and enjoy it when things go my way? Who is trying to get something for nothing? Do I believe "no pain, no gain" is always the case? If so, how does this affect my life?



### ON DECK

## Seven of Bases

#### WAITING FOR RESULTS

Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines. —SATCHEL PAIGE

nce you're On Deck, the safety and camaraderie of the dugout quickly fade. Here in the On-Deck circle, waiting for your turn at bat, you prepare to take action. It is a place of hopes and fears, self-encouragement, of last-minute rituals, shutting out worries and distractions, intensifying focus. Soon, you will see the results of all your practice and prayers.

**Ahead of the Count:** Almost there. Preparation for final action. Waiting to see the fruits of labor. Work, or a period of growth, that is nearing completion.

**Behind in the Count:** Fear of making the next move. Giving up just before finishing. Pessimism about pending projects. Or, impatience: going forward before the time is right.



**The Player:** Centered. Self-assured. Patient. Withholds judgment until all the facts are known. May be keeping an eye on a possible promotion.

**The Signal:** Focus on your final preparations. You will soon reap the harvest of your efforts. Don't amble aimlessly into the future: clarify the goals against which you'll evaluate results. The time to prove yourself is coming. Do not hesitate, but do not rush. Step up wisely and well.

**The Play:** Anticipating your turn. An examination or evaluation. A project or process nears its end. Waiting for a letter of acceptance or rejection, for the conclusion of an ongoing story, for the consequences of an action. Almost ready to take a long-awaited step.

**The Stuff:** Calm determination. Acceptance that you've done all you can. Or, stage fright and other pre-event jitters.

In the Ballpark: In what area of my life am I about to take my turn or be tested? Do I feel ready? How can I best prepare myself? What results do I hope for? What results do I fear? What outcome am I waiting for? How do I cope with waiting? What have I been investing in? Do I tend to be optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Am I more likely to hesitate or to rush?

# EYE ON THE BALL Eight of Bases

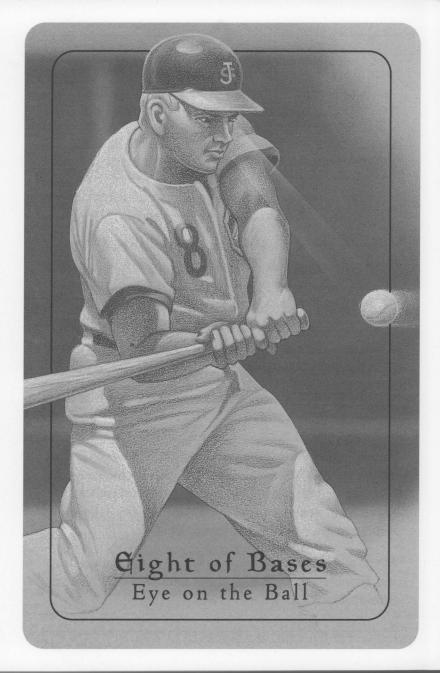
#### DEVELOPING DISCIPLINE

Every day, all spring and summer for years, I've swung my same bat. At tennis balls. At rocks. At hard-boiled eggs and Dixie cups—any spheres my brother threw at me. Anything on my batting tee. I broke the neighbor's window with a peach pit. Nights I worked in front of a mirror. You call that natural? Practice!

-R. ROZANNE KNUDSON

he quintessential baseball advice: Keep your Eye on the Ball. This is the central wisdom revisited in every offensive and defensive play. Eye on the Ball represents the necessity of dedicated apprenticeship. The development of self-discipline is the key to eventual mastery.

**Ahead of the Count:** Learning by doing. Training. Skill-building. Humble acceptance of student status. Conscientiousness. Paying dues.





**Behind in the Count:** Laziness. Inattention. Inability to concentrate. Insufficient dedication. Distraction from priorities. Lack of endurance.

