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Little League Baseball

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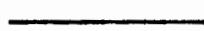
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LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL



A Thesis
Presented to
the Graduate Faculty
Central Washington State College



In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Education



by
Gary Carlin Frederick
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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Since the conception of the Little League baseball program, it has been a controversial subject. It is a program that should concern not only parents, but doctors, educators and all who are interested in the development of our pre-adolescents.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this study is to show (1) the basic needs of Little League age boys; (2) disadvantages of the Little League baseball program; (3) advantages of the Little League baseball program; and (4) to present recommendations for changes which could insure a better program.

Importance of the Study

Articles have been written by the advocates of the Little League baseball program, stating the advantages of this activity. Articles have also been written stating the disadvantages and harmful effects that the program may have upon boys in this age group. In this study both sides will be presented.

The boys involved in the Little League baseball program range in age from eight through twelve, therefore,

a section of this paper will deal with the development of the bodies, personalities, and emotions of boys in this age group.

It is the writer's intention that by comparing the thoughts and comments of others, that this study will be able to determine whether the Little League baseball program is worthwhile or should be changed or even dropped.

II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Little League

Little League is an organization for boys ages eight through twelve. It is a national organization with headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. No league may use this name unless it is a part of the Little League organization. Teams that belong to the Little League organization are allowed the opportunity to compete in tournaments which eventually lead to the now famous Little League World Series held each year in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Other Organizations

There are many other organizations of baseball teams and leagues that offer summer recreation for young boys through this sport. These leagues and teams are not connected with the regular Little League organization and are not allowed to play in post season games connected with

the regular Little League.

Little League Elbow

Little League elbow is an injury resulting from participation in Little League baseball. In Little League elbow, the piece of bone that rests at the end of the elbow (the medial epicondylar epiphysis) is pulled out of position by tendons and muscles and is sometimes fractured.

Little League Shoulder

Little League shoulder is another injury which has developed from participating in Little League baseball. In Little League shoulder, the cartilage near the end of the upper arm bones (humerus) is torn loose.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Carl Stotz was the founder, father and commissioner of Little League Baseball Incorporated. "Tuck" Stotz, as even the Williamsport, Pennsylvania kids called him, began Little League because of an incident involving his two nephews. His nephews had attempted to engage in a game of baseball with some bigger boys, but were not allowed to play. When Stotz learned of this, a plan and a desire that he had had for twenty years became a reality. He organized these nephews and other boys into two teams and thus began the organization of his dream in 1938. The following year he persuaded four businessmen who were friends of his, to sponsor four Little League teams.

In the first year the Little League played all of its games on a hard-surfaced diamond in a municipal park. The following year, 1940, a second Little League in New Jersey was organized. From this original beginning the Little League program has grown with leaps and bounds. In 1963 there were over five thousand Little Leagues in fifty states, District of Columbia, and Canada. There were one million boys playing organized baseball under local Little League supervision. To show the rapid growth of the Little League program, a comparison is necessary. In 1955 there

were 3,500 Little Leagues in forty-seven states, District of Columbia, and Canada. There were 350,000 boys playing organized baseball under local Little League supervision. In less than ten years, the Little League program has increased by 1,500 leagues and 650,000 boys. It has been said "Little League baseball is the fastest moving movement in the game's history" (53:80).

Little League Baseball Incorporated has its headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. It has a large administrative staff housed in a large building overlooking the first Little League ballpark. The ballpark seats twelve thousand people and was built solely by volunteer labor. Overlooking the grassed diamond are bleachers, an electric scoreboard, boy-size dugouts, a public address system and a handsome stone clubhouse. The Little League World Series which was started in 1947, is held there every year.

The Little League is a non-profit organization. It is sponsored by the United States Rubber Company.

Stotz had a lot to do with determining the specifications and rules for Little League baseball. For the protection of the players, he prescribed sneakers instead of spiked shoes, and a baseball somewhat less lively than a regulation ball. Also, for their protection, he considered a rule against booing.

To scale the field down to the players' physical limitations, the distances between the bases were cut from ninety to sixty feet. The distance between the pitcher's box and home plate was cut from sixty feet, six inches to forty feet, four inches. Stotz put the thrill of a home-run within range of potential DiMaggios by recommending an outfield fence four feet high and 175 feet from home plate at the foul lines. He reduced the length of the games from nine innings to six innings in an attempt to insure that no manager could damage a young pitching arm. Little League rules limited a boy to nine innings work a week and provided for sixty hours rest between appearances.

