

## Playing Center Field

Baseball season is getting under way, and for fans of the sport, it's an exciting time. From now through the World Series in the fall, adventures on the diamonds will be closely followed and discussed.

The story is told of the manager of a minor league baseball team who became completely disgusted with his center fielder's performance. From where he sat in the dugout, all he saw was a lot of running around and missed catches -- activity, but not much productivity.

The center fielder always seemed to have "faded" to the wrong side of the field; there, but not having any effect. The manager eventually ordered the player to the dugout and assumed the position himself.

The first ball that came his way took a bad hop and hit the manager right in the mouth. The next hit was a high fly ball to center, which the manager lost in the glare of the sun. It bounced off his forehead. The third ball was a hard line drive that he charged valiantly, only to have the ball soar just above his outstretched glove.

At that, the manager ran back to the dugout, grabbed the center fielder by his uniform, and shouted, "You've got center field so messed up that even I can't do a thing with it!"

Efficiency isn't a matter of excessive motion. It's a matter of doing only the motion necessary to get the job accomplished. One of the attributes that makes a leader a leader is knowing which motions to perform. We should never equate activity with efficiency.

--Beecher Hunter