

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Baseball Is Only a Game

Thousands of young people are currently preparing for T-ball, coaches' pitch, little league, Babe Ruth league, softball and other forms of the national pastime. Men and women will be giving a tremendous number of volunteer hours over the next months working as coaches, umpires, ticket and concession salespersons and league officials. Without them these baseball leagues could not exist. To the workers I say, "Thank you."

Baseball can be both fun and a learning experience for young people. New skills and added self-confidence can be acquired. Why then does baseball sometimes turn into a destructive experience for children that lowers their self-esteem and makes them afraid to try anything new?

We parents and coaches are to blame for that. Something happens when we get to the ballpark that turns us from loving parents into raving lunatics who yell insults at our children and embarrass ourselves and them. Maybe we are reliving our childhoods through Junior. Maybe we don't want to be embarrassed by

our children. Maybe we coaches get our own egos involved and don't want to be known as a "losing" coach. Whatever the reason the verbal abuse needs to stop because we are demanding our young people.

I remember when one little league coach shouted at the third baseman (who was 10), "Get your head in the game! Don't make a stupid play like that!" The player had thrown the ball into right field instead of to second base as he intended. The coach seemed not to understand how a ten-year-old could make that kind of mistake.

Not long afterward I was watching an Atlanta Braves game when Terry Pendleton, the Atlanta third baseman, threw a certain double-play into right field. (He missed the second baseman by a wider margin than did the ten-year-old last year.) Terry Pendleton was paid several million a year and was one of the better third basemen in the National League. If he made mistakes like that, why do we expect that our children will not?

We treat our children as if they should never make a mistake on the baseball field. We shout at our chil-

dren for the very same mistakes that major league ballplayers make. Major leaguers throw the ball away, strike out with the bases loaded, and walk in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth, but we expect our children not to do that.

I propose that this year we parents and coaches promise not to shout negative criticism at any player. This is simply common courtesy and treating those young people with respect. (The manager did not shout at Terry Pendleton when he threw that ball into the outfield.) If we have some corrective criticism to offer, we can do that one-on-one at a later time when the player will not be so embarrassed. (Have you noticed that the higher up one goes in baseball, the less the coaches scream at the players?)

I propose that this year we parents and coaches shout only positive words to our children. "Way to go," "nice catch," "good try," "you can do it," will help them more than will verbal abuse.

One writer suggested that parents should be banned from all little league baseball games. Perhaps it will not come to that if we treat our children with respect.

[To contact me with questions or comments, call 1-877-PASTOR 8 or write me at 402 Coomer St., Suite 204, Somerset, KY 42503.

Save-A-Lot

*Save up to 40% Everyday on your total grocery bill**

Extra Savings Family Pack Ground Beef 1 lb. 99¢	Extra Savings Smoked Picnics .59 lb. Extra Savings Boneless Fryer Breast 1.69 lb.	Extra Savings Family Pack Boneless Chuck Steak 1 lb. 1.69
--	--	--

Extra Savings "Mr. Turkey" Variety Pack 1.79	Extra Savings "Eckrich" Variety Lunch Pack 1.89 16 oz.	Extra Savings Boneless Beef Chuck Roast 1.49	Extra Savings 24 Pack Bubba Cola 3.99
Produce 10 lb. Idaho Potatoes 1.79	Produce 5 lb. Variety Apples 1.69	Produce Cucumbers 4/ 1.00	Produce 4 pk. Yellow Corn 1.09

Every Day Low Prices "Bugles" Corn Snacks 7 oz. bag 99¢	Extra Savings "Taco Bell" Dinner Kit 1.99	Extra Savings "Hunts" Ketchup 40 oz. bottle 1.79
--	--	---

Every Day Low Prices Gallon Spring Water .59	Every Day Low Prices 12 Pack Pepsi 2/\$5	Every Day Low Prices "Chef Boy ArDee" Pasta 49¢ can	Every Day Low Prices 3 Pack Totinos Pizzas 1.99
Every Day Low Prices Dannon Yogurts .49 1 qt.	Every Day Low Prices French Bread Loaves Twin Pack 99¢	Extra Savings Jennie O Turkey Breasts 2.99 2 lb. box	Extra Savings 10 Pack "Quaker" Granola Bars 1.99

Mt. Vernon Save-A-Lot Food Stores

Summer Hours: Mon. - Sat. • 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
We Gladly Accept WIC and EBT

Ford honored as "Taxpayers Best Friend"

State Representative Danny Ford has been named the "Taxpayers' Best Friend" by the Kentucky Taxpayers United (KTU) organization for his commitment to making state government more accountable to taxpayers.

The award was presented by KTU Chairman Rand Paul during an April 12 award ceremony in front of the Kentucky State Capitol Building in Frankfort. Ford was among only 22 House members honored by the organization, a non-partisan citizen watchdog group formed in 1993 to provide Kentuckians throughout the state with current information on how their elected officials vote on tax increases. An affiliate of the National Taxpayers Union, the Kentucky organization researches the voting records of state lawmakers on key spending and taxation issues and recognizes lawmakers based on that analysis.

After a speech in which he described the award recipients as "Heroes of the General Assembly," Paul recognized each recipient with a certificate. The award, Representative Ford said, is one that holds special meaning to members of the General Assembly who complete the 2000 Regular Session.

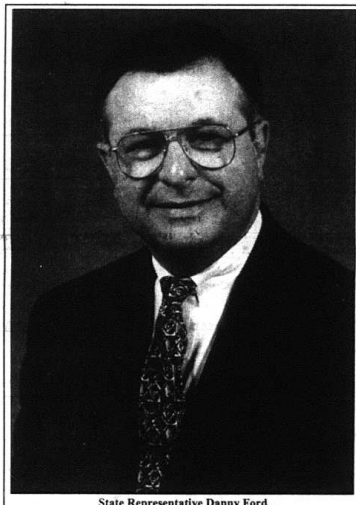
"It truly is a great honor to receive this award, especially with the tremendous emphasis we've placed on providing Kentuckians with the services they deserve without supplementing the Governor's tax package. There isn't one good reason that state government can't be run as efficiently as we expect the men and women of the state to run their family budgets," Ford said.

Ford, who received a 95 percent approval rating from the organiza-

tion, has represented the people of the state's 80th District since 1982, remaining adamant in his stand against unnecessary taxes.

"One of my top priorities and

obligations is to see that each vote I cast is in the best interest of our area, that includes keeping big spending bureaucracy out of the taxpayers pocket," Ford added.



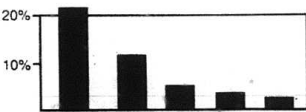
State Representative Danny Ford

Have your premiums increased recently?



Good drivers deserve a reward. Compare your current coverage with State Farm Insurance. State Farm has been the leader in auto insurance since 1942, and insures one of every five cars on the road today. For the unbeatable combination of affordable protection and good neighbor service, see State Farm agent:

A.M. Best Private Passenger Automobile Market Share by % of Direct Premium



Source: Best's Review, Property/Casualty Edition, July 1998.

©A.M. Best Company, 1998. Used by permission.



Teresa S. Jackson, Agent
912 W. Main • Mt. Vernon
606-256-2119

Open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. to Noon

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (not in NJ)
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ) • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois