

The Sports Post

LL umpires reflect on fans reactions

Little League season is ended and players, coaches and managers can sit back and reflect on another successful season of America's most popular sport. As the dust settles around home base and the pitcher's mound stands empty for another year, the best of the just-

concluded season is remembered and the problems, hopefully, forgotten.

The Dallas Post shared in some reflecting recently with two men who serve in the least favorite capacity, that of umpire. Joe Kelley, who's involvement in Back

Mountain Baseball has included umpiring for six years, managing and serving as president of the Association and Clarence Givens, who has umpired over 16 seasons and served as an officer and manager in the Forty Fort League gave their impressions of how things look from the umpire's view.

"You might not believe it, but it's fun," said Kelley. "I enjoy it! The fans try and put the

pressure on, but if you're thick-skinned like I am, that's no problem."

Both men explained that a competent umpire should have no difficulty with the fans. "A lot of people think you're out there to hurt them. They take it personally. They forget the umpire is the one who knows the rules, not the fans," said Kelley. An umpire who isn't quite sure of himself will be slaughtered by the fan as

well as the coaches and managers.

Being in a position to call the shots lets the umpire open for all kinds of fan abuse, especially during tournament play. But Kelley and Givens prefer to concentrate their efforts on the boys. "They're 11 and 12 years old," said Givens. "People seem to forget that. It puts a lot of pressure on the boys."

As an umpire Givens finds it within his power to

help alleviate the pressure. He may crack a joke to a nervous outfielder or pass an encouraging comment to the baseman who fumbled his catch. "Win or lose, we're in a position to help mold their character, particularly concerning good sportsmanship," he explained.

He believes he has seen the best of today's youth in his involvement with Little League. "They are 99 percent fine boys out there." Both men lament the fact that poor attitude by a manager will immediately reflect on the team with a visible difference in behavior on the field. "That's the bad

part," explained Kelley. "The fans overreaction, a manager's childish behavior - these are picked up just as quickly as the positive influence."

Givens says his reward is having the boys come back to look him up after leaving Little League. "Some have gone on to be very successful. It's a great feeling when they come back and say 'hello', whether they remember winning or losing," he said.

He views Little League as controlled recreation and compares it to the ball playing he did as a kid. "We just got a game together on a vacant lot. You can't do that now.

There are no vacant lots around to play on. So the kids have Little League."

"My philosophy is, 'if there's a Mickey Mantle out there, he's there in spite of us, not because of us.'" Another reward both men pointed to is the immediate one of having the players' respect. Neither one takes any guff from the youngsters and both say it's the most effective way of establishing mutual respect. Both men have the basic characteristic necessary mutual respect. Both men have the basic characteristic necessary to lead youth, a genuine liking for the children.

Softball Standings

DIVISION I	
Lameroux Auto Parts	15-4
Hearthstone Pub	14-4
Villa Roma	14-5
Pizza Bar	14-5
Noxen Rebels	13-6
Overbrook Inn	12-6
Jones Pancakes	10-9
Miller Beer	6-13
DIVISION II	
Farmers Inn	11-8
Mister Donut	9-9
Noxen Texaco	7-11
Irene's	6-12
David's Place	6-13
IGA	6-13
TJ's	4-15
DESCO	3-16
RESULTS	
Noxen Rebels 16	Overbrook Inn 6
DESCO 10	IGA 9
Hearthstone Pub 9	Noxen Rebels 8
Jones Pancakes 11	Miller Beer 1
Villa Roma 10	Lameroux Auto 6
Pizza Bar 21	Overbrook Inn 3
Farmers Inn 12	Irene's 9
Noxen Texaco 13	David's Place 3
Mister Donut 12	IGA 9
DESCO 15	TJ's 8
Jones Pancakes 7	Villa Roma 1
Pizza Bar 11	Noxen Rebels 7
Lameroux Auto 16	Miller Beer 8
Farmers Inn 14	Noxen Texaco 4
Overbrook Inn 11	Hearthstone Pub 11 (called darkness)
Mister Donut 6	David's Place 2
IGA 17	TJ's 11
Irene's 13	DESCO 12

Schedule for Thursday, July 29:

- At Noxen
- 6 p.m. Noxen Texaco vs. Mister Donut
- 7 p.m. Hearthstone vs. Miller Beer
- At Lehman
- 6 p.m. Villa Roma vs. Pizza Bar
- Overbrook Inn vs. Lameroux
- DESCO vs. Farmers Inn
- 7 p.m. T.J.'s vs. Irene's
- David's Place vs. IGA
- Noxen Rebels vs. Jones

Note: All games rained out on June 29 will be played Tues. Aug. 3.

Noxen LL hosted at Fun Day

Recently the Noxen Ball Association hosted Little League members and their families to a Fun Day. After the family style picnic trophies were awarded to the following players: Last year player and All Stars, Peggy Siglin, Sandy Lamoreaux, Cheryl Simon, Dara Crospell, Patty Stroud, Bobby Hackling, Chris Milbrodt, Dory Zacharias and Walt Konopke. Last year players, Candy and

Camie Meixsal, Karen Sevenski, Barbie Weaver, Jimmy Patton, Tom Teetsel, Ken Lanning and Fred Boston. All stars, Kelly Siglin, Judy Hopper, Alfred May, Shane Lukasavage, Lenny Searfoff and Bobby Rogers.

Jim Barbacci, manager of the major team, received a special coaching award. Jim has been active in Little League for 12 years.

Following the awards ceremony the day concluded with several games.

Noxen Ball Association would like to congratulate the members of Bob Horlacker Tournament team (boy's hardball division). Not only did this team advance to semi-finals in B division playoffs but they represented this area with true sportsmanship both on and off the field.

Harveys Lake LL Yankees go undefeated

The minor teams of the Harveys Lake Little League finished their season on July 1 with the Yankees in the lead. Without much practice because of rain the Yankees had an undefeated season.

The other minor teams were the Pirates and Bears.

The Yankees team members are: Ben Haughney, Jim Finnagen, John Wilson, Chris

Bowman, Charlie Roper, Kevin Jones, Ralph Bowman, Shawn Hubbell, Howie Whipple, Robin Croman, Stacy Croman, Rachel Toney, Tony Toney, George Koche, James Tileski, and manager Ray Jones.

At the Home Run Derby on July 10, Howie Whipple captured a 1st place trophy for most hits and Jim Finnegan won a 3rd place trophy for most hits in the 8-year old division.

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