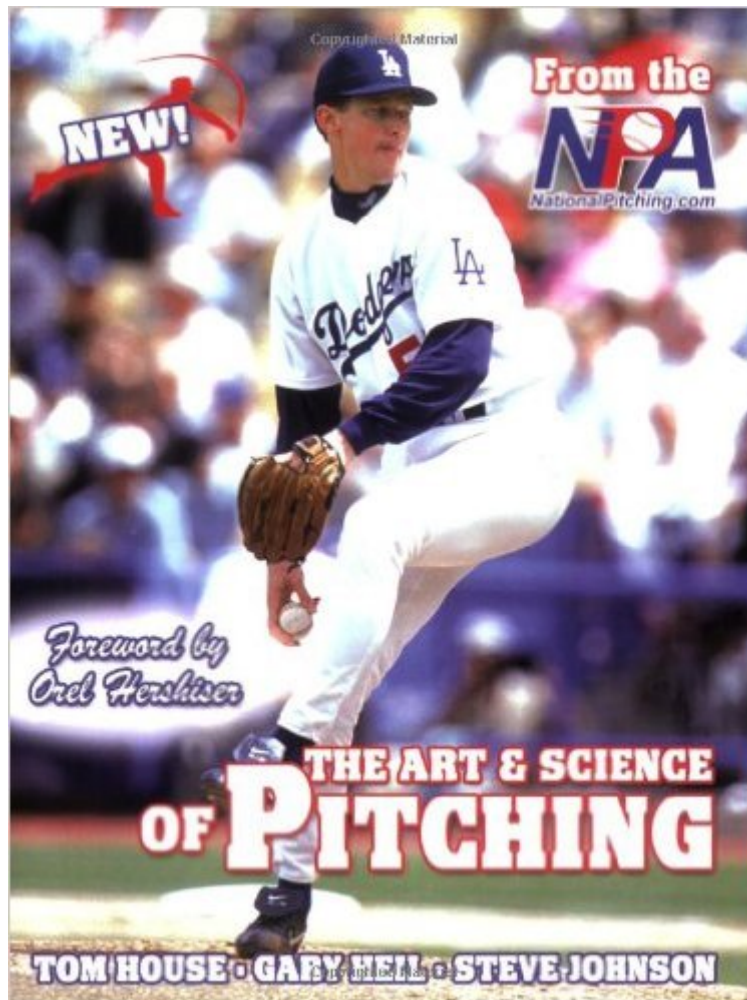


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# The Art & Science Of Pitching



## Synopsis

Noted authors, coaches, and consultants Tom House, Gary Heil, and Steve Johnson present this update on objective medical, exercise, and coaching pitching research. *The Art & Science of Pitching* provides current information on skills and drills for coaches, players, and parents. The book contains four sections: pitching biomechanics; building skills with drills; pitching goals, strategies, and tactics for competition; and functional fitness, mental/emotional management, nutrition, and arm care for health and performance. Each chapter describes in detail learning points and teaching applications of help improve the health and performance of pitchers from Little League to the Major Leagues. Large format and features over 250 clear pictures and images. Produced in cooperation with the National Pitching Association.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From page 47 to the end, this book is great. Chapter's 1-7 need plenty of help. First, if your going to talk about momentum (linear and angular) and kinetic energy, then explain what they are and how they relate. The same goes for terms like adduction and abduction. In that way, when a glove hand gets pulled into the finish position under the armpit or wherever, we can talk about the effect of that on angular acceleration; which leads to a discussion of torque and onward to angular velocity and ball speed. Second: get rid of quaint terms like foot/arch complex unless you explain what that means and why you have to say that instead of just 'arch'. Third, if your going to use stick figures from 2D and 3D imagery and talk about separation angles, then it would be nice if you defined the angles. For instance, hip shoulder separation angle (40-60 degrees) is stated but not defined. My question was, angle relative to what? A vertical line running through the front hip node or what? This

book is not an in-house memo and should not be written as such. Fourth: Graphs found in the figures are completely inadequate. Figures 3-3, 4-5, and 6-2 are good examples of decent data inadequately displayed. What's the point of distinguishing right and left arms on a horizontal adduction graph when the lines describing those two arms look identical? The lines in 6-2 are, I guess, supposed to represent the glove and glove elbow but the lines are identical and unlabeled. Figure 4-5 is the worst offender. There are supposed to be three lines showing angular velocity change with time (which should have been tied to a discussion of torque but no dice. One line is barely visible and the other lines are, again, indistinguishable. Even my students know that color displays converted to black and white require some extra thought if the display is going to be useful. Do right by your data, always. This data deserves better.

I loved *The Pitching Edge* VHS years ago. It made perfect sense to me. I never got the book, but want to now. I have the utmost respect for Tom House; he has dedicated his life to helping pitchers be the best they can be. He prolonged Nolan Ryan's career. But, I found this book hard to follow. I had troubling lining up some of the photos with explanations. It was highly technical in places, so much so that I could not follow it (I've coached Youth and HS for over 20 years). I also found points counter intuitive, especially when coaching younger kids. I'd never tell a developing pitcher to close up and step across the front leg, or, conversely step out and fly open. Step to your target! I'm finding myself much less interested in the physics than in what my instincts or gut reaction tells me. I've followed *The Pitching Edge* for years and those principles have worked. My guys throw hard, have had no arm trouble at all, and can go innings. To each his own, I guess.

My husband grew up playing baseball and pitched every so often. After Pony baseball he hung up his players cleats and picked up his coaches' whistle, but he has played on occasional adult leagues. We now have a 11 year old and as my husband was reading through this book, he realized that many of the things taught to him as a player were actually incorrect. This book gives new perspective on proper mechanics and should be read by anyone wanting to be a better pitcher and keep their arm healthy as well as parents and coaches to help protect younger arms. My husband may not be as flexible as was in Pony, but with this book my husband and son are throwing better with refined mechanics which this book promotes.

I grew up playing baseball and pitching. After college, I hung up the cleats and did not play until recently when I joined a mens senior baseball league. Reading through this book, you realize that

many of the things taught to players were actually incorrect. This book sheds new light on proper mechanics and should be read by anyone wanting to be a better pitcher and keep their arm healthy. I am not as strong, flexible, or conditioned as I was in high school or college, but I am now throwing almost as hard as I was then and with no elbow or shoulder pain.

Tom House is the premier pitching coach in the United States and has a large cross section of successful pitchers that attribute many of their pitching achievements to House's training and expertise. His relentless studies on the biomechanics of pitching combined with the use of inventive technology have resulted in an encyclopedia of pitching expertise backed by science, experience, and results. In *The Art & Science of Pitching*, House (along with fellow authors Gary Heil and Steve Johnson) provides readers access to the full scope of his research. *The Art & Science of Pitching* is laid out in four sections; mechanics, training techniques, strategies, and fitness, all complete with diagrams when applicable. This book is as comprehensive as it is valuable, meaning it is absolutely full of qualified information. One of the weaknesses of the book is in the authors' ability to convey the physics behind the mechanics of pitching. While it is evident they have conducted considerable studies on the subject, it can be difficult to replicate their explanations on the mound even when reviewing the diagrams provided. Another surprising omission is the lack of attention to discussing grips; which play a prominent role in pitching. The information provided should be essential for anyone seeking to improve his or her performance; whether beginning as a pitcher or refining one's abilities after years of play. The book will prove somewhat complicated to use for those without any pitching experience; however, this should not detract from the wisdom provided, as it should be implemented from the start of any career if possible. I recommend this book to all baseball players interested in pitching but advise supplementing it with more basic material in order to be able to fully absorb the information.

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