

6u baseball practice plan

6u Baseball Practice Plan: A Critical Analysis of Current Trends

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Summary: This analysis examines the efficacy of current 6u baseball practice plans, assessing their alignment with developmental principles and current trends in youth sports. It argues for a shift toward play-based learning and emphasizes the importance of skill development over early specialization. The analysis proposes a revised 6u baseball practice plan incorporating elements of fun, engagement, and age-appropriate skill building.

Introduction: The Evolution of the 6u Baseball Practice Plan

The landscape of youth baseball is constantly evolving. What constituted a successful 6u baseball practice plan a decade ago may not be optimal today. Current trends emphasize a holistic approach to youth athletic development, prioritizing fundamental skill acquisition, enjoyment, and long-term athletic participation over early specialization and intense competition. This analysis critically examines existing 6u baseball practice plans, evaluating their effectiveness in light of these contemporary trends. A crucial aspect of any 6u baseball practice plan is its ability to balance skill development with fun and engagement, ensuring a positive and lasting impact on young athletes.

Current Trends in Youth Baseball and their Impact on 6u Practice Plans

Several significant trends shape the optimal design of a 6u baseball practice plan:

Emphasis on Fundamental Skills: A strong 6u baseball practice plan prioritizes the development of fundamental skills like throwing, catching, batting, and running. Advanced techniques are best left for later developmental stages.

Play-Based Learning: Learning through play is crucial at this age. Structured drills should be

interspersed with informal games and free play to maintain engagement and foster a love for the game. A poorly structured 6u baseball practice plan can quickly turn into a frustrating experience for young players.

Focus on Motor Skill Development: At 6 years old, motor skills are still developing rapidly. A 6u baseball practice plan needs to incorporate activities that promote hand-eye coordination, balance, and agility.

Positive Coaching: Creating a positive and encouraging environment is paramount. Emphasis should be on effort, participation, and improvement, rather than solely on performance outcomes. This is a critical element often missing from poorly designed 6u baseball practice plans.

Age-Appropriate Training: Overtraining and excessive specialization are detrimental at this age. A 6u baseball practice plan should be short, fun, and focused on building a foundation for future development.

Critical Analysis of Existing 6u Baseball Practice Plans

Many existing 6u baseball practice plans fall short in several key areas:

Overemphasis on Competition: Some plans prioritize winning scrimmages or games too early, neglecting the crucial developmental aspect of skill acquisition.

Insufficient Play-Based Activities: A lack of play-based activities can lead to boredom and decreased engagement, hindering learning and development. This can be a significant flaw in many 6u baseball practice plans.

Lack of Individualized Attention: Coaches may fail to provide sufficient individualized instruction, leaving some players behind and neglecting their specific needs.

Ignoring Motor Skill Development: Practices might focus solely on baseball-specific skills without adequately addressing fundamental motor skill development.

Excessively Long Practice Sessions: Overly long practice sessions can lead to burnout and decreased attention spans.

A Proposed Revised 6u Baseball Practice Plan

A more effective 6u baseball practice plan should incorporate the following elements:

Warm-up (10 minutes): Dynamic stretching, light cardio, and fun games to get the players energized and focused.

Throwing and Catching Drills (15 minutes): Focus on proper throwing mechanics and developing accurate throws at different distances. Incorporate games like "Around the Horn" to make it enjoyable.

Batting Practice (15 minutes): Soft toss, tee work, and light hitting drills focusing on proper grip, stance, and swing mechanics. Avoid pressure and focus on making good contact.

Running and Fielding Drills (15 minutes): Simple base running drills and ground ball fielding practice, emphasizing proper footwork and glove work.

Game-like Scenarios (15 minutes): Short games or modified games focusing on skill application and teamwork.

Cool-down (5 minutes): Static stretching and a brief recap of the practice session.

This revised 6u baseball practice plan emphasizes fun, engagement, and skill development, fostering a positive learning environment that promotes long-term participation and enjoyment of the sport.

Conclusion

The design of a 6u baseball practice plan is crucial in shaping young athletes' experiences and development. By prioritizing fundamental skill development, play-based learning, and a positive coaching environment, coaches can create a program that promotes both athletic growth and a love for the game. Moving away from premature specialization and excessive competition, and embracing age-appropriate training, will yield better long-term results for these young athletes. A well-structured 6u baseball practice plan will not only improve baseball skills but also contribute to their overall physical and emotional development.

