

Part 9

Crew of Four

Basic Principles

1. Better outfield coverage. Having four umpires allows for better angles on outfield coverage without sacrificing base coverage.
2. Know three-umpire mechanics. You must have a complete understanding of three-umpire mechanics to work with four umpires. Depending on who goes out on a fly ball, oftentimes the rest of the crew reverts to using three-umpire mechanics.

Line Drive Responsibilities

- A. Umpires will be held accountable to set their initial pre-pitch position with strong consideration given to line drive responsibilities.
- B. Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and shall NOT straddle the line.
- C. U1 and U3 will position themselves no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder with no runners on base. If the fielder is playing deep, U1 should cut this distance in half and be 3-4 feet behind the fielder. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step into or dive into him on a line drive.
- D. U1 and U3 should be well positioned to see line drives hit at the feet of the first or third baseman in their normal positions (with a step or two forward) and to make that call.
- E. U1 and U3 will now take all line drives hit directly at and immediately in front of the first or third baseman. "Directly in front" refers to the immediate area in front of the fielder and in the immediate vicinity of his starting position. A fielder who moves a significant distance straight forward will remain the plate umpire's call.
- F. When positioned in the outfield, U2 should always work over the inside shoulder (closest to second base) of the middle infielder to be in the best possible position to rule on line drives in his coverage area.

CREW OF FOUR: BASIC PRINCIPLES

Basic Outfield Coverage

- A. Umpires will not automatically go out on all fly balls with or without runners on base. Umpires are expected to read fly balls and only go out on a trouble ball. The philosophy is "if in doubt, go out." That philosophy is not meant to replace the reading of fly balls. Pause, read and react techniques should always be utilized.
- B. Four conditions that require an umpire to go to the outfield from the "A" and "D" positions:
 1. The outfielder turns and begins to run toward the outfield fence (possible home run)
 2. Multiple players converging on a fly ball
 3. A catch being made below the waist
 4. Outfielder moving toward the foul line and possible fair/foul decision
- C. If in doubt, go out on fly balls in your coverage area.
 1. If you are going out — go out hard.
 2. Leave no doubt in your partners' mind about whether or not you are going out.
 3. Signal your partner by raising your arm if you are going out.
 4. If you are not going out, hold your arm out to your partner with your palm facing him.
 5. If you do not go out, you still maintain responsibility for the catch.
 6. Once you go out, do not return until the play is complete.
 7. U2 positioned within the infield should never cross the base path to observe a catch/ no catch.
- D. When a home run is hit with no runners on base, it is not necessary to have the entire crew fully rotate.
 1. U3 can go out down the line and then come back to third base for touches at that base. If U2 goes out, U3 can easily take all touches at second and third. If U1 goes out, either U2 or the home-plate umpire should have the touch of first as U1 will not be able to get back to first after going out to see the batter-runner touch first base.
 2. The most important thing to remember is that the crew must communicate and read each other on this situation as the batter-runner is rounding the bases.

Overthrows

- At the plate**
Plate umpire (or the U1 if there is a rotation to home) has responsibility on all overthrows to the plate.
- At first base (toward the plate)**
Plate umpire has primary responsibility on all overthrows.
- At first base (toward outfield)**
First-base umpire (or any umpire rotating to first base) has the primary responsibility on all overthrows.

CREW OF FOUR: BASIC PRINCIPLES

At third base (toward the plate)

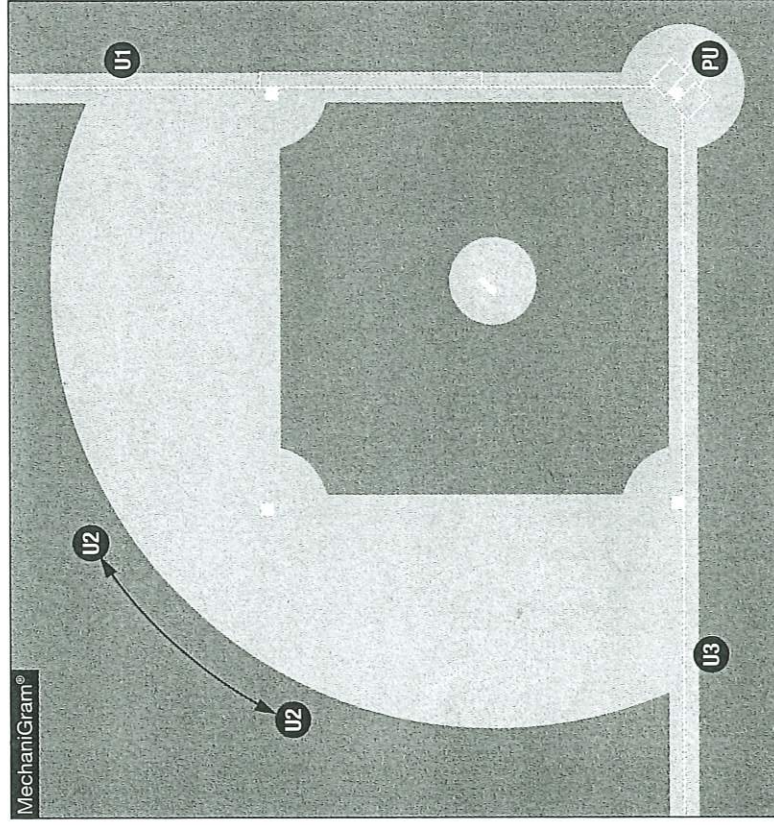
Plate umpire (or the first-base umpire if there is a rotation to home) has primary responsibility on all overthrows. Exception: If the plate umpire has rotated to third base to rule on a play the plate umpire will have the responsibility of the overthrow at third base.

At third base (toward outfield)

Third-base umpire (or any umpire rotating to third base) has the primary responsibility on all overthrows.

CREW OF FOUR: NO RUNNERS ON

INITIAL POSITIONS



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

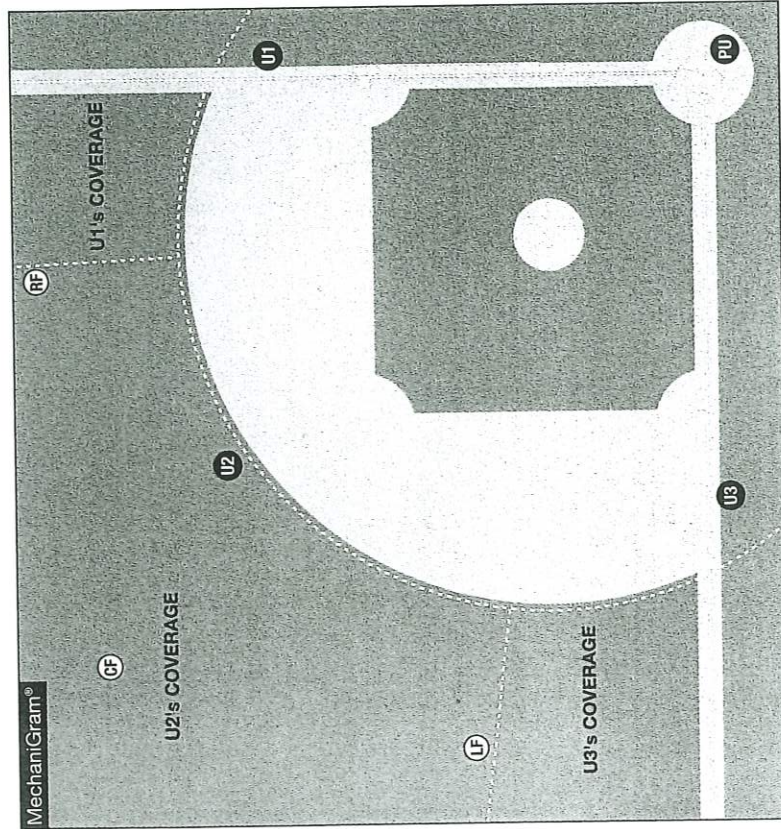
U1: Starts in the "A" position.

U2: Should always work over the inside shoulder of the middle infielder to be in the best possible position to rule on line drives in his coverage area.

U3: Starts in the "D" position.

CREW OF FOUR: NO RUNNERS ON

OUTFIELD CATCH COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

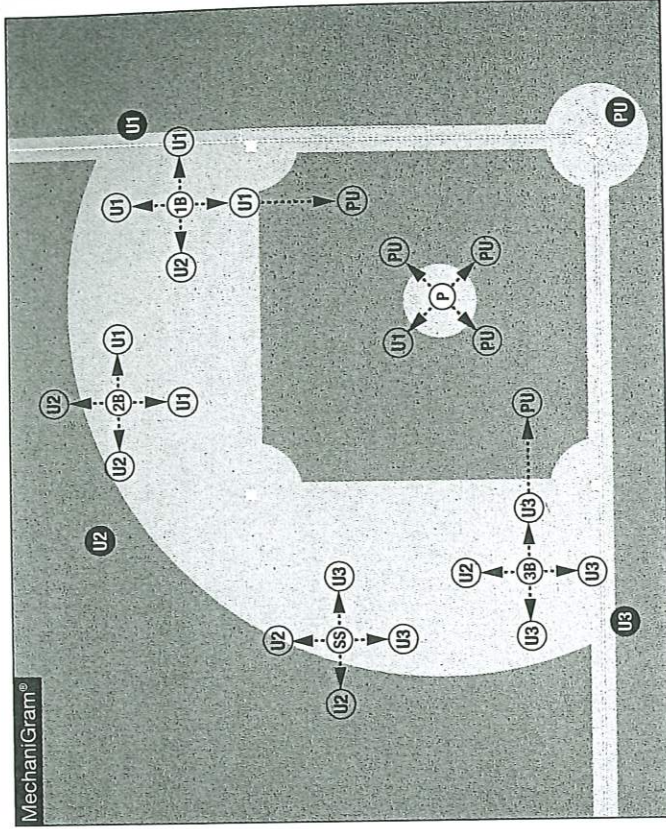
U1: Has the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.

U2: Dictates coverage and has the left fielder straight in and straight back to the right fielder straight in and straight back.

U3: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line.

CREW OF FOUR: NO RUNNERS ON

INFIELD CATCH COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving significantly in.

U1 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
2. By the first baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.
3. By the pitcher moving back.