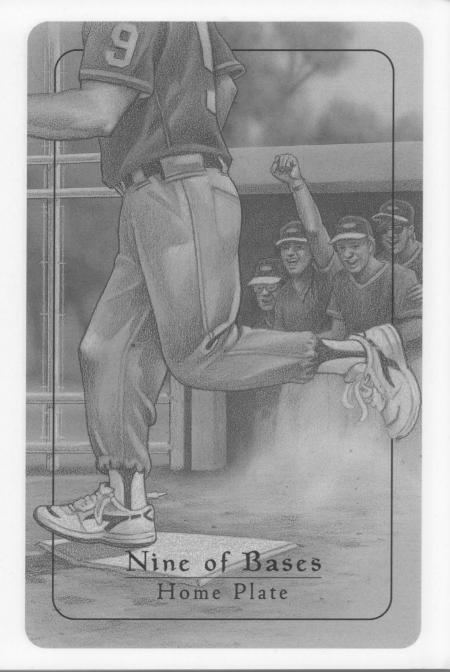
**The Player:** Persistent. Committed to personal progress in any endeavor. Someone who is absorbed in study or practice.

The Signal: Your single-minded attention is required by the task at hand. Get back to basics. Recall the fundamentals and uphold them through your deeds. Dedicate yourself to your craft. Learn to enjoy the satisfaction of slow-and-steady improvement. You must maintain your focus over the long haul.

**The Play:** Choosing a career, trade, or course of study. Lessons, rehearsals, homework, practice, repetitive exercises leading to fluency. Developing the skills that underlie expertise.

**The Stuff:** Tenacity. Satisfaction. Belief in self and in a successful future. Patience with own process of growth. Happy to have the opportunity to learn.

In the Ballpark: What is my first priority? Am I able to stay focused? What am I learning to do? In what do I seek mastery? What essential rule do I need to remember? What are the basics here? To what process am I committed? Do I spend enough time and energy in practice? Am I taking small steps toward my goals daily? Do I have difficulty persevering? In which aspects of life do I demonstrate self-discipline? Where is it lacking?



## Home Plate Nine of Bases

#### REAPING REWARDS

There are three types of baseball players—those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happened.—TOMMY LASORDA

t is the beginning and the end: The aim in baseball is to bring yourself full circle from Home Plate around the bases and back Home again. When you return safely to Home Plate, you're back where you started but victorious because of your journey. This card represents successes, especially those in which we revisit the past with newly acquired wisdom and a changed perspective.

Ahead of the Count: Prosperity. Consistent effort pays off. Positive developments earned through independent work. Integrity of work, play, and sense of life's purpose. Earned, relished leisure.

**Behind in the Count:** Lessons go unlearned. Past experiences are ignored in dealing with the present. Mediocre work.



Dissatisfaction. Wasting resources, including talent and time. Or, inability to relax and enjoy well-being.

**The Player:** Independently successful. Diligently and creatively develops own personal version of the good life. Quite likely self-employed, or has great autonomy at work.

The Signal: You are finally in a position to look back on past difficulties and see how they contributed to subsequent growth. Work that you really care about will bear fruit, while work that holds no meaning for you becomes harder to tolerate. Don't undersell your own ideas, and don't be afraid to go it alone. Success comes through long-term commitment. Draw on your accumulated knowledge, and keep learning.

**The Play:** Bringing a project to a winning completion. An opportunity to claim personal control over your circumstances, particularly financial and work-related. Returning to an old place or an old role but as a changed person.

**The Stuff:** Tremendous satisfaction. Fulfillment. Gratitude. Strong sense of purpose and meaning. Pleasure in work and also in recreation. Desire to shape situation to meet own needs, aims, and ideals.

In the Ballpark: Is there a part of my life that is coming full circle? To what am I returning? How have I changed since last time? What does my past experience tell me about the present? What lessons have I learned? Refused to learn? What individual success am I having or hoping for? When do I feel fulfilled? Only in play? Only in work? How can I have more impact on my circumstances? What's my plan?