FAQs

1. What are the most important skills to focus on in a 6u baseball practice plan? Throwing, catching, basic batting, and running are fundamental.
2. How long should a 6u baseball practice be? No more than 60-75 minutes to avoid burnout.
3. What are some fun games to incorporate into a 6u baseball practice plan? Around the Horn, base running races, and modified versions of baseball.
4. How can I make sure my 6u baseball practice plan is age-appropriate? Keep drills simple, focus on fun, and avoid intense competition.
5. What if a player is struggling with a particular skill? Provide individualized attention and positive reinforcement.
6. How can I ensure all players are engaged in the 6u baseball practice plan? Vary drills, incorporate games, and provide opportunities for success.
7. What is the role of parents in a 6u baseball practice plan? Support their child's participation and encourage their efforts.
8. How often should a 6u team practice? 2-3 times per week is generally sufficient.
9. How can I measure the success of my 6u baseball practice plan? Observe player improvement, engagement, and enjoyment.

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6u baseball practice plan: *Absolute Beginner's Guide to Coaching Youth Baseball* Tom Hanlon, 2005 Are you ready to coach the Cubs to a championship victory? How about a little league or T-ball championship? Not ready for either one? We can help! Absolute Beginner's Guide to Coaching Youth Baseball is a beginning youth baseball coach's ultimate reference guide. Your practice time is probably already limited, so don't waste it trying to figure out what to do. Plan ahead with our easy-to-follow chapters that cover: identifying your roles and expectations as a coach, tailoring instruction to your age group, creating a safe playing environment, knowing how to coach effectively during games, celebrating victories and much more. Our book web page will be a coaching resource as well, with downloadable practice plans, emergency information cards, injury reports, awards and certificates, and season evaluation forms. Go into day 1 as if its day 1001 of your coaching career with the help of Absolute Beginner's Guide to Coaching Youth Baseball.

6u baseball practice plan: *The Baseball Drill Book* Bob Bennett, American Baseball Coaches Association, 2004 Offers 198 activities for baseball players' training. Covers drills for warm-up, throwing, catching, base running, hitting, pitching, and fielding.

6u baseball practice plan: Heads-Up Baseball Ken Ravizza, Tom Hanson, 1995-06-01 This book provides practical strategies for developing the mental skills which help speed you to your full potential.---Dave Winfield What does it mean to play heads-up baseball? A heads-up player has confidence in his ability, keeps control in pressure situations, and focuses on one pitch at a time. His mental skills enable him to play consistently at or near his best despite the adversity baseball presents each day. My ability to fully focus on what I had to do on a daily basis was what made me the successful player I was. Sure I had some natural ability, but that only gets you so far. I think I learned how to focus; it wasn't something that I was necessarily born with. -- Hank Aaron Developing and refining my mental game has played a critical role in my success in baseball. For years players have had to develop these skills on their own. This book provides practical strategies for developing the mental skills that will help speed you toward your full potential. -- Dave Winfield

6u baseball practice plan: Catching-101 Xan Barksdale, 2011-07-28 CATCHING-101: The Complete Guide for Baseball Catchers is the most comprehensive book ever written for baseball catchers. It contains tips, drills, and proper mechanics that will help every catcher or coach better understand the most difficult position on the field. This book contains information on EVERY aspect of catching that Coach Barksdale has learned through his years of experience from coaching

nationally ranked NCAA teams, and playing at almost every level from Little League to professional baseball. A few of the topics covered in CATCHING-101 are: Receiving Blocking Catching Pop Flies Throwing Fielding Bunts Plays at Home Plate Drills Pitchouts Pass Balls/Wild Pitches Giving Signals And More! If you have been searching for a source with lots of high quality information about catching, this is the book for you! CATCHING-101 was written by Coach Xan Barksdale who is currently an NCAA Division I baseball coach and an ex-professional baseball player. Coach Barksdale played in the Atlanta Braves organization and has been a featured speaker at the prestigious ABCA (American Baseball Coaches Association) national convention.