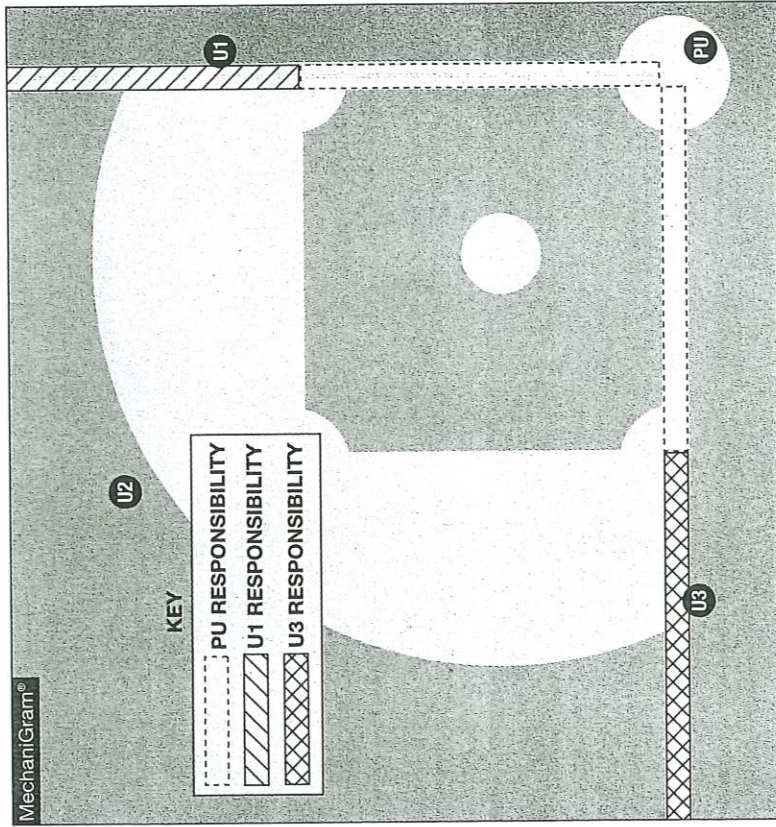
U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
3. By the first baseman moving right.
4. By the third baseman moving left.

U3 has catches:

1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
2. By the third baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.

FAIR/FOUL COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

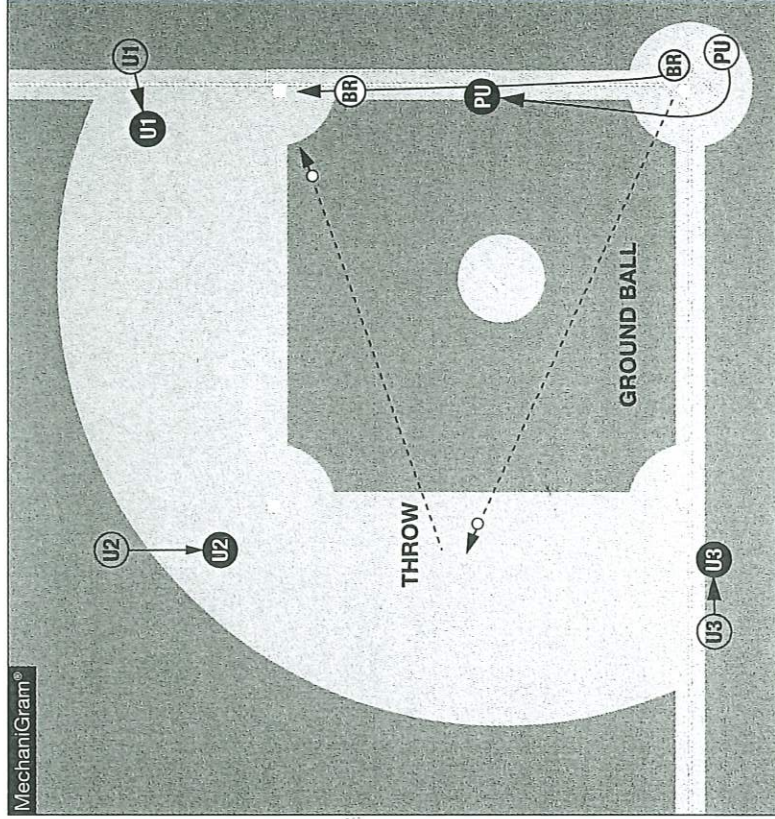
PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

PLAYS WITHIN THE INFIELD



Action on the field: Ground ball to the shortstop, who throws to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:

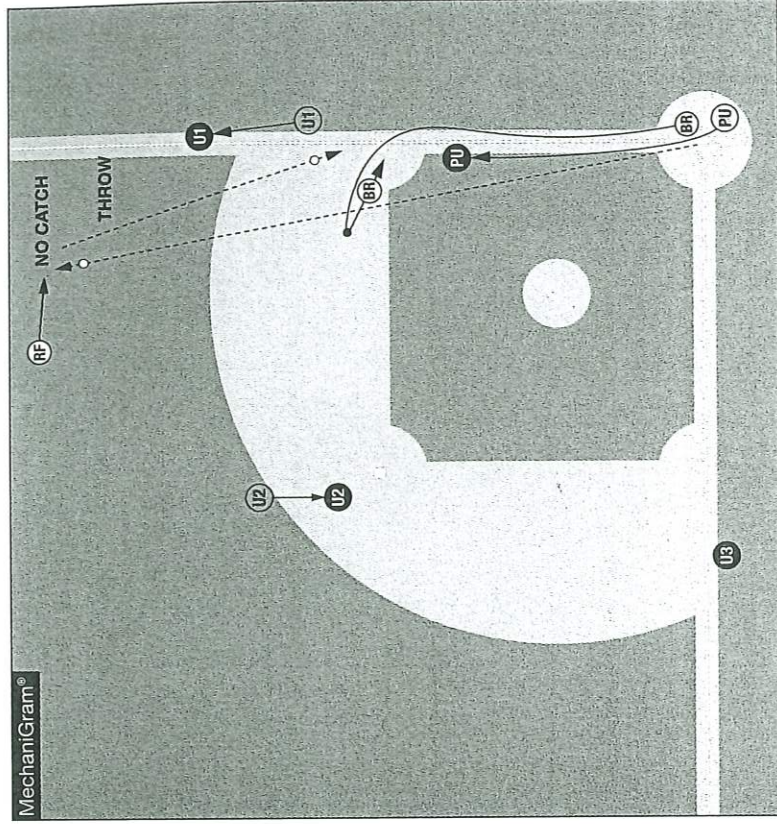
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Moves toward second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes.

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: NO CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; the batter-runner rounds first base and returns, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

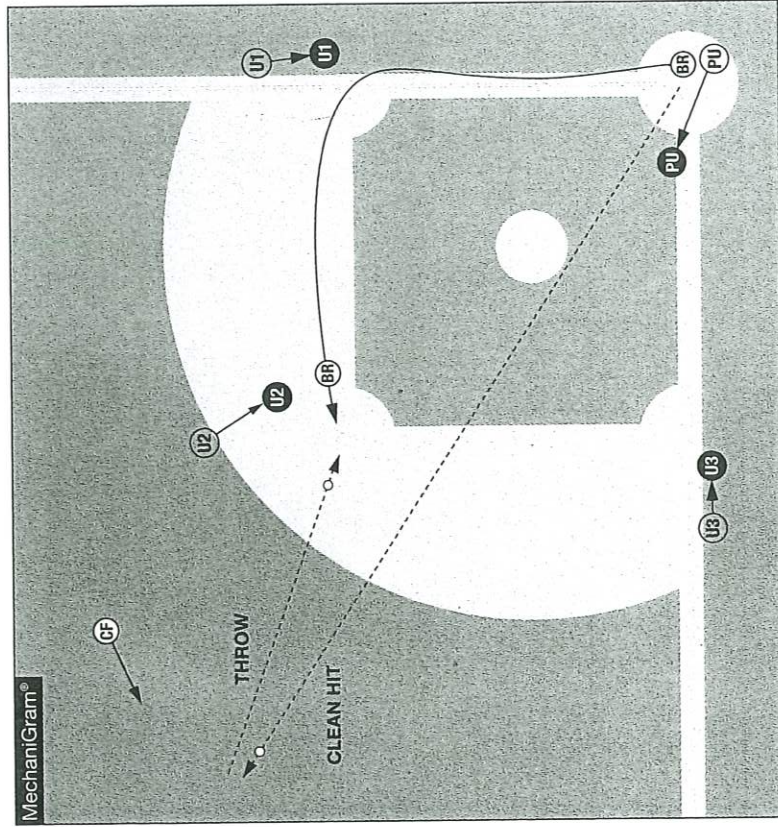
PU: Moves down the line toward first base for any possible throwback at first base on the batter-runner.

U1: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U2: Moves into the infield at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes and has any play at third base.

CLEAN HIT TO OUTFIELD



Action on the field: Clean hit to center field, no catch; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

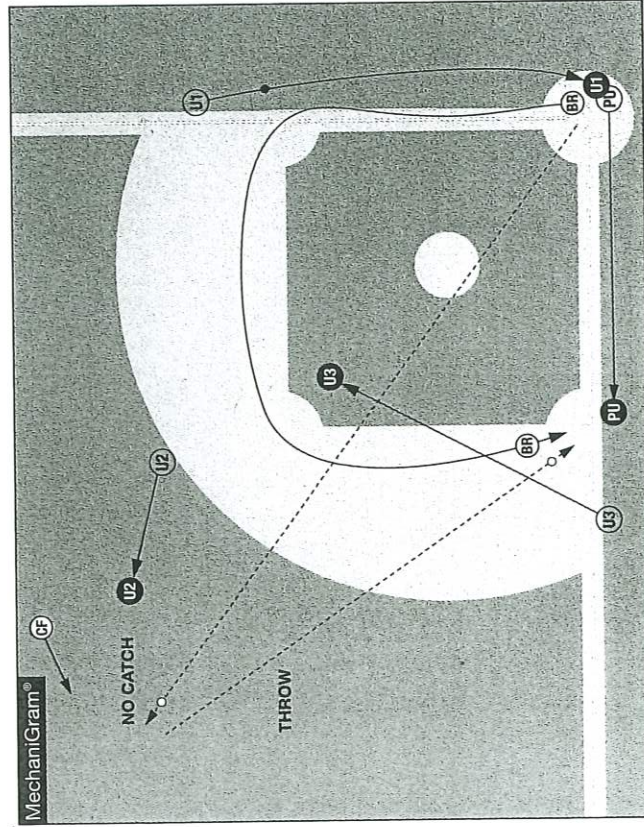
PU: Observes and has all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base.

U2: Moves toward second base and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD: NO CATCH, U2 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Deep fly ball to center field, no catch; U2 goes out; batter-runner advances toward third base and draws a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Moves toward third base and has any play there on the batter-runner. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes the base touch at first base and if the batter-runner commits to third base, U1 moves toward the plate for any play there on the batter-runner.