Requirements for participants were established in an attempt to keep one team from becoming too strong, each team was limited to five twelve-year-olds and each team had to have at least five players who were ten or younger.

Stotz's movement provided farm clubs and minor leagues for players who did not have the ability to play on the main teams and could do with a little more seasoning. His most difficult task was trying to find room for all the adults who wanted to participate in the program.

Carl Stotz is no longer the high commissioner of Little League baseball, but he still observes what he created with interest. If Stotz had had his way, at the present time Little League baseball would be, purely and simply, baseball for boys.

CHAPTER III

THE NEEDS OF BOYS EIGHT TO TWELVE YEARS OF AGE

In order for the ordinary individual to truly evaluate this thesis on Little League baseball and its value, it is necessary to summarize the human growth and development of boys between the ages of eight to twelve.

The family unit is breaking down more and more in our modern society. Adults outside the immediate family have a very crucial influence upon the youth of this society. The emergence of the youth leader to a prominent place within society's framework will undoubtedly increase in the future.

Children and parents have more and more leisure time and there is a growing place for leisure activities as a part of family living. An increase in material goods has given recreation a significant place in family financing. Thus, the recreational leader has a great influence upon the entire family.

Children, now more than ever, need play or recreation as an antidote to the mounting tension which they feel all about them. Mental hygienists recognize recreation as a means of achieving many of the objectives of the school age child (24:64).

The youth leader's influence upon children must come from his own skills and ability to capture the child's

interest. Children will admire a leader who performs well the skills he is trying to teach. They want a leader who is warm and friendly and who will teach skills at their level. "Above all they seem to prefer someone to whom they can talk and who will take them seriously" (24:65).

A mature adult, who has gained emotional stability and an optimistic outlook, can provide the necessary guidance and authority for the pre-adolescent.

Adolescents have told us that they want in their parents or teachers neither siblings nor dictators. They want authorities, who have come to terms with their own lives, who are able both to exercise and relinquish control and who can discipline, but do not have to discipline (61:127).

It is evident that the increase in children of school age in our society will necessitate the finding of more and more people to work with them. Not only must our schools be manned but the adult leadership needed for out-of-school activities must be found. It is critical in child programming that we find the best people for these kinds of jobs. Willingness alone can no longer be considered the only legitimate criterion for such work (24:65).

I. MATURATION AND PHYSICAL GROWTH

Muscle

Children's muscles are immature and tire more easily than adults. They also recover from fatigue more readily. A child's muscles are not as firmly attached to the bone and therefore are more susceptible to injury. "The age period between eight and twelve, or roughly grades three through six, is the best time to lay the foundation for accessory

muscle work" (41:76).

Heart

Between the ages of seven and twelve, boys increase more rapidly in strength than they do in size. By the time a boy is twelve, his heart has gained seven times its birth weight, while at maturity it will have increased to twelve times its birth weight. Thus, in pre-adolescence the heart and also the lungs are developing even more slowly than the rest of the body. Undue stress upon it should be avoided. School age children probably do not need curtailment of normal play activities, but participation in competitive sports is debatable. Under pressure of competition a child may extend his physical activities beyond his limit of endurance. Emotional factors might also cause a strain upon his heart.

Skeletal Development

During middle childhood the bones have proportionately more water and protein-like substance and less mineral content. More blood is supplied to the growing bone and ligaments are less firmly attached with larger spaces between the bones at the joints. These characteristics render the child more susceptible to bone infections which are carried through the blood stream and less resistant to extreme pressure and muscle pull. Children at this age are more flexible in

movement than adults.

II. AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Eight-Year-Old

The eight-year-old enjoys peer relationships, expects and asks for praise and has a growing interest in games requiring coordination and small muscle control. Although he sometimes admits he has done wrong, he will often alibi for mistakes or insist that he was right.

Nine-Year-Old

The nine-year-old prides himself in his motor and games skills and will practice for improvement. He sets high standards and may become discouraged trying to reach his own self-imposed goals. He is more independent, although he still needs constant reminders.

Ten-Year-Old

The boy at this age is alert, relaxed and poised. He likes rules and team work. His motor skills are well developed and he enjoys using them in group participation. Hero worshiping and loyalty are traits of the ten-year-old.

Eleven and Twelve-Year-Old

Boys at this stage like well-organized, competitive games. They begin challenging the knowledge of adults and resent their authority. This age group likes challenges

and being part of a team or group.

III. EMOTIONAL GROWTH AND NEEDS

A child from eight to twelve has varied emotional needs. Many of these can be satisfied through his play activities.

Play activities are equally significant for the relatively untroubled youngsters and for many children who have suffered deprivations, frustrations, neglect, bad treatment, or exposure to crisis and disturbance in the family--for example, desertion, divorce, alcoholism, prolonged absence of the father in military service, or enforced absence of the mother for gainful employment. Children from disturbed homes may find in play the help they need in meeting their problems and releasing their feelings, especially if their leaders are aware of these possibilities and provide the materials and encouragement (23:4).

"Children seem to learn best when there are gratifying results [pleasure or usefulness] for them" (61:134)

The attitude an adult takes toward a given situation can have a great effect upon the child. An adult must learn to understand the emotion-tension stage of each child. In arousing a child's enthusiasm, it is important not to create tension by too much excitement or a fear of not achieving. One must be careful not to push a child beyond his individual endurance and create too much fatigue.

A quick sympathy with a child who cannot mobilize his thinking in certain activities may possibly relax him enough to accomplish the end; sarcasm or ridicule can only intensify the original cause of such trouble (5:111).

A child will learn more readily if he is mature enough to master the task at hand. Mastery of a skill can give a child self-confidence in his ability and an interest in learning. Conversely, if children are pressed to attempt learning tasks beyond their maturation levels, they may be denied achievement. Their progress will be slow or non-existent; they are likely to lose interest and quit trying.

It has been interesting as a coach and spectator to observe small boys being encouraged to play a game hard, then being reprimanded for verbally displaying anger, even momentarily, when they lose. This is considered as not being a "good sport". Somehow this doesn't make good sense to psychologists.

If the anger persists and is destructive to one's self and others, that is another matter. But anger, if it is not festering or destructive, strikes us as an expected consequence of disappointment and frustration (61:255).

A human being learns most effectively and most easily when he is mature enough [physically, emotionally and intellectually] to assimilate the material he is supposed to learn (61:143).

CHAPTER IV

CRITICISMS OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Little League baseball has been a rapidly advancing movement and as it has gained momentum, it has also gained many critics. Some of these will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

Stress on Winning

The most often heard criticism of Little League baseball is it's constant stress on winning. Many coaches have become so incensed with the desire to win that they disregard any consideration of the young players they were coaching. A good example of this occurred recently in the 1964 Eastern Regional Little League playoffs. Only thirty minutes before the start of the game, a young pitcher for Rhode Island's Smithfield All-Stars struck his head on the dugout roof and was rushed to the hospital. This boy was injured enough to require five stitches in his scalp. He was given drugs to ease his pain. This boy was allowed to pitch, although he "appeared unsteady from the effects of the blow on his head," a local reporter observed (28:42). There have been many incidents similar to the one just mentioned. Another incident which occurred was in the same All-Star game. The same reporter said, "Another injured youngster started as catcher, although he had sprained his

hand two days before and had great difficulty in even throwing the ball back to the pitcher" (28:42).

The coaches have been so involved in trying to produce winners that they have forgotten the original purpose of Little League baseball, which was to provide fun and recreation for boys in their pre-adolescence.

Joey Jay, in his article from True Magazine entitled "Don't Trap Your Son in Little League Madness" stated:

I was equally disgusted with the way coaches tried to rubber-stamp Stephan and other kids into Mickey Mantles. Each time a kid swung, coaches would rush up to correct his stance, shift his feet, lower his shoulders. Instead of teaching fundamentals and fun they were turning out a line of tin soldiers (28:88).

These boys should have been taught the fundamentals of the sport in which they were participating, but to have corrected the boys' stance, shifted their feet, lowered their shoulders each time they swung, bordered on the ridiculous. This over stress on fundamentals probably took most of the fun out of the game for the youngsters.

Because of the importance which was put on winning by many of the leaders of Little League, situations that should never have occurred resulted. One such incident happened in Long Island's Senior Little League in 1964. A boy of fourteen pitched in a play-off game in Kentucky after his father had collapsed and died of a heart attack. The boy was flown home for his father's funeral and then was returned immediately to Kentucky to play the outfield in the

next game (28:88).