6u baseball practice plan: Baseball Hitting Drills for a Batting Tee Doug Bernier, Sarah Bernier, 2015-01-31 20 baseball hitting drills, accompanied by 20 streaming videos - one to describe and demonstrate each drill in the book. Illustrated with full color diagrams, and includes bonus material. Written by professional baseball player

6u baseball practice plan: Catapult Loading System Joey Myers, 2018-02-14 My son at 10yo (90-lbs) is highly coach-able. I taught him the system in February and he hit well during the season but could only hit the ball around 180'. Then all of a sudden around June he started killing the ball. He was hitting home runs every game and hit a ball at least 250-feet - Michael Parillo (via email) Sick of struggling to help hitters drive the ball hard with more consistency? Dramatically increase power without sacrificing swing quality. Literally thousands of coaches across the nation are getting predictably positive results with hitters using the CLS system. How? By applying human movement principles validated by REAL science to hitting a ball, and NOT bro-science. THIS STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO CONSISTENT POWER TEACHES: How to master a handful of human movement principles, so you can slice the teach hitting learning curve in half. How to effectively load the body, so your hitters can optimize their batted ball distance potential. How elite-hitters are revealing ways to hit balls with High-Exit-Speeds, swing after swing, using three elements a 4-year-old can understand. Why 'loading and exploding the hips' is bad for lower back, and how to teach hitters a highly effective but SAFE swing. THE NEW EXPANDED EDITION INCLUDES: 'How to practice' section at end of each movement principle Chapter. How to train a 2-year-old to hit a moving ball (proof that NOT only elite hitters can be taught these movements). Why pitchers are taught to pitch around ineffective swing paths, and how to turn their weapon against them. Why coaches MUST focus their hitters' efforts on targeting and elevating pitches low in the zone. How to teach timing and get hitters on-time more often in games.

6u baseball practice plan: Softball Skills & Drills Judi Garman, Michelle Gromacki, 2011-02-14 Looking for the ultimate book to help you learn and master softball's essential skills? Look no further than the guide that has helped develop the game's top players and most successful teams. This new edition of Softball Skills & Drills is completely updated with more skills, more drills and strategies, and more of the stellar instruction that have made it the top-selling title on the sport. Judi Garman, one of the winningest coaches in NCAA history, teams with Cal State Fullerton's Michelle Gromacki to share their secrets to developing and mastering every aspect of the game. With step-by-step instruction, full-color photo sequences, technique tips, and unique insight into the game, you'll learn every fundamental skill: •Hitting •Bunting •Slap Hitting •Baserunning •Sliding •Fielding •Throwing •Pitching •Catching And with over 230 of the game's best drills, coverage of team offense and defense, pitch selection, pitch recognition, and in-game strategies, Softball Skills and Drills is simply the most comprehensive and practical guide on the sport. Whether striving to become a complete player or preparing your team for another championship run, Softball Skills & Drills is the one book you cannot be without.

6u baseball practice plan: The Matheny Manifesto Mike Matheny, Jerry B. Jenkins, 2015-02-03 St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Matheny's New York Times bestselling manifesto about what parents, coaches, and athletes get wrong about sports; what we can do better; and how sports can teach eight keys to success in sports and life. Mike Matheny was just forty-one, without professional managerial experience and looking for a next step after a successful career as a Major League catcher, when he succeeded the legendary Tony La Russa as manager of the St. Louis Cardinals in

2012. While Matheny has enjoyed immediate success, leading the Cards to the postseason four times in his first four years—a Major League record—people have noticed something else about his life, something not measured in day-to-day results. Instead, it's based on a frankly worded letter he wrote to the parents of a Little League team he coached, a cry for change that became an Internet sensation and eventually a "manifesto." The tough-love philosophy Matheny expressed in the letter contained his throwback beliefs that authority should be respected, discipline and hard work rewarded, spiritual faith cultivated, family made a priority, and humility considered a virtue. In *The Matheny Manifesto*, he builds on his original letter by first diagnosing the problem at the heart of youth sports—it starts with parents and coaches—and then by offering a hopeful path forward. Along the way, he uses stories from his small-town childhood as well as his career as a player, coach, and manager to explore eight keys to success: leadership, confidence, teamwork, faith, class, character, toughness, and humility. From "The Coach Is Always Right, Even When He's Wrong" to "Let Your Catcher Call the Game," Matheny's old-school advice might not always be popular or politically correct, but it works. His entertaining and deeply inspirational book will not only resonate with parents, coaches, and athletes, it will also be a powerful reminder, from one of the most successful new managers in the game, of what sports can teach us all about winning on the field and in life.

