

King of the Hill Drill

This drill emphasizes fielding skills with a competitive aspect. The drill is fun, yet can be a good test of players' fielding skills and reaction.

Divide the team into two groups. A coach goes with each group and serves as the "hitter." Players do not use gloves in this game. The reason that gloves are not used is to force players to field the ball with two hands, rather than just using the glove and fielding the ball with one hand.

The game is basically "pepper". The coach "hits" a ball towards the fielders and one fielder tries to field the ball. A successful fielder stays in place; a fielder making an error moves to the LEFT end of the line. After the ball is fielded or retrieved a player tosses it softly underhand to the coach to hit, just as in pepper.

The game goes on for a minute or two. When time is up the player on the RIGHT end of the line is the "King of the Hill," or winner. The coach should make an attempt to hit towards every player both for practice and to keep the contest fair.

To make the game more interesting, play one contest for a couple of minutes. Then take the half of the players from the RIGHT end of each line into a "winners" game and the players from the LEFT half of each group into a "consolation" game. Then play another round and the winner of the "winners" game will be the undisputed "King of the Hill" for the practice.

