

How many Stars and what kind of player are you?

Rate yourself by circling the paragraph that fits you best. There are no right or wrong answers, just what fits you.

1. Courage:

- A. Show willingness to get in front of hard-hit ground balls, hanging in there on tag plays and sliding into bases on close plays.
- B. Turns head away and tries to backhand hard-hit balls; tries to watch the runner and ball at the same time on tag plays usually missing both-and slides only when there is no other alternative.

2. Daring:

- A. Take chances on the bases and try for the shoestring catch when the percentages are not in my favor.
- B. Am content to stay put on the bases, advancing only when it is a sure thing, and usually give up on balls hit in front of me, regardless of the percentages.

3. Fortitude:

- A. Insist on playing despite a minor injury that may be bothersome but not serious or dangerous. Of course there are players who seem to have a higher pain threshold than others. The great Yankee star Mickey Mantle played most of his career with both legs taped from the calf to the thigh. Mantle possessed great natural abilities, but those who played alongside him will probably remember him more for courage and fortitude.
- B. Use almost any excuse to stay out of competition and often points to a minor injury as an explanation for a poor performance.

4. Dedication:

- A. Perform every assignment given as if the game depended upon it, even if that job amounted to no more than warming up a relief pitcher or coaching first base.
- B. Feel that certain tasks are beneath me and approaches non-playing assignments with cool indifference.

5. Concentration:

- A. Ability to exclude everything from my consciousness but the task at hand. As a hitter, stands up at the plate against a hard-throwing pitcher and thinks about one thing –getting a base hit.
- B. Is easily distracted- often bothered by the oppositions bench talk, irregularities in the field, weather, etc. As a batter, usually more concerned with not being hit than with getting a hit.

6. Pride:

- A. Shown in the way I wear my uniform. Look like a ball-player from the time I step on the field until I step off.

- B. Usually looks as though I am in the “process” of getting dressed. Shirttail out, no belt. Pant legs bloused incorrectly and cap askew. May also wear different colored sleeves or none, stretch the stirrup in my stockings, or use white laces in my shoes just to set myself apart from the other players.

7. Poise:

- A. Shown by the manner in which I conduct myself on the field. Content to let my performance speak for me and usually refrain from shows of temper, disgust, or amazement when I make a mistake or has a call go against me.
- B. Plays to the crowd by displaying my feelings for all to see. If I boot a ball or strike out, I let everyone know how disgusted I am by kicking my bat or helmet, etc.

8. Confidence:

- A. Approach every game situation with the feeling that I will succeed. For example, the pitcher who has confidence in his ability does not hesitate to throw his curveball when he is behind in the count. He knows he can get it over.
- B. Approach crucial situations hoping things will break my way. Would not think of throwing his curve when behind in the count because deep inside he doubts his ability to throw it for a strike.

9. Tenacity:

- A. Willingness to listen to a coach’s suggestions once and then go out and practice it a thousand times to perfect it.
- B. Usually he has to be told something over and over before I will practice it once.

10. Respect:

- A. Shown by the manner in which I treat umpires and others. May disagree with a call and occasionally lose his temper, but he never questions the integrity of an official. My extensive knowledge of the rules allows me to dispute interpretation calls intelligently.
- B. Considers all umpires as adversaries and treats them accordingly. Argues often and loudly. Finds it easy to blame an umpire for a loss.

11. Loyalty:

- A. Shown in my relationship with my coach and team-mates. Recognize my coach as a teacher of the game, not infallible but certainly as interested in winning as any player. A sincere interest in team morale prevents me from breaking rules.
- B. Often accuse the coach (not to his face) of selecting the line-up on the basis of personality rather than ability. He also tends to read something personal into the coach’s criticisms. Quick to accuse another for a mistake. Relationships with team-mates are superficial at best. Training rules are no great importance because they are unnecessary restrictions rather a mutual sacrifice that helps to bind team members together.

12. Consideration:

- A. Shown by the manner in which I treat opponents. Do everything within the rules to defeat rivals on the field but never make the game a personal matter. I observe the basic courtesies of the diamond such as retrieving the catcher's mask and telling base runners not to slide if there is no play. Give my best regardless of the score. After the game extend myself to thank his opponents for their efforts. As a loser I am gracious but offer no excuses. As a winner, he is humble but not phony.
- B. Like to battle an opponent as well as defeat him. My jibes are often of a personal nature. If my team happens to be winning the game easily, tend to ridicule my opponent by displaying an indifferent attitude for the remainder of the contest. If my team happens to end up on the short end of the score, find it extremely difficult to give my opponent credit for being the better team on that day. My comments usually include "they got all the breaks" or "they were lucky."

Add up the number of paragraphs you circled: A = _____ B = _____

Give yourself 1 Star for each A, and subtract 1 Star for each B. I am a _____ Star player.

If you have all "A"s you're a 12 star Pro, If you have all "B"s your considered non-professional (a Bush Leaguer).

The more stars you are the closer you are to being a Pro on the field. Work at it.

If your number of "B"s is more than "A"s (0 stars) your approach to the game needs some work and you must work to improve yourself.