6u baseball practice plan: Winning Baseball Trent Mongero, 2011 From age-appropriate drills to motivation strategies, this step-by-step guide to youth baseball offers all the information parents and coaches need to help young players reach their full potential.

6u baseball practice plan: *Baseball Strategies* Association American Baseball Coaches, 2018

6u baseball practice plan: *Coach's Guide to Game-Winning Softball Drills* Michele Smith, Lawrence Hsieh, 2008-02-28 "Mastering these drills will arm your players with one of the biggest intangibles necessary to perform well--confidence." --Michele Smith Two-time Olympic gold medalist and Hall of Fame pitcher Michele Smith throws one right down the middle with this big collection of more than 250 skill-building drills developed especially for coaches of fast-pitch recreation league, travel ball, and high school softball players, ages eight to eighteen. Straight from the Michele Smith Gold Camps and Clinics, these drills are designed to give you all the tools you need to teach the entire range of offensive and defensive softball skills. With Michele's expert guidance and instruction, you'll coach your players to: Master the mechanics of footwork for fielding with hustle Swing for the fences and hit the fastest pitches Catch the ball proactively and throw it quickly and accurately to its target Defend the infield and outfield with speed and confidence Run the bases swiftly and strategically Refine fast-pitch skills so they can windmill like Michele And much more

6u baseball practice plan: Play Baseball the Ripken Way Cal Ripken, Jr., Bill Ripken, Larry Burke, 2005-01-25 Every year, hundreds of thousands of children play "Cal Ripken Baseball" in the largest division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. *Play Baseball the Ripken Way* is the ultimate guide to playing the game, by one of the sport's living legends. Baseball is America's national pastime, but that doesn't mean we're all born naturals. Kids of all ages (and their parents) are eager to improve specific skills, and now they can learn from one of the most respected baseball families in history. Cal and Bill Ripken have written a thoroughly illustrated instructional book that clearly explains proper baseball fundamentals—hitting, fielding, baserunning, pitching, and much more. Based on the teachings of the late Cal Ripken, Sr., a player, coach, manager, and scout in the Baltimore Orioles system for thirty-seven years, *Play Baseball the Ripken Way* shows players just what they need to do to be their best while maintaining a sense of fun and accomplishment with every new lesson. The Ripken Way consists of the following principles: *Keep It Simple: Teaching that is too complicated is difficult to remember and can result in frustration. *Explain Why: A teacher who cannot explain why is not truly teaching. Lessons that make sense will stick with players. *Celebrate the Individual: No two players are alike, so why treat them as if they are? *Make It Fun: The game gets serious enough quickly enough on its own. Drills and instruction should be structured so that players can enjoy themselves while learning. The book also includes tips for parents and coaches, practice workouts, and drills for players of every level.

6u baseball practice plan: Minimize Injury, Maximize Performance Dr. Tommy John,

Myatt Murphy, 2018-06-05 Dr. Tommy John's unique program: a diet, lifestyle, and movement plan (Rethink. Rebuild. Replenish. Recover) for injury- and performance-proofing young athletes in every sport Beginning as early as age 6 and continuing through the teenage years and on into their twenties, both male and female athletes are more at risk of serious injuries at younger ages than ever before. Dr. Tommy John, son of lefty pitcher Tommy John and also a sports performance and healing specialist, offers an invaluable diet, lifestyle, and movement plan (Rethink. Rebuild. Replenish. Recover) for injury- and performance-proofing young athletes in every sport. Dr. John explores the sudden rise of Tommy John surgeries being performed on young athletes today, as well as the many injuries--and the surgeries required to fix them--increasing at an alarming rate in baseball and all youth sports. Dr. John's book outlines the three top causes behind this injury epidemic: The American lifestyle, the business of youth sports (from coaches to corporations), and the decisions we believe as parents are truly benefiting our children. Minimize Injury, Maximize Performance focuses on prevention, and also offers tips on how to tailor the advice for athletes coming back from an injury, with over 120 black and white photographs.

