

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1757 What if You Make a Major League Error at Work Today?

I started playing baseball when I was eight. I fell in love with the game. Along with soccer, it's the only major team sport where size does not necessarily play a major factor in success. You hit the ball, run the bases, and play the field, preventing the opponent from scoring as many runs as you do. Beautifully simple. And, if you get a chance to watch the pros play, they do so at the highest level. Until they don't. I'm Jerry Roberts and it's "batter up", next on The Extra Point.

Do you ever make mistakes at work? Let me ask the question a different way. Have you ever made a mistake that was unimaginably embarrassing, and resulted in your team suffering some sort of loss?

Most people, if they try hard and especially if they take chances, will get something wrong. People who never make mistakes are judged to be playing it safe, totally avoiding risk.

I've made plenty of mistakes, and maybe you have too. Some of mine were made on the radio or in the pages of a magazine, so they were noticed by a lot of people.

That being said, none of them have been immortalized on YouTube for countless millions to see now and for as long as this planet shall survive.

However, for Luke Jackson and Jake Burger, they're not so fortunate. Those two play for the Texas Rangers, who were in San Francisco to play the Giants yesterday.

Luke Jackson is a 15-year veteran pitcher, and the closer for the Rangers. The "closer" is usually considered the most reliable relief pitcher on the team. Jackson is being paid \$1.5 million this year.

Jake Burger, the first baseman, is in his eighth year and makes \$790,000, just a bit more than the \$760,000 minimum for all players. If you applied Guam's wage scale, which begins at \$9.25 per hour, he would be earning \$9.62

hourly. Thus, even though he has eight years in the league, he's still more or less entry-level.

It's the bottom of the 9th inning yesterday, with the score tied 2-2, and first up for the Giants is Heliot Ramos, the left-fielder, an average hitter.

Jackson pitched and Ramos barely hit the ball, topping it and it rolled to the Jackson's right. He jumped off the mound, grabbed the ball while leaning toward third base, and threw the ball toward Burger at first base, but missed him by 10 feet.

The ball rolled into foul ground, chased by Burger, and Ramos cruised into second base. That should have been the end of the play, Ramos on second with nobody out.

Burger had eased up a little in getting to the ball, figuring Ramos would stop at second. Ramos saw that and accelerated toward third base.

Burger then hurried his throw to third and he also missed connections with the third baseman by 10 feet, with the ball skipping past the fielder and into foul territory on the left side.

Ramos, who had slid into third, popped up and scampered for home plate, almost exhausted, and belly-flopped in to score the winning run.

It's being called a "little league home run", because it's the kind of thing you see when the young kids play. You don't ever expect to see it at the Major League level. Yet, it was on display in San Francisco yesterday.

As mentioned, I've made my share of mistakes. No single error cost my team a game, whether that team was in broadcasting, publishing, training, or anything I was involved with. I did my best to fix the problem and moved on.

(Con't.)

So, if you make a mistake at work and it isn't a total disaster, do what you can to make things right. Then, if your boss calls you in to chew on you about it., dial up YouTube and search for "Little League home run."

Let the boss see it, share a laugh, and know that things could have been a lot worse.

You could be making big bucks as a big leaguer, and enjoy success, but the only thing many (if not most) fans will remember about you is the day you played like a little leaguer.

Because that video will play on and on and on.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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For information on training and consulting services with Jerry Roberts, please click this link: guamtraining.com

