

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2008

**UMPIRE TRAINING CD-ROM AVAILABLE**

*Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball Team Up on "Virtual Umpire Camp"*

Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball have collaborated on an interactive CD-ROM entitled the "Virtual Umpire Camp," the most comprehensive umpiring tutorial tool available anywhere. The Virtual Umpire Camp was developed by Immersion Media, Inc. on behalf of Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball's Professional Baseball Umpire Corporation (PBU). The product, which is officially licensed by Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball, is now available for purchase, retailing for \$29.99, at the official site of Immersion Media, <http://www.imsports.com/inventions.php>.

The Virtual Umpire Camp will assist in the training of umpires throughout Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball. Through computer animation and 3D signals derived from a motion-capture session, the disk focuses on umpiring mechanics, positioning, and extensive situational training. In addition to the four-umpire system used in Major League Baseball, the disk also incorporates instruction for the two-umpire and three-umpire systems that are used in youth baseball and softball leagues and at the high school and college levels.

MLB Umpire Supervisor Rich Rieker, who administered the development of the MLB Umpire Camps, based at MLB's Urban Youth Academy in California, said: "Major League Baseball is delighted that the Virtual Umpire Camp will be accessible as a resource to umpires at every level of our game. Major League Baseball and Minor League Baseball share the objective of teaching good officiating, and the Virtual Umpire Camp will be an invaluable part of our process for educating the umpires who work Major League Baseball games."

PBUC Executive Director Justin Klemm said: "The development of this training tool is the first of its kind as we brought together the only two organizations responsible for training professional baseball umpires to produce the ultimate resource for both the amateur and professional ranks. This DVD is the ideal supplement for any umpire who wants to fully grasp the correct mechanics."

Added Immersion Media President Rick Perko: "We are proud of this product and appreciate the support from both Major League Baseball and PBUC. We truly believe that with their collaboration, this is the best product in the marketplace. We anticipate creating versions in other languages in seasons to come."

The CD-ROM is available for purchase at <http://www.imsports.com/inventions.php>. Additional information is available at [www.MLBUC.com](http://www.MLBUC.com), the official web site of the MLB Umpire Camps. The 2008 Major League Baseball Umpire Camps will be held from November 9-16 at Major League Baseball's Urban Youth Academy in Compton, California.

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