## WINNING STREAK Ten of Bases

#### SATISFYING STABILITY

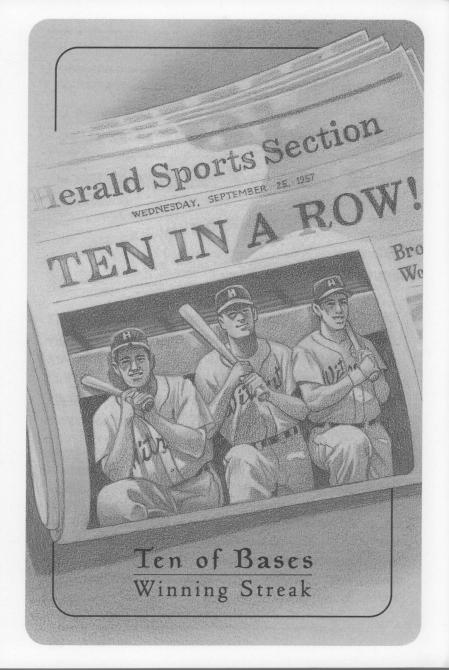
He's sitting in the catbird seat!

—RED BARBER

n the midst of a Winning Streak, success builds on success. You're surrounded by good cheer. Yesterday reflects wonderful memories and tomorrow shines with promise. Take note that this card speaks not of a single win, but of a Streak, representing the deep sense of assurance that strengthens members of a winning team.

**Ahead of the Count:** Stability. The benefits of connection to an established institution. A positive track record. Strength drawn from history, ancestry, inheritance. Self-confidence. Respect and encouragement from others.

**Behind in the Count:** Insecurity. Nothing to fall back on. Refusal of assistance from institutions, including family. Or, feeling overly protected, boxed into a situation, bored, or limited by tradition.





**The Player:** Well-connected to people and groups with power. More interested in garnering stability than in fame, fun, or independence.

The Signal: This is a time of good news—just make sure you understand that the source of your success is a powerful structure much bigger than yourself. Place yourself within the history of your people, family, organization, profession, or religion. You are expected to contribute to the larger institution, which in turn will reward you for efforts on its behalf.

**The Play:** Ongoing, rewarding, comfortable situation. Benefiting from membership. Securing or maintaining a position in a powerful system. Congratulatory gatherings of the group. Researching connections to the past. Receiving an inheritance.

**The Stuff:** Feeling happy, and accustomed to it. A sense of fitting in. Loyalty. Humility. Or, resentment of the institution, feeling stifled, caged.

In the Ballpark: What has consistently been going well? To what powers outside myself do I owe my good fortune? Do I want more stability, or less? Where do I belong? What do I gain from that affiliation? What do I give up? What institution am I proud to be part of? Do I tend to be a loner or a joiner? Which established powers am I angry at? Grateful for? Do I understand my place in history? Do I forget to account for the larger forces that affect my life's course?





## Eleven of Bases

DARING TO COMMIT

It's better to lose a game by making a move than lose it sitting on my ass.—EARL WEAVER

Steal, or stolen base, occurs when a runner manages to run safely from one base to the next during the pitcher's windup or during the delivery of a ball or strike. When you attempt to Steal a base, you make a commitment, going for it even though there are no guarantees. As you throw yourself into the slide, you can't know for sure if you'll be safe or out when the dust clears. But Steal reminds us that the act is its own reward. This card speaks to the overriding value of total involvement.

Ahead of the Count: Commitment to a task or cause. Willingness to work hard and take reasonable risks for a purpose. Discovery of hidden talents. Opportunity to learn by doing. The belief that every situation offers practical lessons.



**Behind in the Count:** Lack of dedication. Talents remain untapped due to fear of involvement or fear of failure. Refusing an opportunity to learn.

**The Player:** Makes the most of any situation. Hardworking. Takes risks in order to get ahead. Daring but not reckless. May be making a big change in employment.

The Signal: Get in the game for real! Jump in and learn as you go. Commit to making the effort and persevere through good times and bad. Don't let uncertainty about the results rob you of engagement in the present. When you don't care, or when you pretend you don't, you're the one who misses out.