6u baseball practice plan: The Mental Keys to Hitting H.A. Dorfman, 2017-03-01 A must-have book by acclaimed author and expert H.A. Dorfman that highlights the crucial mental components involved in hitting a baseball and playing the game, components that are as important, if not more so, than the intense physical regimen of an athlete....helpful to hitters in little leagues or in the big leagues. The information is clear and to the point... -- Charles Johnson, former catcher, Florida Marlins

6u baseball practice plan: Nolan Ryan's Pitcher's Bible Nolan Ryan, Tom House, Jim Rosenthal, 1991-04-15 Offers advice on the mechanics of pitching, and recommends a program of weight training, aerobic exercise, and sound nutrition.

6u baseball practice plan: Taking on the Title of Coach Duke Baxter, Steve Nikorak, 2017-07-12 Bridgewater's own Duke Baxter and Steve Nikorak have joined forces to tackle one of the most daunting tasks of parenthood, taking on the title of Coach. Every parent that has stepped up and accepted the responsibility to coach their child's youth baseball team has felt that warm sense of pride and excitement, soon to be replaced by sheer terror. What am I going to do with a bunch of 7-year olds! This book is for every parent that has taken on the title of Coach but didn't have a clue what to do next. Duke Baxter, former professional baseball player and CEO of Zoned Sports Academy and Steve Nikorak, former professional baseball player and Coach at Zoned Sports Academy share their coaching wisdom in a simple 5-step guide for even the most reluctant of sports parents. This book covers everything from how to run a practice appropriate for the age group to fun drills that will keep all players engaged to what is a baseball knee and how should I use it. Each of the 5-steps also shares key Diamondisms, from the Dominate the Diamond secrets to success. These unique insights, little nuggets are the grit that makes the difference in making a successful coach.

6u baseball practice plan: Dear Baseball Gods: A Memoir Dan Blewett, 2019-04-08 Dear Baseball Gods, Why didn't you look out for him? Didn't he deserve better? He hustled, competed, and played the game the right way. What happened wasn't fair. A Second Comeback Dan sat by a tree, staring at the ground trying to decide what he would do next. The doctor had just explained that everything he worked for was now ruined. A second Tommy John surgery? Does anyone come back from that? Is my career over? Is this it? A Winding Road to the Top As a walk-on in college, Dan had to earn everything. He pitched on three hours sleep, lived in the clubhouse, played for a team that collapsed mid-season, and endured more arm pain than any kid should. A Way to Move On When finally forced to hang up his cleats, Dan looked in the mirror and didn't recognize the man peering back. If no longer a ballplayer...what would he do? What had been the point of it all? Who was he? The Deeper Side of Life as an Athlete In this philosophical memoir, written as a series of letters, you'll learn that the pinstripes don't wash off so easily.

6u baseball practice plan: Ninety Percent Mental Bob Tewksbury, 2018-03-20 Former Major League pitcher and mental skills coach for two of baseball's legendary franchises (the Boston Red Sox and San Francisco Giants) Bob Tewksbury takes fans inside the psychology of baseball. In

Ninety Percent Mental, Bob Tewksbury shows readers a side of the game only he can provide, given his singular background as both a longtime MLB pitcher and a mental skills coach for two of the sport's most fabled franchises, the Boston Red Sox and San Francisco Giants. Fans watching the game on television or even at the stadium don't have access to the mind games a pitcher must play in order to get through an at-bat, an inning, a game. Tewksbury explores the fascinating psychology behind baseball, such as how players use techniques of imagery, self-awareness, and strategic thinking to maximize performance, and how a pitcher's strategy changes throughout a game. He also offers an in-depth look into some of baseball's most monumental moments and intimate anecdotes from a who's who of the game, including legendary players who Tewksbury played with and against (such as Mark McGwire, Craig Biggio, and Greg Maddux), game-changing managers and executives (Joe Torre, Bruce Bochy, Brian Sabean), and current star players (Jon Lester, Anthony Rizzo, Andrew Miller, Rich Hill). With Tewksbury's esoteric knowledge as a thinking-fan's player and his expertise as a baseball whisperer, this entertaining book is perfect for any fan who wants to see the game in a way he or she has never seen it before. *Ninety Percent Mental* will deliver an unprecedented look at the mound games and mind games of Major League Baseball.