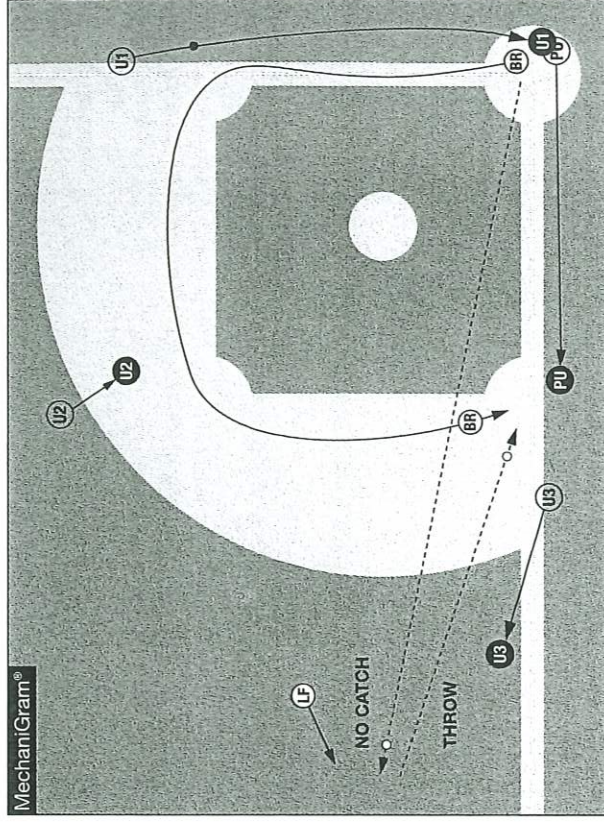
U2: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U3: Has all plays at second base and observes the base touch there.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

Note: On a routine fly ball to the outfield in U2's coverage area, U2 will remain responsible for the catch/no catch decision while he moves toward 2nd base on the outside of the diamond to be in position at 2nd base on a play should the center fielder drop the ball. When U2 is reading the fly ball on this play - U3 should start toward 2nd in case U2 decides to go out. U2 also has the option on this play to give up the fly ball completely and run into the diamond and take any potential play at second base from inside the diamond.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; batter-runner advances toward third base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Moves toward third base and has any play or base touch at third base by the batter-runner. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base and, if the batter-runner commits to second base, U1 moves toward the plate for any play there on the batter-runner.

U2: Moves into position to cover plays at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

Crew of Four: Runner on First

General Information

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.5.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

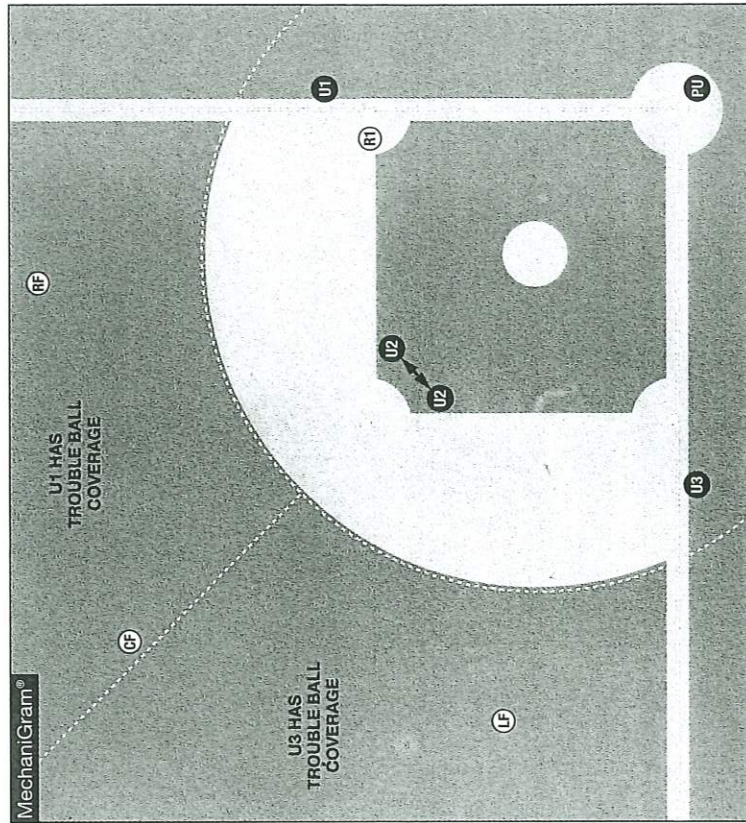
The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on (see 9.5.5), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

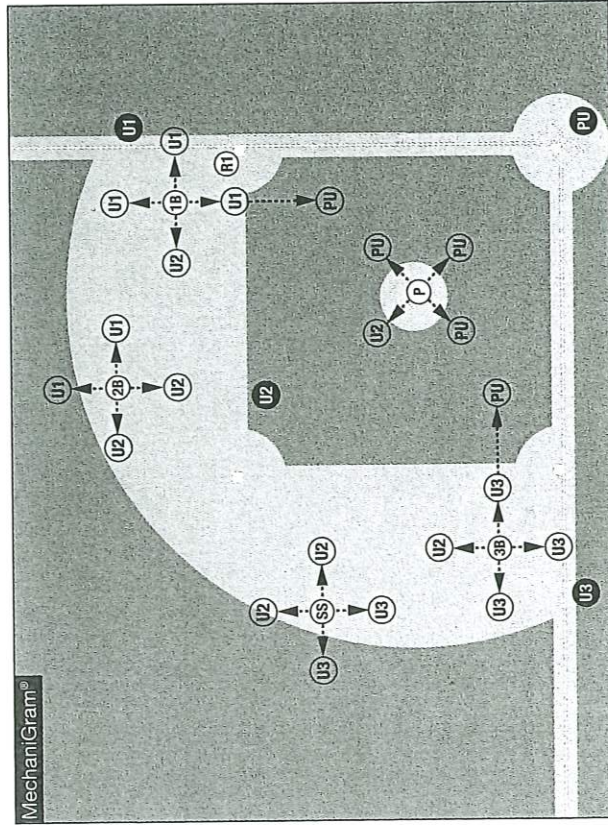
U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center-fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

INFIELD CATCH COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving directly toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the first baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

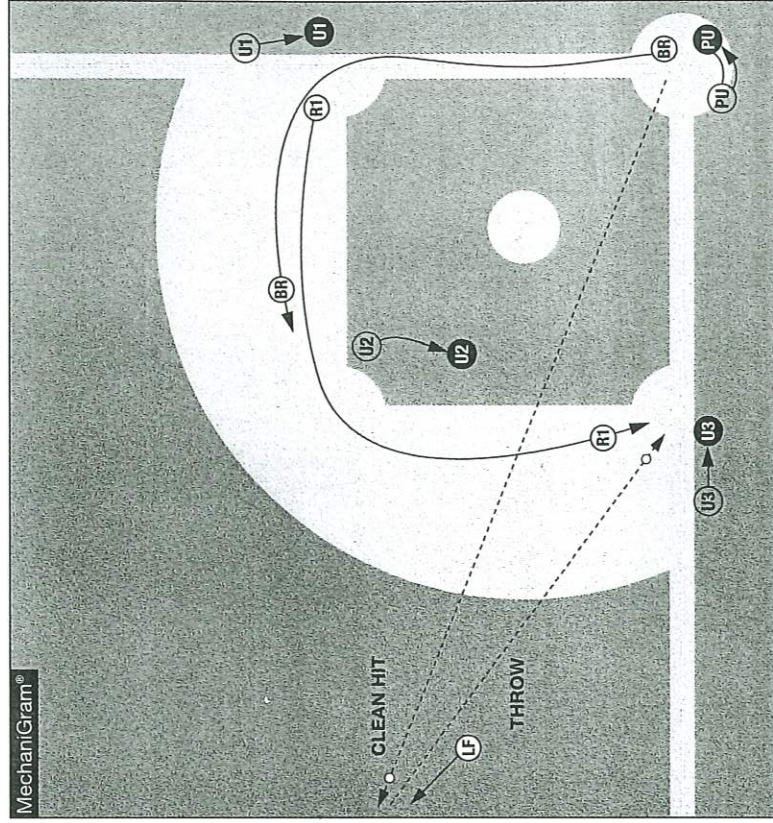
U2 has catches

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the third baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

CLEAN HIT TO OUTFIELD



Action on the field: Clean hit to left field; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base

Umpire responsibilities:

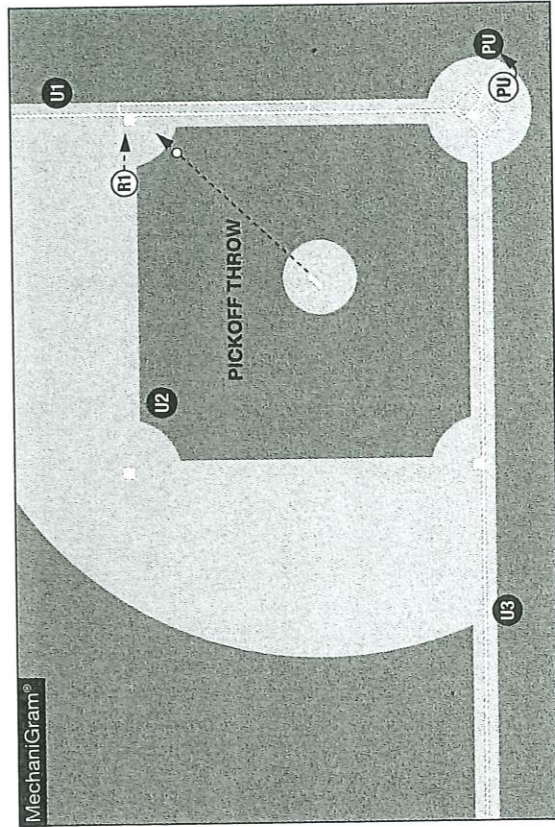
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes R1's and the batter-runner's base touch at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

PICKOFF AT FIRST



Action on the field: Before pitching, the pitcher attempts to pick off the runner at first base.

Umpire responsibilities:

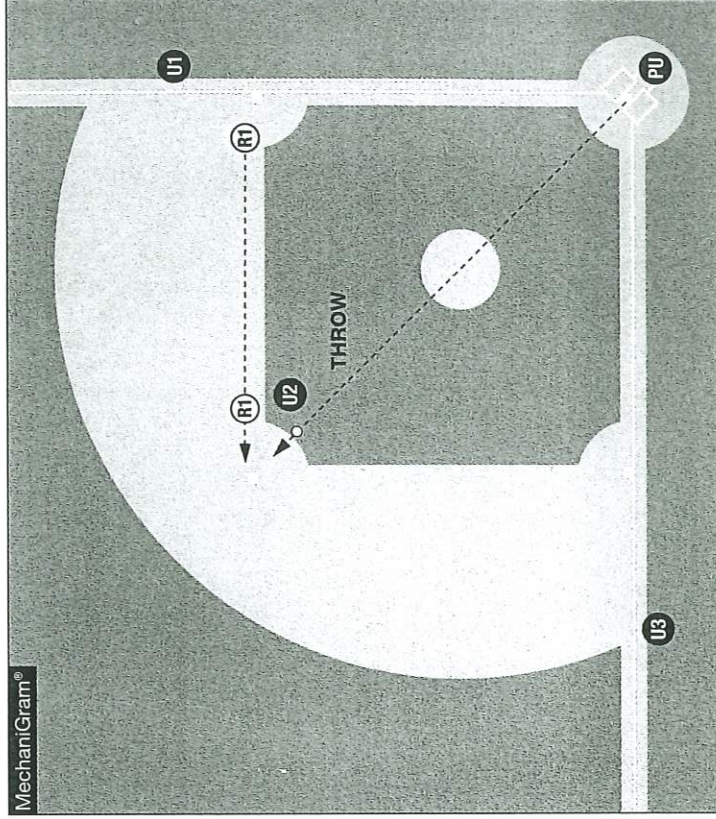
PU: Watches the pitcher for potential balks, then takes a step out from behind the catcher to observe the action or in case ball is overthrown.

U1: Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and NOT straddling the line. U1's distance will be no more than 6-10 feet from the bag. U1's line of sight should be to the inside of the runner leading off with a clear view of the pitcher. When the first baseman is NOT holding the runner on first, U1 will position himself no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step or dive into him on a line drive. For all back picks at first base, an umpire should always anticipate this pick from the catcher and be ready to quickly move as far as the play will allow.

U2: Watches the pitcher for potential balks before throwing. Is responsible for all plays at second base, including if R1 ends up in a rundown.

U3: Watches the pitcher for potential balks before throwing. Is responsible for all plays at third base, including if R1 ends up in a rundown.

STEAL OF SECOND



Action on the field: The batter swings and misses at the pitch as R1 attempts to steal second base.

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Signals the swinging strike without taking his focus off the play at hand. Ensures the batter does not interfere with the catcher's throw. Observes the play.

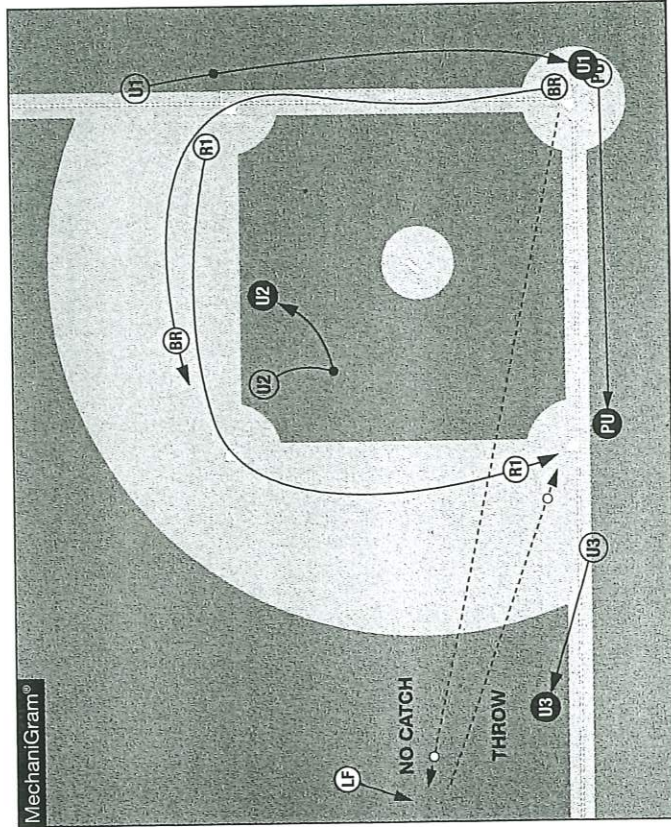
U1: Observes the pitch and the initial throw to second.

U2: Umpires are not allowed to start in the infield and then run to a position out in the dirt looking straight down the baseline toward second base during a steal play. All steal plays must be taken between the B and C starting positions. Takes a step toward the second-base cutout. Keeps eye on the ball and turns as the ball passes U2. Comes to a hands-on-knee set to see the play at second base. If the play is a swipe-tag out, ensure the fielder retains possession of the ball before making the out call. If the runner is safe, no delay is necessary.

U3: Observes the pitch and the initial throw to second.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNER ON FIRST

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner advances toward second base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Moves toward third base and, if R1 commits to third, PU rotates into position to rule on all plays there. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

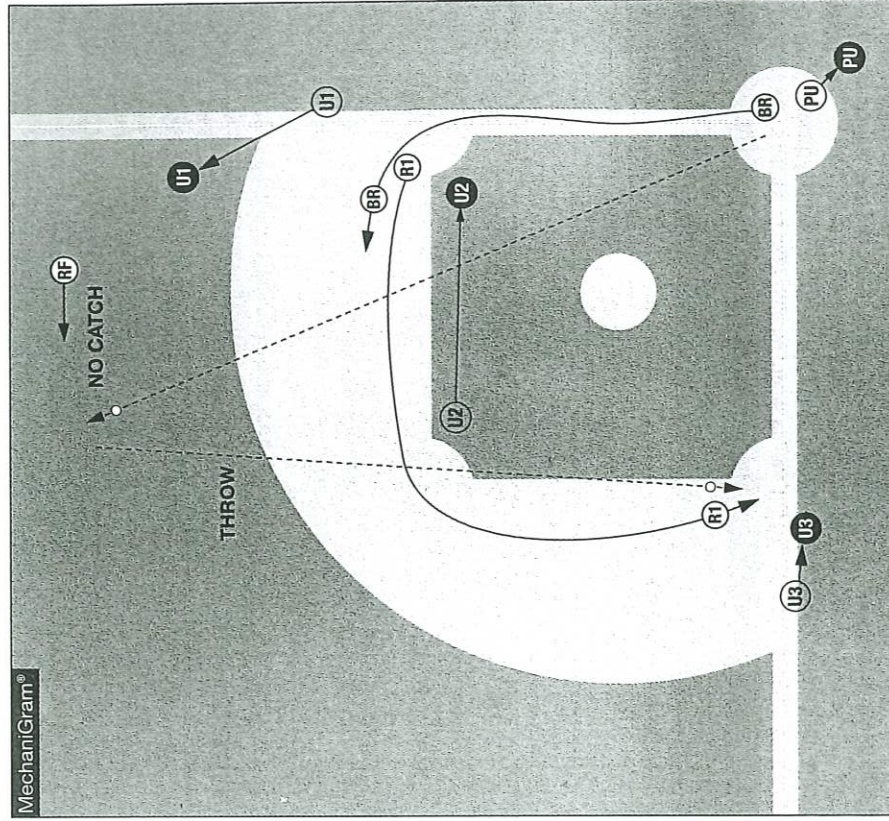
U1: Observes all base touches at first base and begins to move toward the plate. If R1 commits to third base, U1 rotates to the plate for all plays there. If applicable, U1 observes R1's tag up.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there on R1. If R1 commits to third base, U2 assumes responsibility for the batter-runner and should move to a position to rule on any plays at first or second base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNER ON FIRST

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: NO CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Reads the ball and the runners. If R1 commits to third base, PU returns to the plate.

U1: Observes the no catch.

U2: Observes all base touches at first and second base and has all plays there. U2 has all plays involving the batter-runner and R1 at first or second base.

U3: Observes all base touches at third base and rules on all plays there.

Crew of Four: Runners on First and Second

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.6.2), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.5.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is similar to plays with no runner on (see 9.5.5).

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first only (see 9.6.3), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

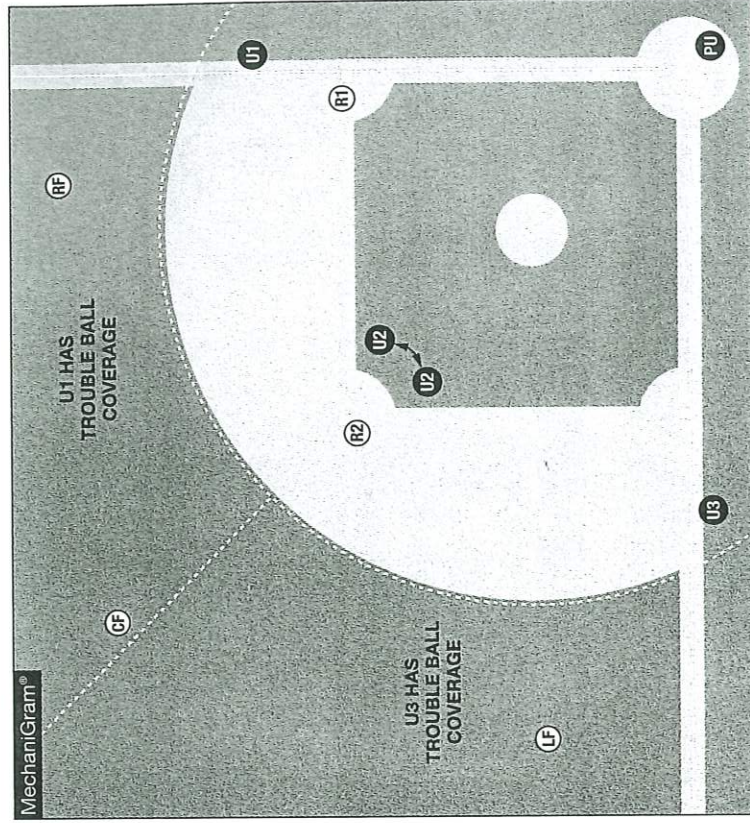
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

INITIAL POSITIONS AND OUTFIELD COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

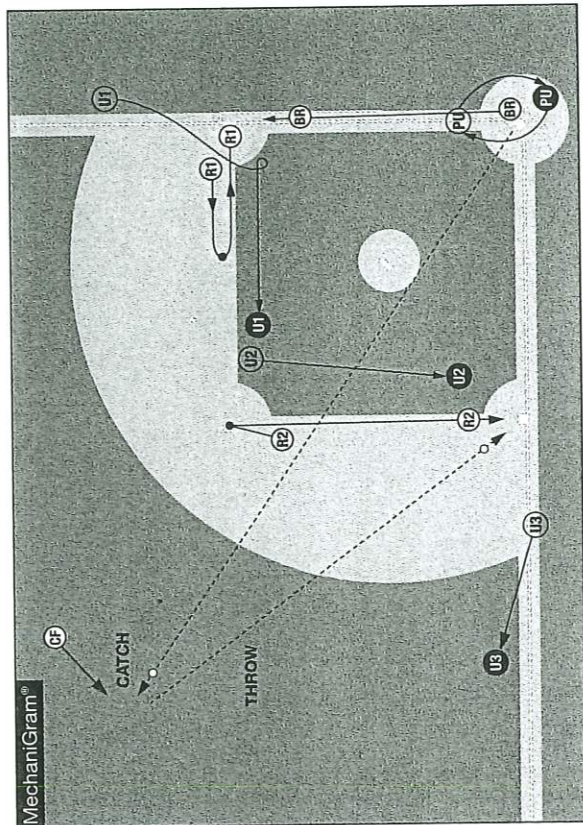
U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND

FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD: CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Deep fly ball caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R1 returns to first base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Is responsible for the tag-up at first base and any play that develops at home plate. PU should initially move in the direction of first base no more than a few steps off the dirt circle. Once you judge the tag-up at first base, return to the home plate area for any play that may develop there.

U1: Should be moving quickly towards second base (inside or to the outside of the diamond) while observing R2's tag-up at second base. U1 will take any play that may develop at either first or second base.

U2: Will work towards the area of third base (inside or outside of the diamond) and will be responsible for any play that develops at third base.

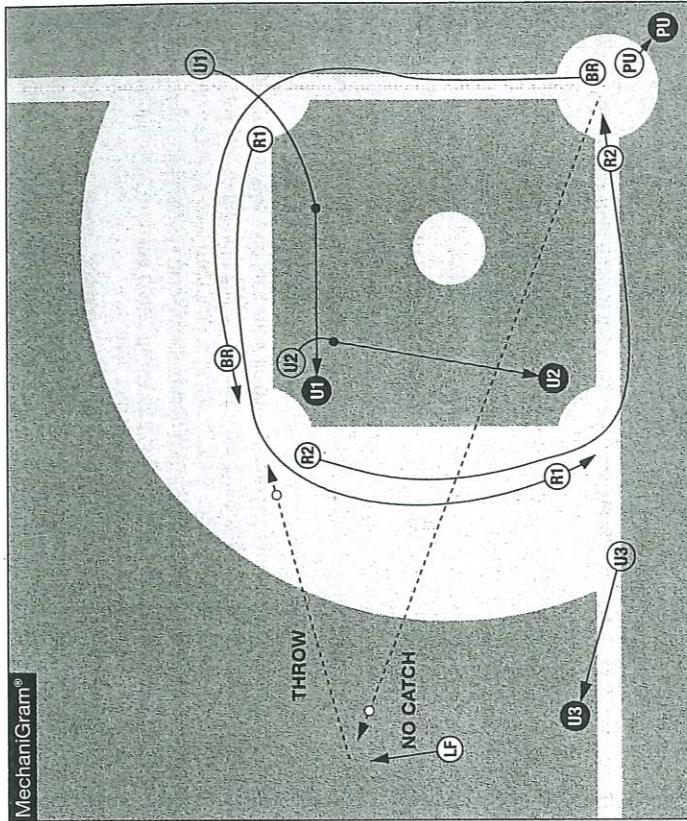
U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch in the outfield.

Point of Emphasis

This mechanic is only to be used when a fly ball is hit in U3's area. This will allow U2 to immediately release towards third base and get in the best possible position (inside or outside of the diamond) for any play that may develop there. U1 will have any play that develops at second base.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Has R2's base touch of third base, then retreats to the plate and moves into position for all plays there.

U1: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Observes R1's base touch at second base and has all plays there on R1 and all plays at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Crew of Four: Bases Loaded

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on.

PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on.

PU: Has all plays at the plate and, if possible, moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.

CREW OF FOUR: BASES LOADED

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

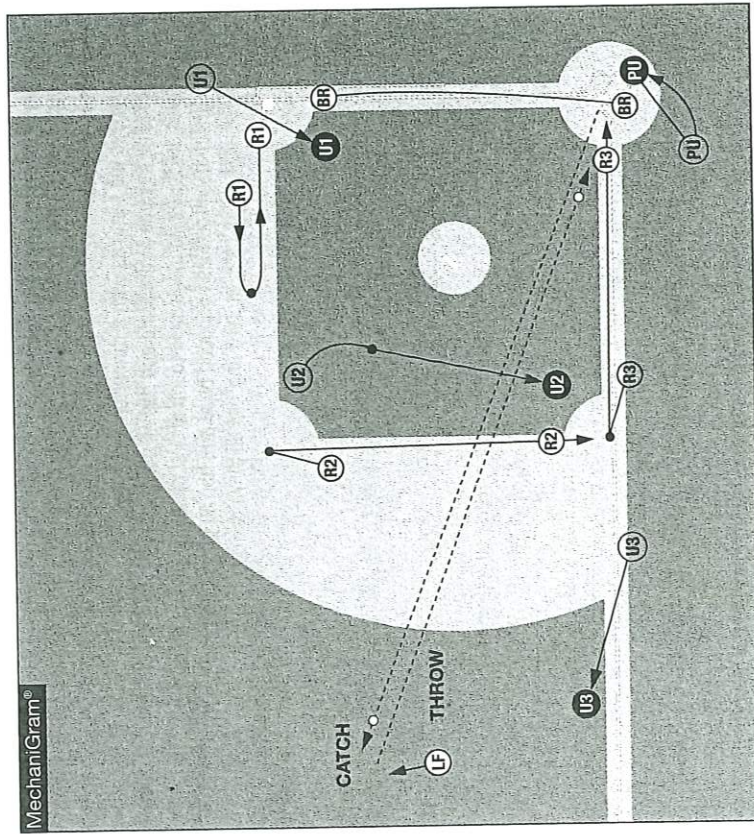
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base and has all plays there.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: CATCH, U3 GOES OUT

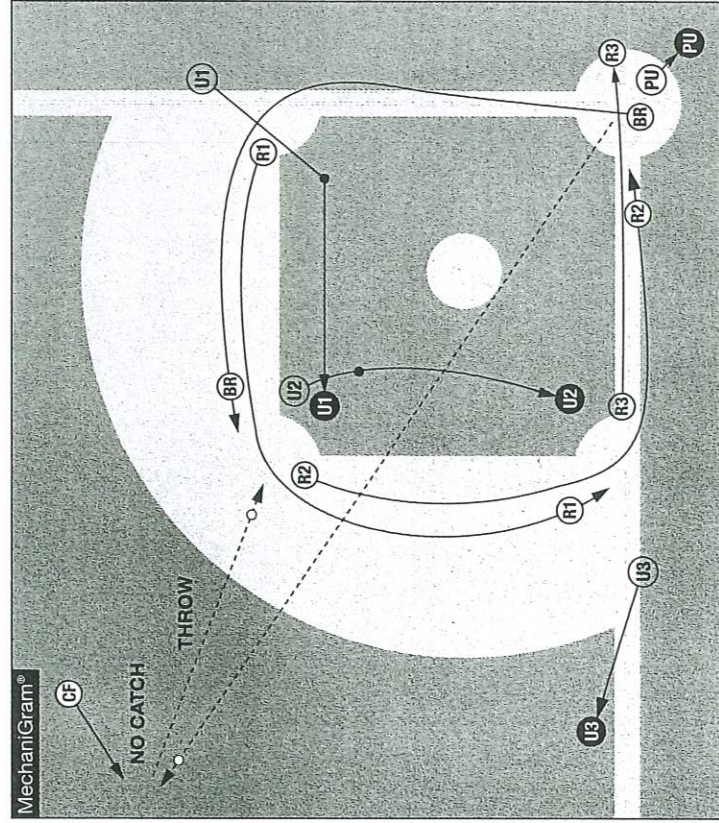


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:

- PU:** Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU retreats to the plate immediately for any play there.
- U1:** Observes R1's tag up and has all plays involving R1 at first base.
- U2:** Retreats and observes R2's tag up. U2 has all plays at third base and plays on R1 at second base.
- U3:** Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT

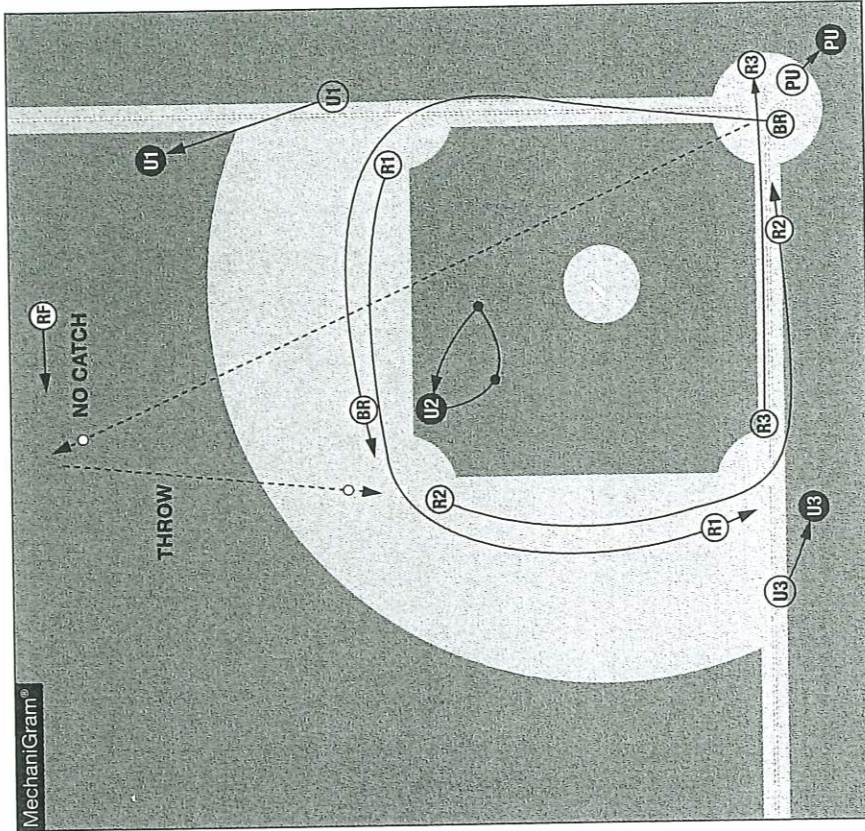


Action on the field: Fly ball to center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

- PU:** Has R2's base touch of third and all touches and plays at the plate.
- U1:** Enters the infield, observes the base touch of the batter-runner at first base and has all plays on the batter-runner at first or second base. U1 is also responsible for any secondary play at second base.
- U2:** Observes base touches at second base and has any play there on R1. U2 also has all plays at third base.
- U3:** Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: NO CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to right-center field, no catch; U1 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

- PU:** Has all plays at the plate.
- U1:** Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.
- U2:** Has all plays at first and second base, including R1's tag up at first base and R2's tag up at second base if the ball is caught.
- U3:** Has all plays at third base, including R3's tag up at third base if the ball is caught.

Crew of Four: Runners on First and Third

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only, with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on, with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on, with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.6.3), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

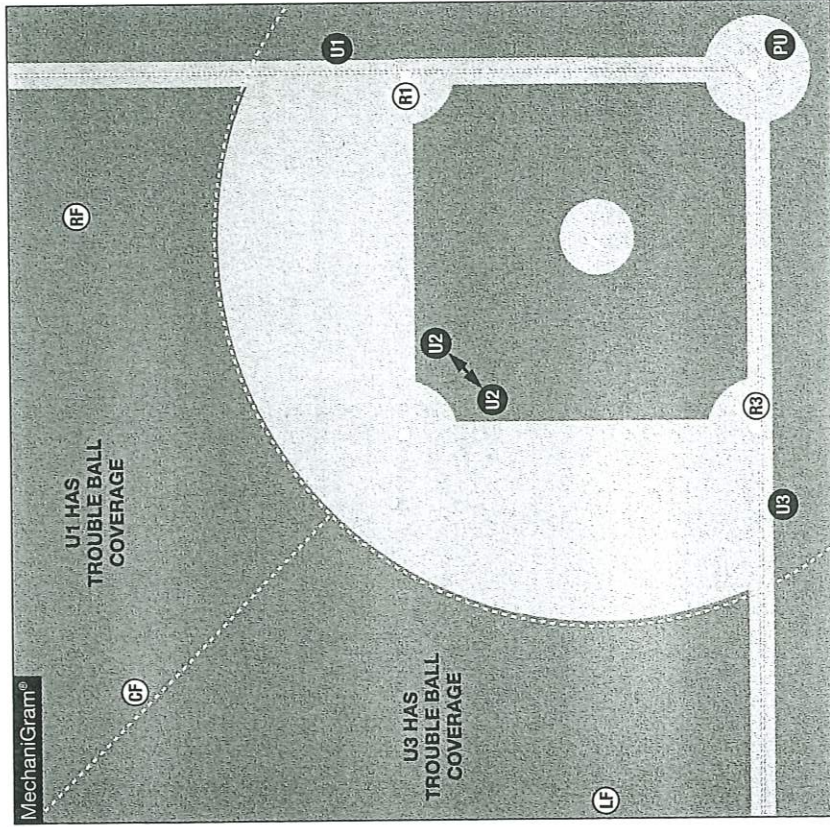
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

INITIAL POSITIONS AND OUTFIELD COVERAGE



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

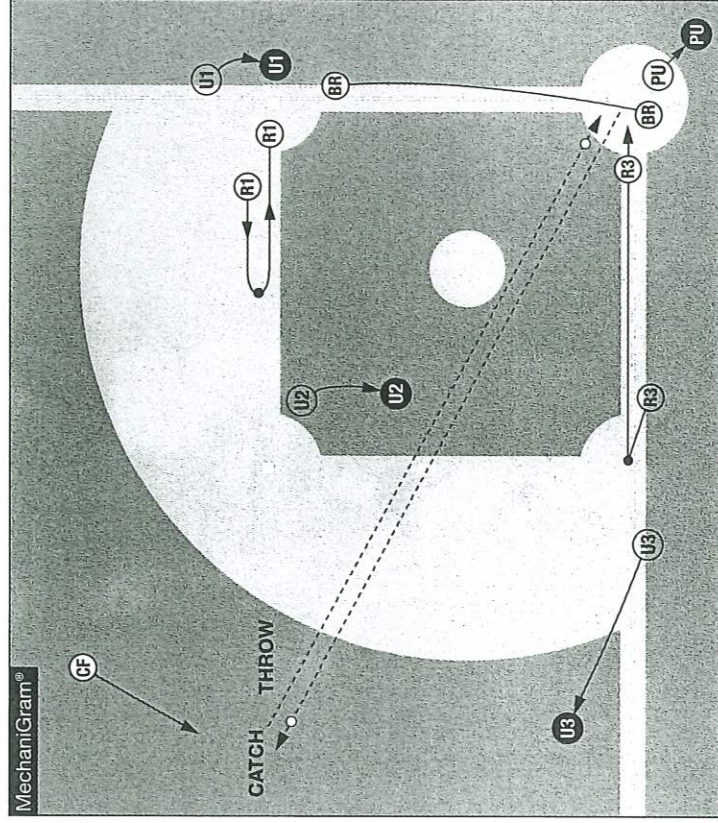
U1: Is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

FLY BALL TO LEFT-CENTER FIELD: CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 returns to first base

Umpire responsibilities:

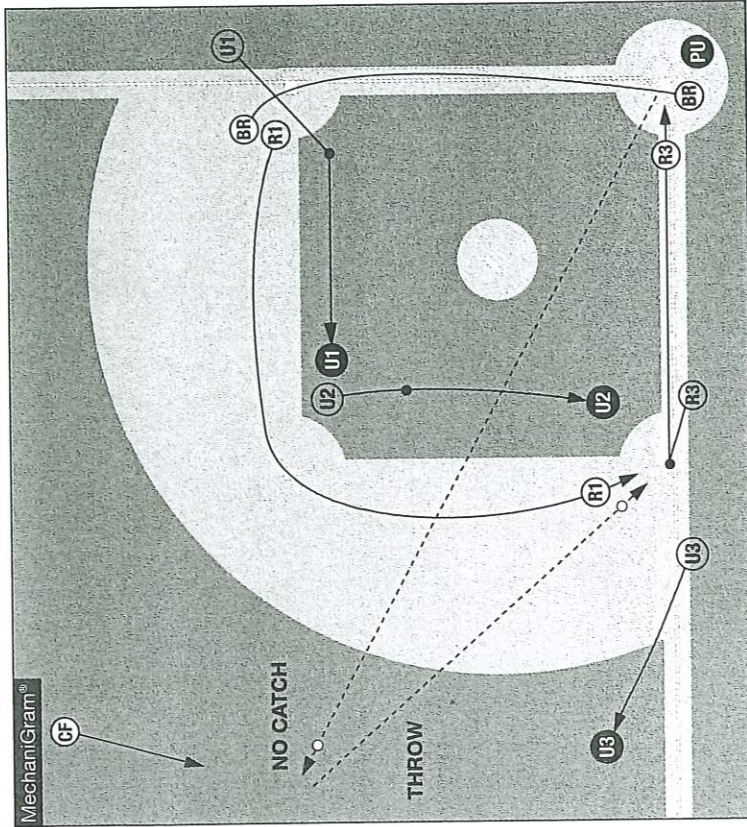
PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU retreats to the plate immediately for all plays there.

U1: Observes R1's tag up if applicable.

U2: Retreats and observes and has all plays at second and third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

FLY BALL TO LEFT-CENTER FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3, after going back to tag up, advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

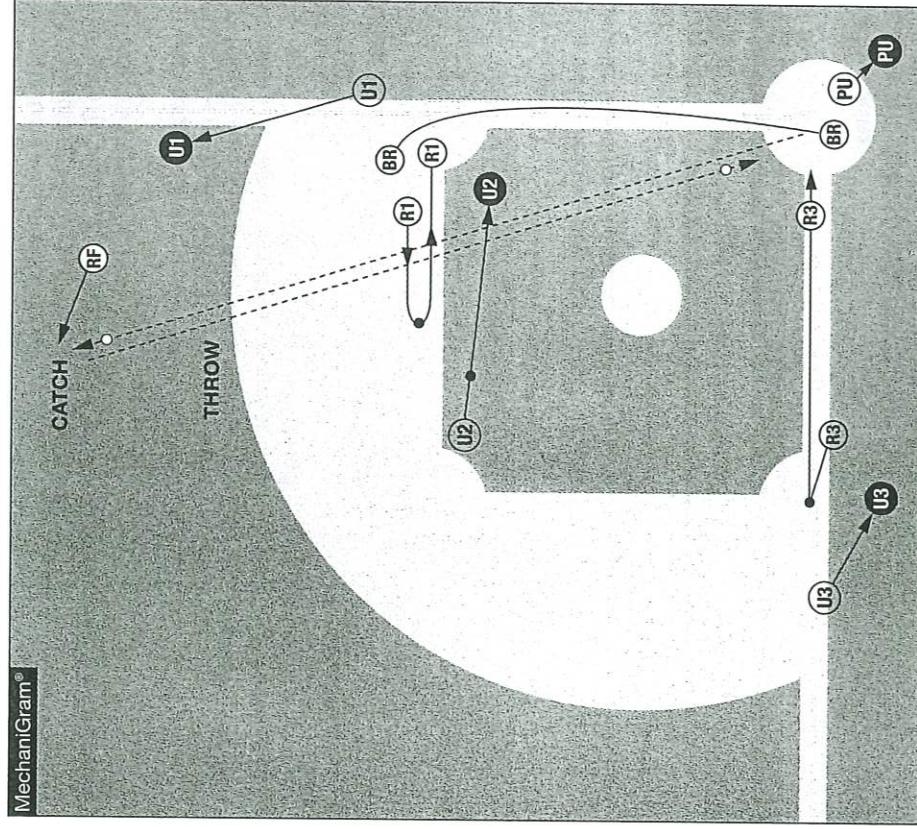
U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position to view the catch/no catch.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Retreats and observes R1's tag up. U2 has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.

Crew of Four: Runner on Second

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on.

PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is similar to plays with no runner on.

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

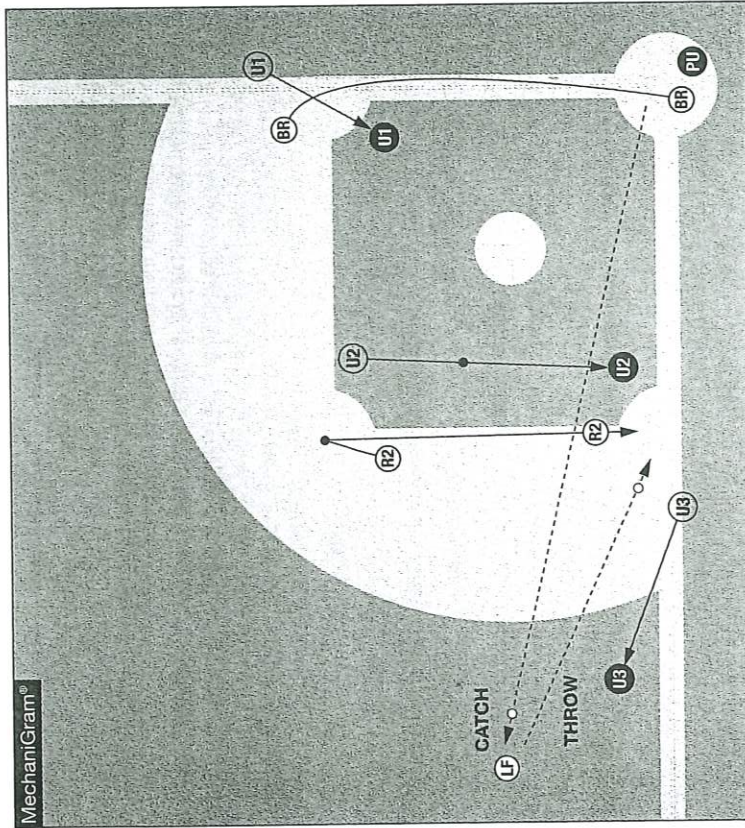
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

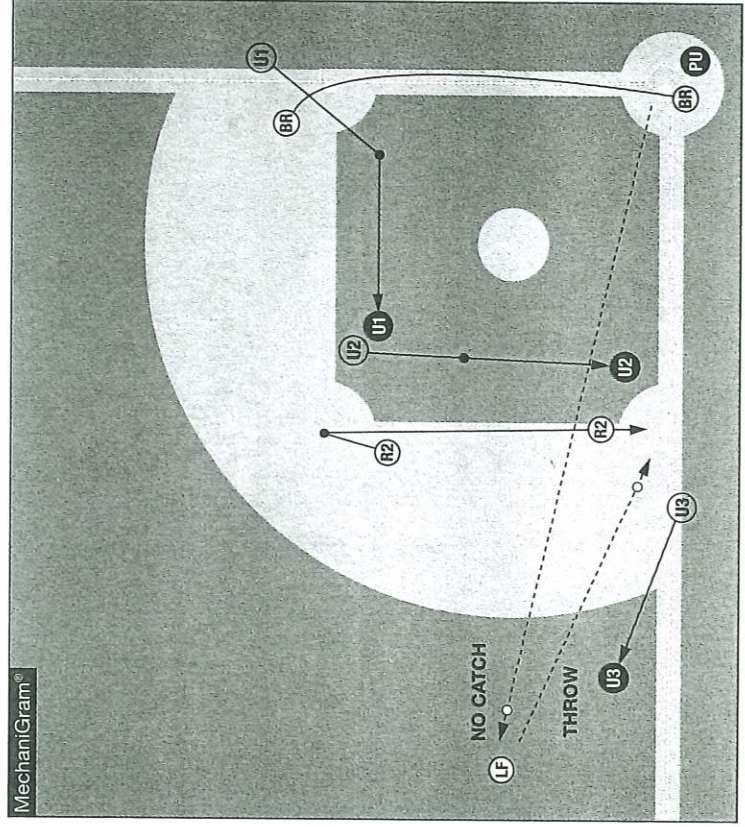
PU: Remains near the plate for all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner at first base.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up and has all plays at second and third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2, anticipating possible catch, tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there, BR advances toward second

Umpire responsibilities:

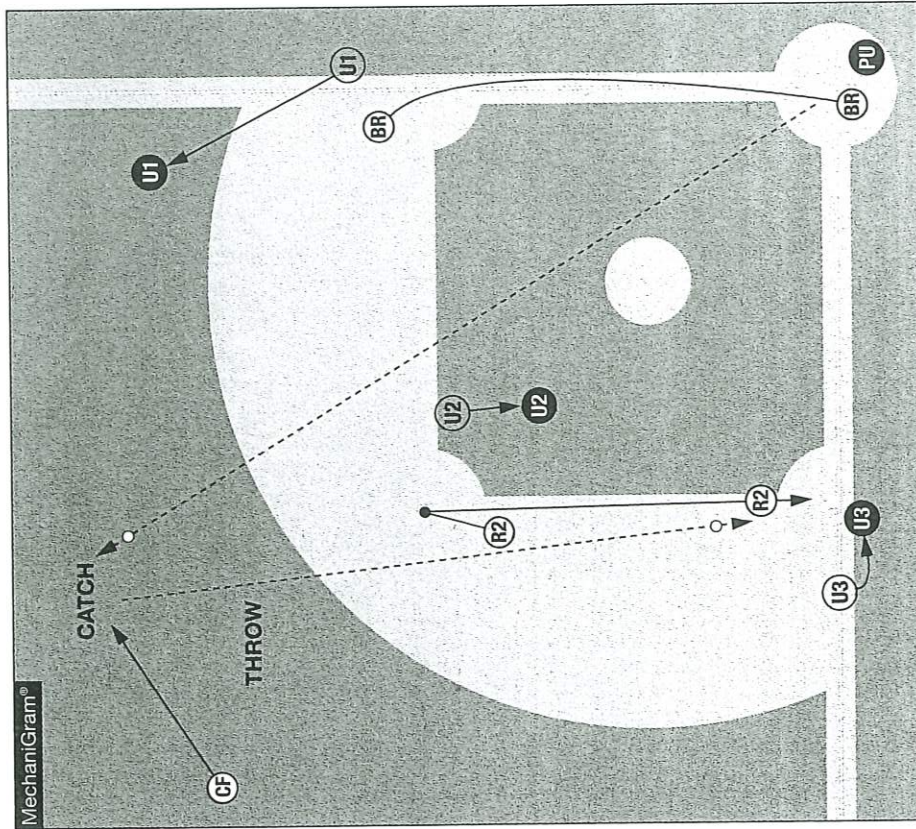
PU: Remains near the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves into the infield to prepare for possible plays on the batter-runner at first or second base.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up and goes to third base when R2 advances.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no-catch.

FLY BALL TO RIGHT-CENTER FIELD: CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder in right-center field; U1 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Remains near the plate and has any play there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Observes R2's tag up and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Has all plays at third base.

Crew of Four: Runners on Second and Third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base. U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has trouble balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all trouble balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has all routine fly balls from the left fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his left all the way to the right fielder going straight forward, straight back and to his right.

U3: Has all trouble balls with the center fielder going to his right and all trouble balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on.

PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is similar to plays with no runner on.

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Has all plays at second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base.

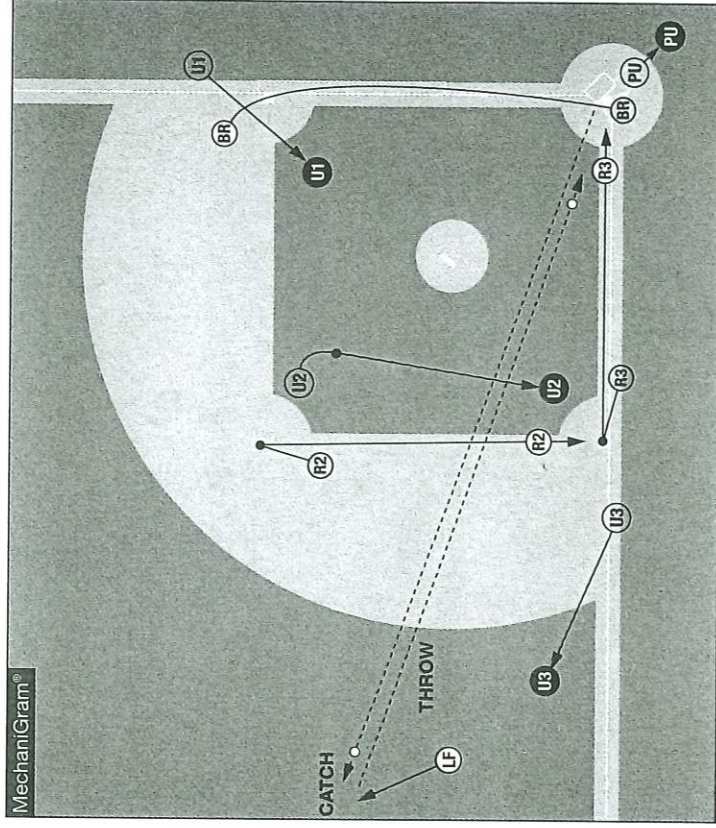
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU immediately returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Enters the infield immediately and has all plays at first and second base on the batter-runner.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up if applicable. U2 has all plays at second and third base on R2.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Crew of Four: Runner on Third

Initial Positions

The coverage is similar to no runners on.

- U1: Starts in the "A" position.
- U2: Starts in shallow left-center field. With less than two outs, U2 must be able to get to third base for any throws back to third when U3 goes out or any plays at first base if U1 goes out.
- U3: Starts in the "D" position.

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as no runners on, with U2 in shallow left-center field.

PU has catches:

- 1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
- 2. By the first and third basemen moving in.

U1 has catches:

- 1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
- 2. By the first baseman moving out or toward first base.
- 3. By the pitcher moving back.

U2 has catches:

- 1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
- 2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
- 3. By the first baseman moving right.
- 4. By the third baseman moving left.

U3 has catches:

- 1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
- 2. By the third baseman moving out or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as no runners on, with U2 in shallow left-center field.

- PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
- U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
- U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
- U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is the same as no runners on, with U2 in shallow left-center field.

- PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.
- U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
- U2: Moves toward second base.
- U3: Observes.

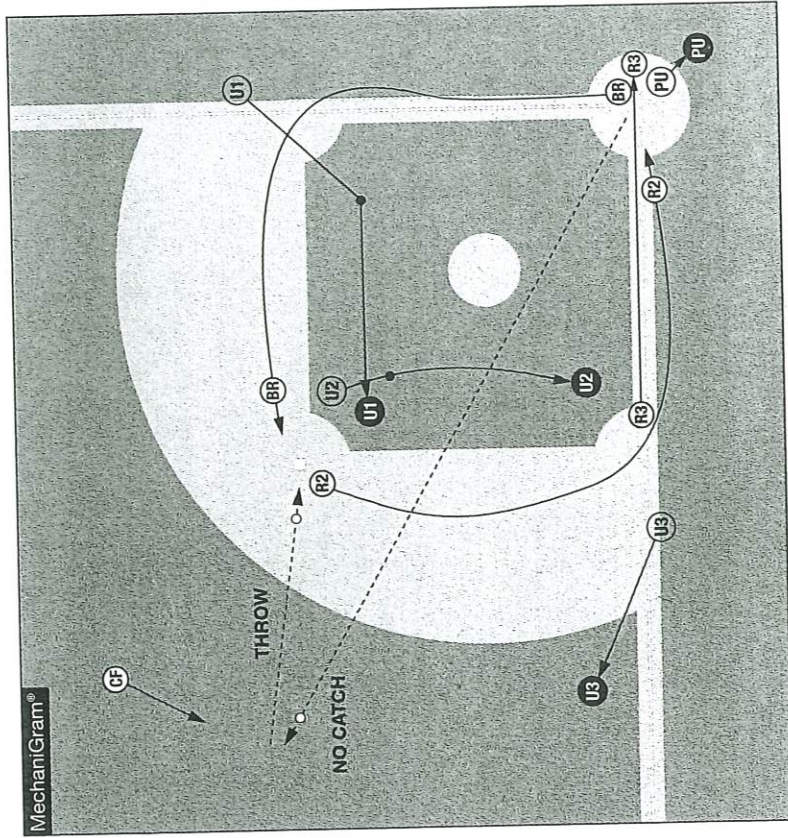
Clean Hit to the Outfield

The coverage is the same as no runners on, with U2 in shallow left-center field.

- PU: Observes and has all plays at the plate.
- U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base.
- U2: Moves toward second base and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at second base.
- U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Observes R3's tag up and returns to the plate for all plays there.

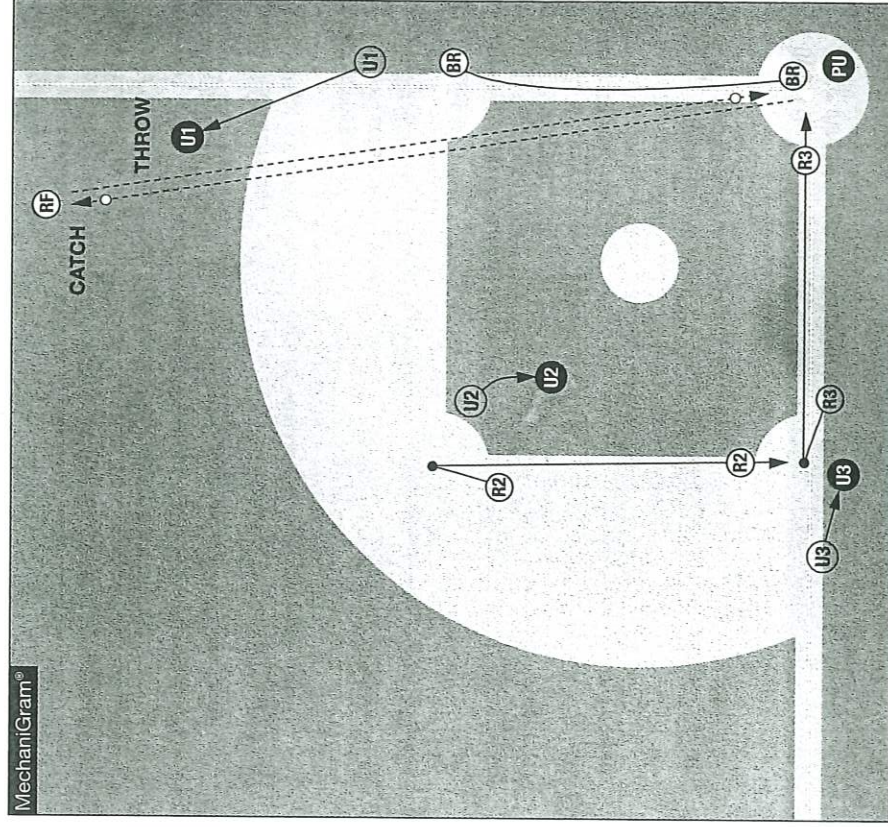
U1: Has all touches and plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Has all plays on R2 and R3 at second and third base.

U3: Moves to the best possible position to view the catch/no catch.

CREW OF FOUR: RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base

Umpire responsibilities:

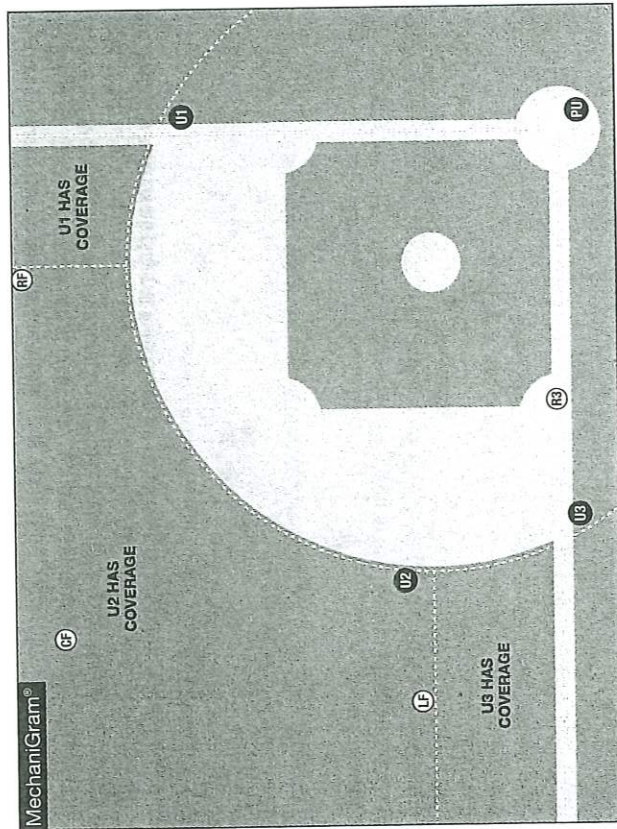
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Moves into position to observe R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.

INITIAL POSITIONS



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

U1: Starts in the "A" position. Responsible for outfield catches when the right fielder goes straight forward, straight back or moves towards the foul line.

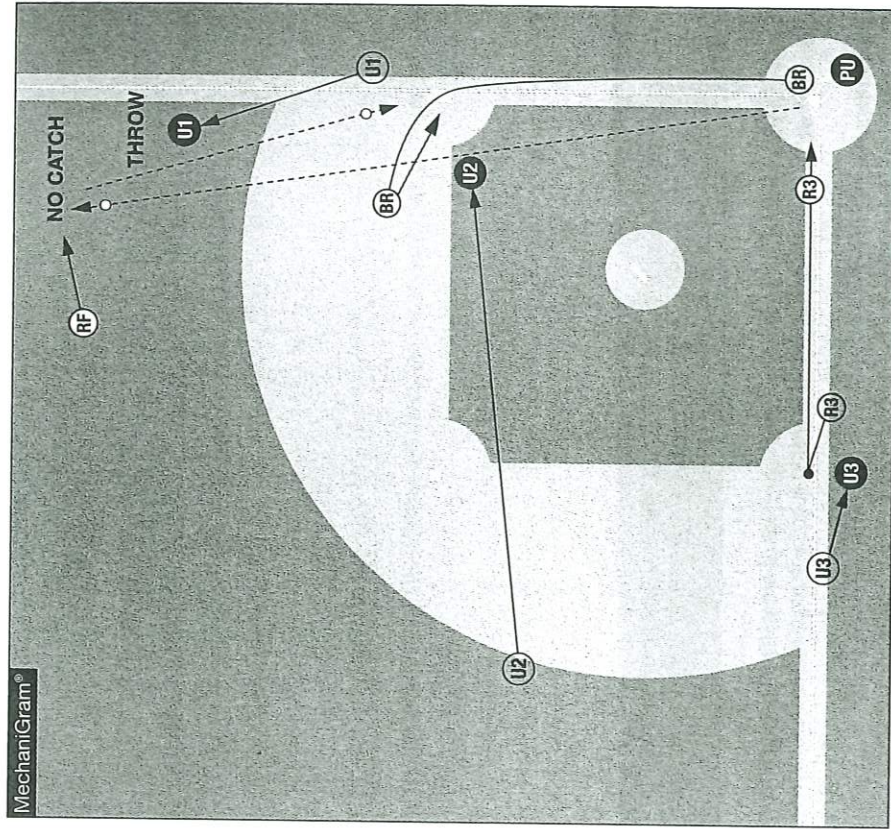
U2: Starts in the outfield (shallow left-center field w/ less than 2 outs) and will now go out on any trouble fly ball that takes the left fielder straight forward, straight back or to his left and all the way over to the right fielder who goes to his right. U2 is the "quarterback" when reading fly balls in this scenario. Anytime a ball is hit in a gray area, U2 will dictate coverage by either going out or coming into the infield.

U3: Starts in the "C" position. Responsible for outfield catches when the left fielder moves towards the foul line.

Point of Emphasis

U2 will no longer shift over toward third base with less than two outs. In this situation, U2 is required to be on the left-field side of second base. Utilizing this new mechanic, U2 will retain his normal coverage of having all trouble balls in the outfield "in the V" from left to right field. Additionally, U2 will be in better position to take a batter-runner back to first base should U1 go out. U2 should always remain over the shortstop's inside (left) shoulder closest to second base to help with all line-drive coverage.

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD: NO CATCH, U1 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R3, after going back to tag up, advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base and returns, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

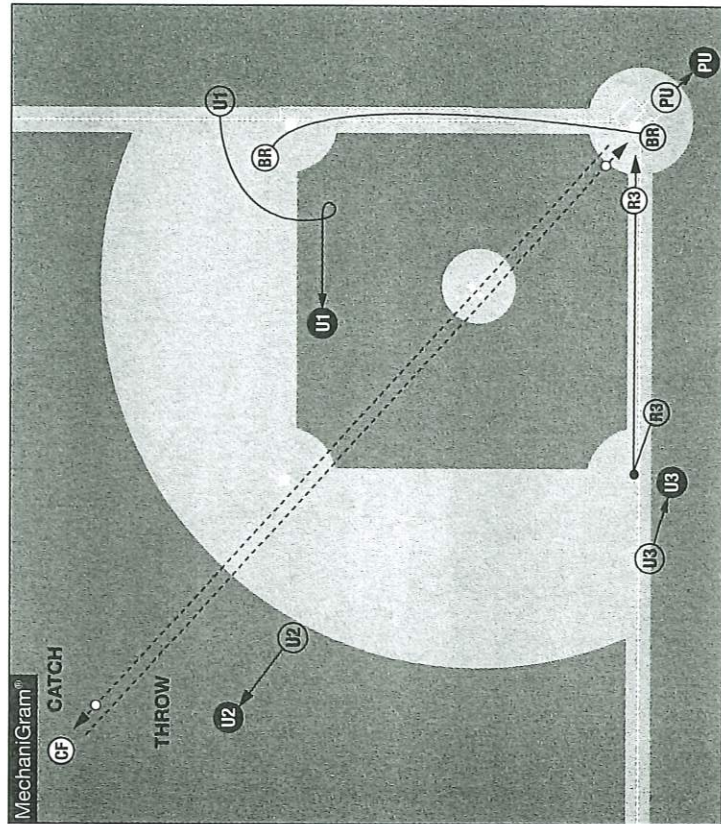
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U2: Moves into the infield at second base. U2 has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Observes R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.

FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD: CATCH, U2 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; U2 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and takes the batter-runner into second.

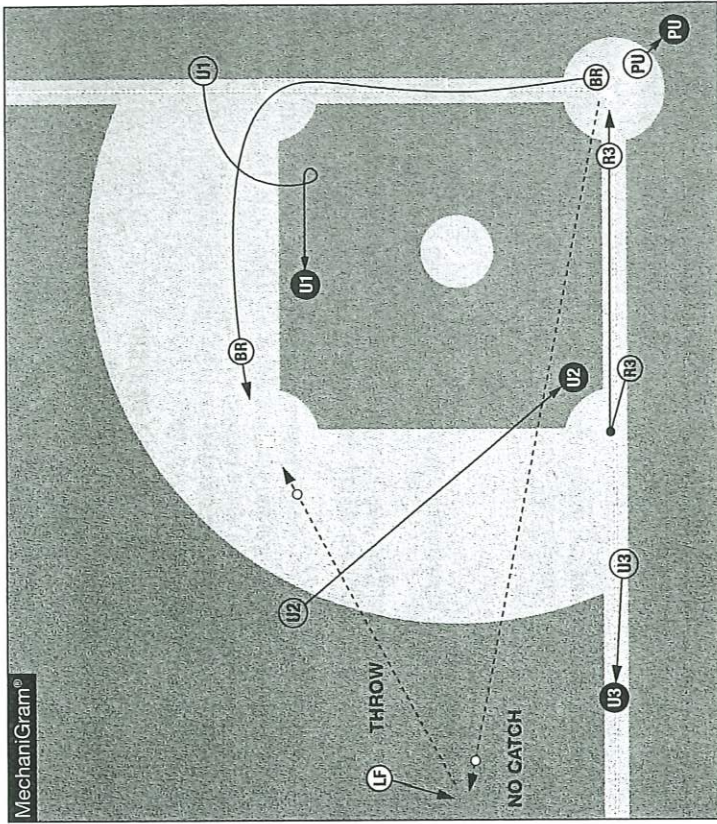
U2: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U3: Lines up the tag of R3 and has the throw back at third base.

Point of Emphasis

With a runner on third base only, less than 2 outs and U2 goes out, U1 will take the batter-runner to second base allowing U3 to remain at third and lineup the tag. With two outs and U2 going out, U3 will come across the diamond and be responsible for any play that may develop at either second or third base.

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD: NO CATCH, U3 GOES OUT



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3, after tagging up, advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there

Umpire responsibilities:

PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's potential tag up. PU observes R3's touch of the plate and remains at the plate for any potential play there on the batter-runner.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and takes the batter-runner into second.

U2: Enters the infield immediately and moves into position to cover any play at third base.

U3: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.