Putting pressure on a young boy to win has spoiled the game and harmed the child. This has been one of the many reasons why educators have attacked the Little League program (32:83). Organizations that have gone on record as opposing various elements of the Little League program are: The Education Association, the Joint Committee on Athletic Competition for Children of Elementary and Junior High School Age, Department of Elementary School Principals of the National Education Association, Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and the American Association of School Administrators (55:240).

Minor League Set-up

Because of the organization's minor league program, children who were too young to compete in Little League were participating in organized baseball. The boys in the minor leagues were predominantly from age six to eight. This has been proven to be an age for wise adult supervision with a minimum of interference. At this age there is a period of relatively rapid growth. The age six to eight wants and needs adult approval, has a short attention span, is full of energy, but tires easily. The six to eight year-old needs encouragement, ample praise, warmth and great patience from adults. Probably the most important aspect concerning Little League baseball for this age group is that

their muscular development is uneven, and in general, large muscles are more advanced than are the small ones. "Precise movements are therefore a matter of considerable effort and strain for boys six to eight years-old" (29:111).

One of the biggest critics of the minor league program was Joey Jay, a pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds and the first Little Leaguer to become a major league ballplayer. He said:

I'm even more disturbed by the "farm" teams for boys of 6 to 8 which my 7-year-old son, Stephan, joined in Cincinnati last year. My wife kept complaining that Stephan was coming home tense and exhausted. I went to one game and watched angrily while the coach made a tired 6-year-old, who just couldn't get the ball over the plate, go back on the mound and keep pitching until he was ready to collapse (28:43-88).

Time Spent

Too much of the pre-adolescent's time is being spent at playing Little League baseball. Most Little League teams played at least two baseball games a week and many played three. Intermingled between the games were practices. It all added up to too much concentration on this one activity. The summertime should have been a time when the boys had a chance for relaxation and pursuing their own interests. Baseball should have been part of this, but should not have taken all their leisure. In New York, Pennsylvania and generally most of the East coast, Little League baseball began in the winter with practices in the gymnasium (28:88). Again,

boys who should have been spending their time doing many things were organized into teams to prepare for the coming Little League season. It was not only the summertime when they were involved in baseball, but the wintertime, too. This practice was not prevalent in the West.

Selection of Players

The method of choosing players for its teams was, or is, another grievous error in the Little League program. The point system proved to be unsatisfactory. Originally the points were given to each coach to afford all an equal chance to obtain players with good ability. The original idea has not worked effectively, because coaches often expended all of their points to obtain one highly regarded prospect and then had to wait until the bidding was finished before they could pick up any boys that might be left over. Before this bidding began, turnouts had been held with all coaches attending the practices. At these practices the coaches attempted to rate the players. Joey Jay described in his article the way it was done in Ohio:

Former Little Leaguers have told me that one of their worst childhood memories is the recollection of watching coaches rating them for days in little, black books until the boys learned if they made the team. The grueling selection system often starts young with League coaches bidding for the best future players. In Cincinnati farm teams that I observed many managers scout the kids at 8. If they don't get picked for the League immediately they're left out (28:88).

No boy was supposed to know whether they were picked for one thousand points or no points. It was practically impossible to keep this type of procedure quiet. Some areas even purposely let the boys know whether they were "bonus babies" or not after the bidding was over. This would give the players involved a false sense of superiority or inferiority depending upon whether they were picked for a large number of points or not (2:58).

Tournament Competition

Tournament competitions shouldn't have merited the emphasis which was placed upon them nor the time which was spent for them. In these tournaments each year, the best in Little League baseball vied for the district championships, the state title, then sectional and regional prizes. At the end of this grinding stretch was the Little League "World Series" at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. By the time this tournament trail was completed the select few had spent three strenuous weeks in a program designed to take care of leisure time. The tournament trail was too time consuming and pressure packed to be a good thing for young boys.

Exclusiveness

The Little League program took care of many boys, but it also excluded many boys who wished to play baseball.