**The Play:** Immersion in a situation, especially a challenging one. A turning point. A call to action. Finding new strengths under pressure. Matters improve when you get involved.

**The Stuff:** Self-discovery. Anxiety. Excitement. Commitment to the process of change rather than to a particular result.

In the Ballpark: What do I value more than security? What am I committed to, or willing to commit to? What am I tempted to dive into? Where do I need to apply more effort? More nerve? What hidden strengths and skills have I glimpsed in myself? How could I develop them? Am I so worried about the future that I'm missing the present? Am I so afraid of making a mistake that I take no risks at all? What can I learn from this situation?



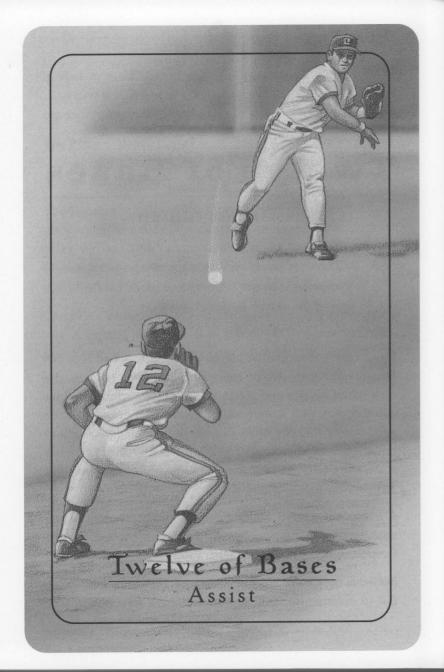
#### DEMONSTRATING RELIABILITY

I'll never be considered one of the all-time greats, maybe not even one of the all-time goods. But I'm one of the all-time survivors.—IIM KAAT

ome games can be played solo, but baseball requires teammates. Assist represents interdependence, the essence of loyalty and reliability. It occurs when a fielder collaborates with a teammate to put a runner out. It's the solid surety that the other players are backing you up and that they can count on you to back them. An Assist isn't rare, and it's not usually fancy; the high value of Assist is precisely its everyday trustworthiness.

**Ahead of the Count:** Making a contribution. Helping. Common sense. Maintaining standards of conduct and quality. Responsibility. Fidelity. Support. Protection.

**Behind in the Count:** Lack of assistance. Flakiness. Individuals fail to collaborate. Selfishness; seeking a free ride; taking





advantage. Responsibilities are forsaken. Skill level is sufficient, but not reliably employed.

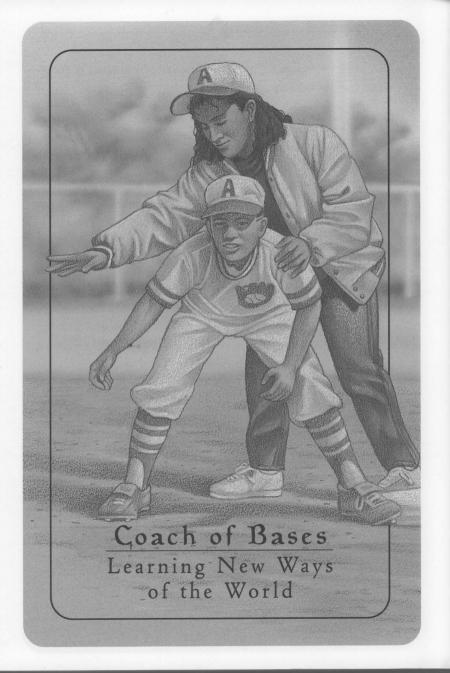
**The Player:** Dependable. Competent. Supportive. Protective. Prefers the familiar. Likely in a helping profession or position.

The Signal: Trust is the central issue now. Be sure you understand others' expectations, and vice versa. Fulfill your obligations and hold others to theirs. Be someone who can be counted on. Help others out, and let people know what you need, too. This is also a good time to establish positive daily habits.

The Play: Trading favors back and forth over time. Relying on another's help, or offering to assist another. Volunteering. Taking care of business. Assessing whether someone can be trusted. Proving that you're responsible.

**The Stuff:** Supported; supportive. Relationships feel mutual and secure.

In the Ballpark: What assistance do I need to seek out? Whose help do I rely on? Who counts on me? For what? Am I more comfortable helping or being helped? What are my most basic responsibilities? What responsibility am I trying to avoid? In what regard am I most reliable? Least reliable? Do I tend to be too trusting or not trusting enough? What am I protecting? What are my standards?



## Coach of Bases

#### LEARNING NEW WAYS OF THE WORLD

Ain't no sense in worrying about things you got control over, 'cause if you got control over them, ain't no sense worrying. And there ain't no sense worrying about things you got no control over, 'cause if you got no control over them, ain't no sense worrying.

-MICKEY RIVERS

n baseball, each Coach's ability to instruct players and develop their potential is crucial to a team's success. In Baseball Tarot, the Coach of Bases is a dedicated mentor of practical matters. This Coach has been around and done it all. Now, the Coach turns attention to providing leadership and training, with an emphasis on following tradition, going through proper channels, working your way up, and earning everything fair and square. This Coach will patiently take you through each step to success, as long as you always try your best.

**Ahead of the Count:** Opportunity to learn or teach, particularly a hands-on skill or a practical necessity. Mutual loyalty and respect between coach and player. Realism. Guidance.



**Behind in the Count:** Opportunities missed because they required risk-taking or innovation. Or, underestimating the importance of expertise, traditional credentials, or well-placed connections.

**The Player:** Shares expertise. A good explainer. Knows how to teach in the manner that works best for the learner. May be a manager or other supervisor, teacher, or financial adviser.

The Signal: Don't reinvent the wheel! And don't act like a clueless rookie when you should know better. This is a bad time to "wing it." Ask for suggestions from people who are more experienced. Seek information, advice, or training. Look around and see if there isn't a coach waiting to offer help once you admit you need it. Or, someone else may need your coaching.

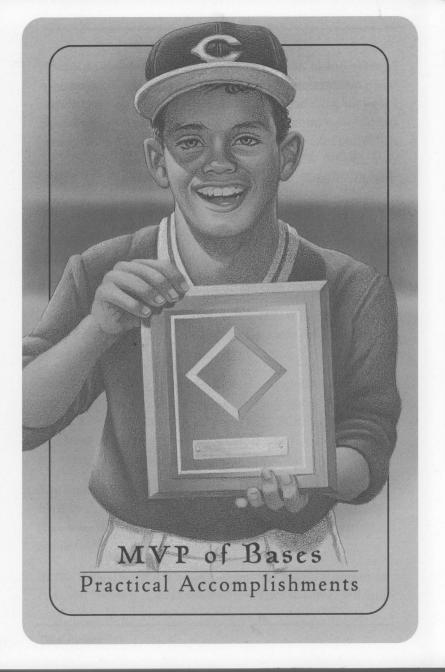
**The Play:** Learning to handle a practical matter, from making salad dressing to managing a corporation. Seeking or offering advice. Teaching others a skill. Starting a new job, or hiring someone. Working with or serving as a mentor, especially in a context related to pragmatic concerns.

**The Stuff:** Feeling you're on a tried-and-true path. Belief that hard work will pay off. Determined. Optimistic. Or, anxiety that you don't know the basics well enough: "Impostor Syndrome."

In the Ballpark: In what area of my life would I like to be coached? What practical wisdom do I have to offer? What do



I prefer not to admit I don't know how to do? Who could teach me? What have I had to learn on my own? To whom do I look for guidance in practical matters? How do I feel about people who know more and have more experience than I do? Who looks to me for such guidance? Am I following my own advice? What would be my advice to someone else in this situation?



## MVP of Bases

#### PRACTICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Competition is about passion for perfection, and passion for other people who join in this impossible quest.

