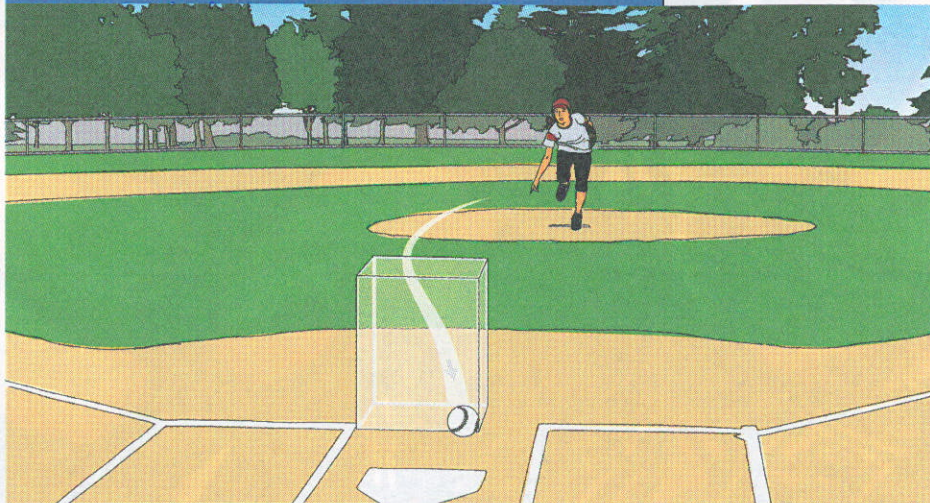


# THE JUMP

# NEXT

TOMORROW'S BUZZ ... TODAY



## SOFT SALE

As Jerry Johnson discovered earlier this year, there's a simple way to invent a new softball pitch that's as reliable as the changeup, curveball and dropball: Just combine all three. After spending a year experimenting with different grips and release points, the softball pitching coach at West Virginia's Mountain State University unspooled an offering that dropped across the plate along an 11-to-5 path while traveling off-speed. Suspecting that he had developed a new toss, Johnson e-mailed Ernie Parker, who has coached the likes of Olympians Jennie Finch and Lisa Fernandez on his national teams. Parker confirmed that the "triple pitch" is indeed brand-new and requested to see a video of it in action. Johnson did him one better and made the drive to Parker's home in Memphis for a live demonstration. Impressed, Parker helped Johnson spread the word. Then, with the aid of MSU pitcher Natalie Hanson and catcher Jennifer Sloan, Johnson filmed a 40-minute instructional video (\$19.95, available mid-September at [jerryfastpitch.com](http://jerryfastpitch.com)) that displays the triple pitch's two different grips and release points. Hanson has since thrown the triple pitch effectively in competition, creating a worldwide buzz that has competitors like Tanya Harding (the pitcher, not the skater) of the Australian Olympic team calling Johnson to inquire about its mechanics. So far, to no avail. Says Johnson: "I can't give away the grip because then nobody will buy the video." —ALEJANDRO DE LOS RIOS

## WHAT TO WATCH FOR

### SUNDAY SEPT 03

**FIBA WORLD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL: JAPAN**  
Turns out, other countries refuse to recognize the Heat as world champs.

### FRIDAY SEPT 08

**F1 ITALIAN GRAND PRIX, OPENING DAY: MONZA**  
The biggest event on F1's schedule, much like the Daytona 500 is to NASCAR. Without the fist fights.

### SUNDAY SEPT 10

**WORLD VOLLEYBALL WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX FINAL: ITALY**  
Or, as most guys know it, "the one without bikinis."

### SUNDAY SEPT 10

**COLTS AT GIANTS: EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.**  
Brother meets brother in what is being touted as the Manning Bowl. A rematch is tentatively set for February—on Peyton's front lawn.

## LEADER BOARD

THEN	NOW	
NR	1	<b>Colt McCoy</b> 6'3" frosh Texas QB. At least he
417	2	<b>Ski pipe</b> Skiers want Olympics. Somewher
NR	3	<b>Jordan Bean</b> Li'l League Series start. Red Sox
80	4	<b>Dope Fairy</b> Gatlin, Jo explain test results. V
NR	5	<b>Kimberly Kim</b> Golfer amateur champ ever



## PIT CREW

Facing in and an in competit lines dic America these da

NASCAR. Looking to boost employee enrolled workers in Pit Crew U, a th that teaches students about NASC crew methods—which, by extension, their own tasks. "The specificity of jol NASCAR pit crews so effective," say director and teacher at PCU. "Unite interchange duties, so nobody beca United spokeswoman Megan McCa ramp employees know what they're past it was more, 'I'll do this and the they have set tasks." United's goal, N to get 100 more flights in the air a layovers will now be called pit stops.



## IN THE SHORT STUFF

Deeper rough, tougher pins, tighter fairways. All part of the "Tiger-proofing" that goes on at golf tournaments across America. But the Ohio Golf Association just went further: shorter balls. "The game has

degenerated into a driving contest," says Jim Popa, OGA's executive director. So at a recent amateur event, golfers used low-compression, high-spin balls designed to take a few yards off the

big dogs' bites. Response was positive, according to Popa, and the scores were comparable to those of years past. But the USGA is skeptical. "Selection of any one ball would favor some," says technical director

Dick Ruge. The govt asked manufacturers for shorter balls, but it c plans to make change know why. "If we're g let's do it," he says.