Many boys were barred from baseball when every applicant should have been playing. For example, a town like Ilion, New York, with a population of ten thousand had only four teams, therefore many boys of League age were obviously excluded. An official of the town government complained to the League directors about this and was told bluntly, that they were interested in quality not quantity (28:89-90). In many instances even boys that made a Little League team were excluded from play. Dr. L. A. Will of Venice, Florida, described such a case:

An 11 year-old boy was dressed in his uniform and bubbling with excitement at 10 a.m. for a game at 3 that afternoon . . . He sat there inning after inning and never left the bench while his whole family watched from the stands. I have never seen a more dejected or forlorn little boy in my life. He remained crushed for days, and never again played baseball with a Little League or any other ball team (28:93).

Most boys were not affected quite this adversely.

Injuries

Physical injury has often resulted from a lack of training for preventing and handling injuries and a lack of knowledge of the physical needs of boys from eight to twelve. Pediatricians in the United States have come to recognize that young pitchers frequently suffer injuries from being subjected to physical strains that are equal to those of adult professional baseball players. These injuries have even been given their own technical names. They are known

as "Little League Elbow" and "Little League Shoulder." Both injuries had been caused because the bone and cartilage in youngsters had not yet hardened to the point where they could take the stress and strain of constant hard pitching. Proper treatment of both injuries required immobilization with a cast, splint or sling. Often they were mistreated as "pulled muscles." The University of Florida's Dr. Byron G. Brogdon, who compiled case histories for three years, between 1959 and 1962, said:

The findings suggest that Little Leaguers age 9-12 are placed on a pitcher's mound, inspired to maximum efforts by the adulation of their contemporaries and the exhortation of their often vicariously ambitious parents, at the worst possible time in their lives (16:60).

Some doctors believed that young boys didn't know when they had reached the limit of their physical endurance. Thomas E. Shaffer, M.D., in an article entitled, "Are Little Leagues, Good For Children?" in the Pennsylvania Medical Journal, stated:

Eight to twelve year-olds are normally healthy and sturdy, and their health problems are few. However, these children vary widely in the amount of stimulation or pressure they can take without tension.

As a rule they do not recognize need for relaxation and they are likely to go beyond the normal fatigue point in strenuous play. For these reasons, competitive physical activities for this age group are desirable provided they are conducted with due regard for developmental characteristics such as short attention span, variations in physical skills, and a natural tendency to disregard need for rest and relaxation.

The examples are many of youngsters who were hurt when they played beyond their endurance, or because an unthinking coach played them too long.

Athletic competition for children is undesirable when organized along adult patterns. In such cases the unavoidable emphasis placed on winning, sometimes at any cost, puts too many pressures on children who are not normally well-coordinated or strong, and on those who have not reached a stage where they want to engage in repeated, lengthy practice sessions (50:25).

Another doctor, John L. Reichart, M.D. from Chicago has stated:

Pre-adolescent and adolescent children are in a vulnerable age. During this age there are periods of rapid growth, with temporary maladjustments and weaknesses. For example, bone growth at this age is more rapid than muscle development, so that the bones and joints temporarily lack the normal protection of covering muscles and supporting tendons. During these periods, the child is particularly susceptible to dislocations of joints and to bone injuries. There are injuries which can cause permanent damage and can interfere with normal growth (50:66).

Leadership

Poor choices of coaches and leaders for the Little League program have often been made. Many of these coaches knew nothing of the needs of the eight to twelve year-old, nor did they know a great deal about baseball. Many of the coaches were fathers who volunteered to coach because their sons were involved. Professor Charles A. Bucher of New York University's School of Education felt that:

Knowledge of boys is far more important in managers and coaches than knowledge of baseball, although men who possess both qualities have the most to offer. In this crucial transitional age a youngster needs fine

teachers, worthy of emulation, not highly-organized competition geared to state and world championships (28:93).

There have been many Little League officials and coaches who were dedicated to youth recreation, but because of lack of selection standards, there has been no assurance that coaches and managers would be of high caliber. Dr. Arthur A. Esslinger, Dean of the University of Oregon's School of Health and Physical Education, and a member of the Board of Directors of Little League baseball stated, "Despite our good managers, we are all forced to admit that we had too many poor ones" (28:94). A good illustration showing how many Little League coaches are chosen was given in the article by Joey Jay:

A Little League president was presiding at an organizational meeting. He said, 'We need six managers, Who will volunteer?' The six who volunteered first were selected even though the president had never seen four of them previously (28:93).

Psychological Strain

Little League play has put much psychological strain on boys eight to twelve years old. Because of the emphasis on winning, many tense situations arose which the boys eight to twelve years old could not accept emotionally. The New England Journal of Medicine recently suggested that "Little Leaguers are subjected to psychological strains rather intense for their age, that there may be merit in the old idea that children can organize their own game" (18:198).

Monopolistic Control

Little League Baseball Incorporated became too powerful. There was no organizational set-up of checks and balances, therefore Little League functioned without interference from anyone. One New York official lamented "Little League has to report to no one . . . No corrective measures can be taken by town or village authorities, by school or park recreation staffs" (28:94). Little League was begun as a non-profit organization, but its executives have been salaried and thereby invested with a certain professional interest in the sport (38:8).

Little League developed certain tendencies toward exclusiveness. If any group disputed the correctness of the Little League by-laws, they sometimes had a difficult time gaining a Little League charter. One Little League rule stated that no boy who played in any other organized program should be considered as a candidate for Little League. Certification of all Little League players rested with Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and failure of a franchised league to comply with Little League policies subjected the league to a revocation of its charter (6:118-119).

The League's monopolistic strength was best illustrated by the fact that Little League insisted that all teams under the Little League charter be insured by a single company, American Casualty (38:8). It made no difference

whether the insurance could be obtained locally at a lower rate, this insurance was mandatory. In Iowa, some community officials declared the mandatory contract illegal and ordered it terminated. The reaction and response of Dr. Creighton J. Hale, National Vice-President of the League was "No monopoly insurances, no more Little League baseball in Iowa" (38:8).

Publicity, Commercialization and Professionalization

Television, radio, newspapers and magazines have played a big part in making Little League too glamorous for boys of eight to twelve years old. Little League was given too much publicity and it soon became a status symbol to be associated with Little League.

The greatest percentage of Little League teams had uniforms with names of businesses sewn on the back of the jersey. They also had ball parks with names of businesses on billboards. This is too much commercialization for a program such as this.

Boys became miniature professionals because of all the attention that was showered on them. An incident that occurred because of this publicity, commercialization and glamour illustrated the extremes that could occur from over-emphasis on a youngster's performance. This incident involved two boys who had strong throwing arms and good batting averages. A coach in a rival league was impressed with their

ability and attempted to get them to jump from their team to his team in a rival league. He offered the boys free taxi rides to and from games, flashy jackets, and trips to New York, just for playing on his team. The boys agreed to play for him. When their truancy was discovered and the boys related the incident, this coach denied everything the boys had claimed (2:58). Another example of professionalization was that of parents paying their boys money for hits, the farther the hit, the more the money. This practice was witnessed not only in Ellensburg, Washington, but all over the United States. In an article entitled "Leave Your Little Leaguer Alone" the author said:

Then there are fathers who pay money for hits and extra money for extra base hits--ten dollars for a home-run in one family I know. Even when the rates are low, other parents are forced to adopt the fee schedule and the boys are soon playing for funds instead of fun (45:79).

Parents evidently did not realize they were professionalizing their children.

Competition

Little Leaguers have taken the game much too seriously. Adult leadership has had a great deal to do with how seriously the program has been taken. Miss Lorraine Hopkins, who wrote an article entitled "Little League" said:

No boy ten years old should take himself seriously. Utter lack of humor is probably the most distressing aspect of the system--it is all so earnest. But of

course, why shouldn't it be, when there is so much at stake: cheers, trophies, titles, and newspaper headlines, and if you get to be a real whiz, why there's your picture in the paper, right there on the same page with Stan the Man and Ted the Kid (25:85).

Boys have developed some poor character traits from Little League baseball. It has caused young boys to become overly aggressive. The aggressiveness often stemmed from the emphasis put on winning by the adult leaders. Too much stimulation would sometimes cause a larger boy to run over a smaller boy, a pitcher to intentionally throw a ball at the batter or a player to argue with an umpire. Little League baseball also caused boys to be too competitive. Competition in itself was not harmful if it was handled correctly. John L. Reichart, an M. D. from Chicago, said:

No informed person will deny that competition is an essential part of every child's education and growth. But it is equally true that competitive drives must be allowed to develop normally and not be over stimulated or suppressed, so that as the child matures, competition and cooperation are balanced forces in his personality. A child can best be developed in respect to posture, coordination, strength and control, and emotional balance by a process of gradual training during the years of physiological immaturity, not be the forced development of special athletic skill (50:66).