What better way to get to know someone than to test your abilities together, to be daring and sweaty and exhausted together?—MARIAH BURTON NELSON

VP" stands for Most Valuable Player, a title awarded to the player whose contributions are considered most crucial to the team's success. To the MVP of this suit, success is inevitable if you keep applying know-how and sweat. This MVP pays off on results, not dreams. The MVP of Bases is most alive in the bottom-line, physical world and most admired for pragmatic achievements.

**Ahead of the Count:** Success in an endeavor requiring physical mastery or other "real world" skills. Wealth. Good reputation. Perseverance. Hard work. Knowing the ropes.

**Behind in the Count:** Overattachment to traditional methods and/or security. Lack of appreciation for imagination and fun.



Workaholism. Or, fears of inadequacy in managing practical matters.

**The Player:** A noted authority, or key player. Could be a business owner or community leader, or expert in a physically based field, such as a respected mechanic or gardener.

The Signal: The key to success is determination. When the going gets tough, redouble your efforts. Victory comes to those who never give up. The outcome will be influenced most by your hands-on involvement, in the most literal sense. If you seek to benefit, then invest yourself completely.

**The Play:** Winning through commitment and effort. Building something—a house or a company—from scratch. Completing a long-term plan, such as training for and running a marathon or earning a degree by taking one night class per semester for years.

**The Stuff:** Confidence. Powerful sense of purpose. Organization. Authority. Concern about doing things the right way, ethically as well as effectively. Pride.

In the Ballpark: What am I dedicated to getting done? What do I want to accomplish in the long run? Whose hard work do I admire? How do I define success? Am I slacking off? What do I avoid taking care of, physically? Do I spend too much time (or not enough) in the "real world"? Do I feel sufficiently in control of my life or of this situation? How do I feel about the words "elbow grease" and "persistence"? When I think of "me," do I mean my work, my projects, my skills?



#### RECOMMENDED READING

If you would like to learn more about Tarot, there is a wealth of material available. Here are just a few of our favorites among the many excellent books. Your community may also have classes and workshops you can attend. To find out more, ask your local bookstore for the nearest "metaphysical" or "New Age" shop or learning center.

Tarot for Your Self: A Workbook for Personal Transformation by Mary Greer. Newcastle Publishing Co., 1984.

**Choice-Centered Tarot** by Gail Fairfield. Ramp Creek Publishing, 1981.

Easy Tarot Guide by Marcia Masino. ACS Publications, 1987.

**78 Degrees of Wisdom, Parts 1 and 2** by Rachel Pollack. Aquarian Press, 1980, 1983.

Tarot Readings and Meditations (previously published as Tarot: The Open Labyrinth) by Rachel Pollack. Aquarian Press, 1990.

**Tarot Dictionary and Compendium** by Jana Riley. Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1995.

If you are interested in the history of Tarot, and the extraordinary variety of decks that have been created over time, you will love **The Encyclopedia of Tarot, Volumes I, II,** and **III** (1978, 1985, 1991), by Stuart Kaplan. It is published by U.S. Games Systems, which also has a huge catalog of decks for purchase; call 1-800-54-GAMES.



To pursue your curiosity about synchronicity, we recommend Jean Shinoda Bolen's **The Tao of Psychology: Synchronicity and the Self** (HarperSanFrancisco, 1979). Or go right to the source: C.G. Jung's **Synchronicity: An Acausal Connecting Principle** (Princeton/Bollingen, 1973).

## LESSONS OF THE GAME, LESSONS OF LIFE

re you batting a thousand or in a slump? Has your boss thrown you a curve or caught you off base? Baseball actions have become metaphors for life, and BASEBALL TAROT applies these metaphors as a means of finding insight into love, work, relationships, dreams, decisions, dilemmas, and virtually any other personal issue. Expertly translated from traditional tarot, it is an entertaining and accessible way to seek guidance and advice through familiar baseball situations, players, and lingo. From The All-Star to The Umpire, from Error to Grand Slam, each card image evokes the card's original meanings. The book explains how to pose questions, lay out the cards, and interpret the answers for yourself and for others. It's insightful and inspiring. Now, step up to the plate!

WORKMAN PUBLISHING . NEW YORK