6u baseball practice plan: *Triphasic Training* Cal Dietz, Ben Peterson, 2012-06 What is Triphasic Training? It is the pinnacle of sports performance training. Created by world renown coach, Cal Dietz, Triphasic Training breaks down dynamic, athletic movements into their three components (eccentric, isometric, and concentric), and maximizes performance gains by applying stress to the athlete in a way that allows for the continuous development of strength, speed, and power. Who uses Triphasic Training: Everyone! From elite level athletes to absolute beginners, the triphasic method of training allows for maximal performance gains in minimal time. For that reason professional athletes from all backgrounds seek out Coach Dietz each off-season to train with his triphasic system. Coach Dietz has worked with hundreds of athletes from the NFL, NHL, and MLB, as well as several dozen Olympic athletes in track and field, swimming, and hockey. What the book is about: Triphasic Training was originally a digital book with over 3,000 hyperlinks and 6 hours of video lectures, showing the reader exactly how to perform every exercise and apply the training methods. To ensure that you do not miss out on this valuable component, inside your book you will find a web link to a downloadable PDF that contains all of the hyperlinks and videos from the original digital book. The PDF is laid out to allow you to easily follow along as you read the book. Simply scroll in the PDF to the page that you are reading in the book and it will have every hyperlink and video that is on that page. The book contains over 350 pages, divided clearly into 2 parts: the "why" and the "what". The first three sections go through the physiological basis for the Triphasic method, undulated block periodization, and general biological applications of stress. The authors will explain how to incorporate the Triphasic methods into existing programs, with complete descriptions on adapting it to virtually any scenario. Sections 4 through 7 are devoted entirely to programming, with over 3,000 exercises and 52 weeks of programs for numerous different sports. Included in the programming section are: Over 3,000 exercises, each hyperlinked to a video tutorial that shows you exactly how to perform the exercise. 5 separate 24-week training programs built for either 6 day, 5 day, 4 day, 3 day, or 2 day models. Over 6 hours of video lectures by Coach Dietz further explaining the Triphasic Training method. These lectures go even deeper into the physiology and application of what he does with his elite athletes. Over two dozen tables showing exactly when and how to modify exercises to ensure continuous improvement in your athletes. Peaking programs for football lineman or skill players, baseball, swimming, volleyball, and hockey players (among others). A complete 52 week training program for football.

6u baseball practice plan: *Pitch Like a Pro* Leo Mazzone, Jim Rosenthal, 1999-03-15 Leo Mazzone was one of pro baseball's premier pitching coaches. In his years with the Atlanta Braves, he trained several Cy Young Award winners and helped lead his team to the World Series. In *Pitch like a Pro*, Mazzone and coauthor Jim Rosenthal offer step-by-step instructions for players and coaches in Little League through high school. They teach all of the pitching basics and give athletes advice on how they can use the right training techniques to grow stronger and stay healthier. Contents

include: Mazzone's between-starts throwing program How to grip different pitches Proper mechanics and delivery technique Pitching strategies and tactics Field the position Pitch like a Pro offers contributions by such well known pitchers as Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz, and Denny Neagle, along with black-and-white instructional photographs.

6u baseball practice plan: Winning Baseball Trent Mongero, 2012 Part of the Coach's Companion series, veteran coach Trent Mongero's Winning Baseball for Intermediate to College Level covers everything from advanced mechanics for infield, outfield, pitcher, and catcher play to hitting mechanics and mental toughness strategies. Complete with insider tips for college and MLB prospects, over 100 photographs, and a four-hour instructional DVD, this is the ultimate, one-stop baseball reference.

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opponents and fans, breaking down racial stereotypes. Baseball became a bridge between the two cultures, bringing Japanese and Americans together through the shared love of the game. Issei Baseball focuses on the small group of men who formed the first professional and semiprofessional Japanese baseball clubs. These players' story tells the history of early Japanese American baseball, including the placement of Saisho, Kitsuse, and their families in relocation camps during World War II and the Japanese immigrant experience.

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that.

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