Little Leaguers were quite equal in age, but this didn't mean everything else was equal. There were still mature boys playing against immature boys. Studies have shown:

. . . that the rate of maturation has a significant effect upon the physical growth, behavior, mental development, emotional tension, social development, personality and motor learning.

The boys in the program who did the best had the height and weight and maturity of 14 and 15 year-olds. The positions of catcher and pitcher usually were manned by mature individuals (22:276).

Pete McGovern, once president of Little League said, "The kids, on their own, can take the competition in their stride; it's the adults who sometimes go off the deep end" (4:48).

Parental Interference

Many of the problems of Little League baseball would not have existed if it had not been for too much parental interference. Overly competitive adults drove their youngsters to satisfy their own egos. Many times these youngsters were driven to tears by their parents. A good example of this was an incident that occurred in a Little League in Ohio:

When a youngster was trapped off first base trying to steal during a Cincinnati Little League game, his father shouted, "Don't just stand there, you fool!" I've never seen such pain and shock on a boy's face. Friends told me he refused to play for weeks (28:43).

Some other examples were found in an article entitled, "Little Leaguers Have Big Problems--Their Parents."

A boy stands on first base, crying, as the rest of his team leaves the field. He had dropped a thrown ball, and his error lost the game. "I can't go home! My daddy will be mad."

A mother shoves her Little Leaguer into her car after the game, "You embarrassed me in front of all my friends."

An outspoken father harasses a Little League manager; "You can't take my boy out now. We can't win without him." "He's pitched his three innings," says the manager, "On this team every boy plays." "You don't want to win," yells the father. "You're a lousy manager" (6:118).

Too many adult pressures have been forced upon a sport designed for children.

Many boys have participated in Little League baseball not because they wanted to, but because their parents desired it. There were parents who pushed unwilling unathletic boys into Little League play and tried to shame them forward. Parents who pushed boys into this program to satisfy their own egos really hurt their boys and the whole program.

In the East there have been some problems with gambling on Little League ballgames. The gambling was carried on by parents in the stands. One of these games resulted in a fight in the stands between parents. In an article entitled, "Little Leaguers Have Big Problems--Their Parents" an example of the gambling situation in Little League is expressed:

A riot breaks out in the stands. The stakes on the game had reached serious limits, and the various bettors, parents all, resort to first-class name calling and third rate punch-throwing. The game is called, of course, because gambling is not allowed at Little League games (6:118).

Impact on High Schools

The Little League program has sometimes been a

detriment to high school baseball programs. It has eliminated many boys who ordinarily would turn out for baseball in high school. The following is a good example of this:

In the case of two Little League friends in Connecticut, I saw the dismal result of premature glory and success. Both boys had been pushed to stardom by their coaches. Everyone in town knew their names and anticipated each dazzling achievement. One boy played shortstop in the World Series at Williamsport, and had his picture in a national magazine. But by the time he got to high school, he was so exhausted by constant demands for new heroics, he never went out for the team. The other tried out in high school and failed. The shock of being a star at 12 and a flop at 15 stunned him for years, and crippled a promising baseball career (28:89).

Little League has had a very limited impact on high school, colleges and major leagues. Lewis H. Treen, principal of Crescent City, Florida public schools said: We had a 'County Champ' for the last number of years in Little League, but we have had to drop baseball in high school because of lack of interest" (28:89).

Money Spent

Many communities have spent great sums of money for the construction of elaborate ball parks complete with electric scoreboards, luxurious dugouts and clubhouses. They also have a full time groundskeeper who is paid to maintain the facilities. Joey Jay stated:

In Westport, Connecticut; Avon Park, Florida; Ardsley, New York; and Mt. Lebanon, a Pittsburgh suburb, to mention a few, the Little League investment runs at least ten thousand dollars (28:94).

Much of this money could have been used in many other areas in the various city recreation programs.

Carl Stotz, the founder of Little League baseball, resigned from the organization in 1955. Mr. Stotz was quoted as saying, "Little League baseball has become a 'Frankenstein !' (18:198).

CHAPTER V

THE VALUES OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Bob Feller's father had a favorite saying, "You find the most clubs under the best apple trees" (35:79). He meant that whenever something is good there will always be people criticizing it. Such has been the case of Little League baseball. Less than ten percent of the available written information on the Little League program was favorable. Perhaps this was due to the innate tendency Mr. Feller mentioned for people to find fault in any good program. Therefore, many of the following ideas favoring the Little League program have been expressed from personal experience with various Little League programs.

Develops Character

Boys of Little League age are at an impressionable time in their lives. Adult leaders have had an excellent opportunity to help shape the characters of Little Leaguers. In an article entitled, "Leave Your Little Leaguer Alone" the author, Don R. McNeil, states that "The game can be an ideal vehicle for developing strength and coordination of mind as well as body" (45:40).

Professor Creighton J. Hale, National Vice-President of Little League Baseball Incorporated, claimed:

Studies show that boys in Little League have more varied interests, more different athletic pursuits, more hobbies and take a bigger role in Boy Scouts and Sunday School than other kids their age (50:66).

Little League baseball has taught boys the value of good sportsmanship. An example of good sportsmanship among players has been shown in Ellensburg, Washington, where the two teams competing almost always congratulated each other at the finish of a hard fought game. This type of situation has occurred often in Little League ball parks everywhere. Joey Jay, in his article entitled, "Don't Trap Your Son in Little League Madness" stated:

I remember one opposing coach coming over to congratulate me after a homerun. Then he took the time to correct the dangerous sliding technique of one of my teammates. After the game, the coaches invited both teams out together for sodas (28:88).

It has been from this type of an example that Little League baseball players have learned the value of good sportsmanship. Another good example of sportsmanship as it occurred in Little League baseball was reported by Arthur Daley and Margaret Baldwin in an article entitled "Small Fry at Bat." They stated the following:

There were special cheers in the 1948 tournament for twelve year-old Joe Cardamone, the stocky catcher for Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Whenever an opposing player crossed the plate after a home run, Joe whipped off his mask, stepped up and shook his hand (14:38).

Little League baseball coaches have had the opportunity to teach boys the value of promptness and obedience. In Thorp, Washington, for instance, two incidents occurred

which helped teach these boys the value of promptness. Thorp's Little League teams competed against Ellensburg, Washington, teams and half of the games were played in Ellensburg. On one occasion in 1959, because two boys were late, the team arrived in Ellensburg late and were rushed to complete their pre-game practice. On the other occasion that same year a truck that was transporting the team to Ellensburg sustained a flat tire and again the team was late and rushed through their pre-game practice. Both times Thorp lost the ball games. Both the coach and players learned that promptness fosters a greater feeling of being prepared and relaxed. This team also found that practices that began on time with all players present ran very smoothly and the learning situation was better.

In Little League baseball certain rules were established and followed. Boys learned the value of obeying and following set rules and procedures.

Little League baseball has been a good stimulant for the development of good attitudes. Excellent opportunities have been afforded for teaching young boys the value of hard work and cooperation. The players on the Thorp Little League teams of 1958, 1959, and 1960 were taught that, as long as they did their best, there was no reason to feel bad about losing or making mistakes. They were taught that hustle and hard work make up for errors and mistakes. In 1958, most

of the Thorp team players were only nine-year-olds. That year they were beaten an average of twenty runs a game. This did not bother them in the least. They were taught to look for improvement on their part and on the part of the team. They were satisfied if they scored three or four runs a game. Little League competition has taught boys the value of hard work, clear thinking and cooperation.

In an article entitled "Leave Your Little Leaguer Alone" the author, Don R. McNeil, related an incident which showed attitudes being taught to young boys. His team lost, and acted like they had lost their best friend. He talked to them and praised them for trying and playing a clean game. Their spirits lifted immediately (45:78).

Professor Kenneth Miller, Ph.D. of the Department of Physical Education, Florida State University, brought out this point: "Sports can be used as a powerful tool in teaching the habits, attitudes and characteristics of good citizenship, but they can be just as effective in producing negative results" (50:24).

Participation in Little League baseball has given boys confidence to pursue other activities besides baseball. When they had gained confidence from mastering certain aspects of Little League baseball, they were confident that they could learn other things just as well. Being successful, even if it was a minute success, helped them to gain

the confidence necessary for further pursuits.

Little League baseball influenced boys of Little League age to acquire good health habits. