

The colorful roster card can feature your team logo and colors. Posting it in press boxes can provide collegiate or pro scouts clear images with correct spelling of players' and coaches' names.

Professionalism is created by the sum total of your program and attention to detail. This is one detail that will make a big impression.

**YOUR VIDEO LINK TO THE PRODUCTS** – For the first time, Collegiate Baseball and the ABCA have cooperated in bringing to you a detailed look at great new products. The following link will allow you to view detailed video interviews of the best-in-show products described above. Visit [www.PitchingTV.com](http://www.PitchingTV.com) to see interviews conducted by John Pinkman in the exhibit hall. You will also find specific information on how to purchase each product (including cost).

The Perform Better products are creative, innovative and fun to use. Not to mention they produce results quickly! Coaches will get more cooperation and faster results if we change the dull conditioning drills and make them competitive, challenging and fun.

Perform Better is a resource for hard to find products like the Body Blade, the new Bosu balance product, and hundreds more. This is a catalog that belongs in the coach's desk as well as the trainer's desk!

**TEE TOPPER** – What do you do when the top of tee is destroyed? We have all seen the homemade or inexpensive purchased tee sitting by itself off to the side. While 95% of the tee is in good shape, the top can't hold the ball in place. So it is useless.

**Schutt Sports** manufactures this new **Tee Topper** product that will end that lonesome existence of "broken tees" and bring more productivity to your workout by extending the life and investment of your tees.

The extraordinary rugged and inexpensive plastic tee top inserts into the top of the old tee hollow pole. The **Tee Topper** is large enough to securely fit deep into the tee tube so as not to eject when accidentally hit.

**RINGOR SHOE** manufactures an all-leather pitching shoe with a built in pitching toe. The shoe comes in both steel cleated and turf (or coach's version) and is available in white, navy blue and black. The design will prolong the life and investment of shoes prematurely wearing out from the pitchers' trailing foot. Coaches throwing batting practice and pitching instructors as well will also benefit from this sturdy idea.

An innovator in cleat design for over 20 years, Ringor has created a new cleat pattern that will add to the performance of pitchers and catchers. The cleat pattern, which includes an extra cleat on the ball of the foot and eliminates one on the heel, will enhance performance and add to comfort and foot care; especially for pitchers and catchers.

**What's new at JUGGS? The Pearl Ball.** It's a regulation size leather ball with real red seam stitches that won't come apart at the seams when used in a pitching machine. Do we need say anymore? After years of research and development, Juggs introduced the **Pearl Ball** in San Antonio. The affordable ball is guaranteed for a year! Juggs says the Pearl Ball is designed to be rugged but still give the off-the-bat feel and liveliness. The seams also provide regular ball rotation for better vision training. The Pearl Ball is universal and can be used in any pitching machine designed to throw regulation weight balls. Juggs has a special purchase plan until May of this year. Make the call.

**NEXT LEVEL SCORE CARD** – A computer program that will turn your scorecards and posted rosters into a full color work of art. The program quickly generates a professional line up card that is easily read in clear legible type faces. **Next Level Score Card** provides special 3-part perforated form paper that after being processed in your computer's printer is easily separated and distributed at home plate meetings.

The tarp comes with a thick, heavy duty PVC pipe tethered with cables and handles to assist an extremely fast installation of less than 30 seconds.

Do your pitchers a favor – do your team a favor – build quality pitching and batting surfaces and maintain them. Why practice for 22 hours a week only to be defeated by 6” holes in the mound?

***BASEBALL ART*** – And I mean that exactly – Baseball art. **Baseball Seams Company** has created art work made of real baseball seams. They use old balls and assemble them into Old Glory! They cut strips of seams and stitches out of the recycled balls. The flag’s red stripes are created by the stitches and the attached leather comprises the white lines. The curvature of the ball and stitching create a wave pattern that you have seen in many pictures of the flag.

There are various versions and prices to fit any fan’s budget. They even sell the baseball seams flag on t-shirts. This product is one that you really need to see on the website! There is the real leather flag framed and matted for the collector and a very economical laminated picture of it as well.

***THE PITCHER’S JACKET*** – A comfortable and practical “half” of a pitching jacket that fits a “whole” need! The jacket made its debut in the Rice Dugout at Omaha last year. In his first appearance (and another new product) at the ABCA show, Professional Sports Trainer **Brad Cooper** brings the unique one sleeve jacket to our attention. The sleeve looks just like a traditional team jacket but does not cover the entire upper body.

The one sleeve jacket just might be the spark to keep your pitcher’s arm ready for action. An adjustable Velcro strap extends from the top of the shoulder down across the chest and fits comfortably under the opposite arm. The jacket resolves the typical problem of over-heating. No doubt you’ve seen pitchers uncomfortably sitting in the dugout or bull pen with one arm in the normal jacket while awkwardly sitting on the rest of the jacket and other sleeve.

This is a well made product that comes in several colors. It was carefully designed to allow your team logo and player number to be screened or embroidered without interference from the manufacturer’s logo. This is a professional product all the way and it sure beats a rolled up towel around your pitcher’s arm for warmth!

***MF ATHLETIC COMPANY***, or as it is more widely known in the industry, **Perform Better**, produces a 60 page catalog of unique conditioning products. Many of these products come out of the physical therapy and rehabilitation environments. The catalog is a wonderful resource for products that produce results in core stabilization, balance and agility.

## *The 2004 ABCA Convention Exhibit - Best of Show*

The 2004 ABCA Exhibit Center in San Antonio was bustling with new ideas. Each year baseball's most complete trade show attracts the best and latest products for coaches to review. Each year ABCA's Betty Rulong seems to outdo her last performance as director of the show. That's a big job and not an easy task. You can tell the vendors are pleased with the seamless behind the scenes organization and ever growing floor traffic, ensuring their repeat attendance. The total number of booths grew again this year, with more than 2 dozen new and 1<sup>st</sup> time exhibitors.

Lou Pavlovich and I spend a great deal of time carefully studying all booths each year. This annual article has become a big hit with both vendors and coaches. However, this year we have a surprise for our readers. With the cooperation of Collegiate Baseball and the ABCA, we will provide an extra benefit that you surely will enjoy.

At the end of this article you will be given a website where you can see actual interviews conducted with company representatives and inventors of each of the fantastic following products. You will also be able to discover how to purchase each product.

**THE PITCH COUNT** – Now here's a timely brand new product! If you haven't read the last issue of CB, go back and read the articles on the need for pitch count management. Then go order this product.

Dave Tinsley has developed a simple but effective product to ease the task of counting pitches while providing useful and immediate information to the pitching coach that will help protect the pitcher's arm. This rugged stopwatch-size counter has many features pitching coaches will love. In the hands of a team volunteer, the **Pitch Count** alarm alerts the operator when the desired pitch count is attained. In addition, **Pitch Count** has an important use in practice and bull pen sessions. Here's why:

1. Displays total number of pitches thrown
2. Displays percentage of strikes thrown
3. Displays number of balls and strikes thrown
4. Automatic alarms at 50, 75 and 100 pitches
5. Adjustable pitch count limit alarm
6. Tracks 2 pitchers at the same time

**WIND WEIGHTED TARPS** – Bill Hemming brings this product to the show for the first time. These tarps are manufactured to standard or custom sizes with UV protected stitches and superior material of vinyl coated polyester with added mold-inhibitors. This material is used in the fabrication of truck tarps. That's great – so what's new?

What is new is a galvanized chain sewn into the edges of the **Wind Weighted Tarps**, eliminating the various and sundry contraptions used to hold the edges of the tarp down! No longer will you need to use concrete blocks, PVC tubes filled with blue dust, or build sand bags that will just crack, split and spill.