

LITTLE

Rhino

by RYAN HOWARD  
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● BOOK FIVE ●  
THE AWAY GAME

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**—R.H. & K.H**



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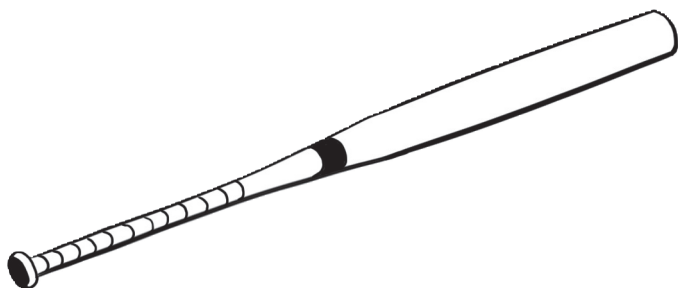
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• CHAPTER 1 •  
An Honor



**R**hino! Rhino! Rhino!”

Little Rhino glanced at his teammates, who were standing inside the dugout fence, chanting his name. He nodded, but tried hard not to smile.

Rhino gripped his bat and strode to the batter’s box. He took a couple of easy swings and glared at the pitcher. The pressure was on!

Bases loaded. Two outs. The Mustangs trailed by two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. This was their last at bat.

The Bears’ pitcher squinted as he read the catcher’s signals. Then he leaned forward and fired

a sizzling fastball. It looked wide, and Rhino let it go by.

“Strike!” called the umpire.

“No batter!” yelled the infielders.

“Let’s go, Rhino,” shouted Bella, taking a lead off second base.

Rhino tapped his bat on the plate. The crowd was on their feet, cheering.

“Ball,” said the umpire as the catcher leaped high to grab the next pitch.

First place in the league was on the line in this game, and the showdown between Rhino and the pitcher was shaping up to be a classic. Rhino led the league with five home runs, and the Bears pitcher had the best record.

Rhino had belted a two-run homer in the first inning, but he’d struck out twice since then. The Bears had played steady baseball all season. Rhino’s Mustangs had come into the game on a hot streak, with five wins in a row. Whichever team won today would be in first place.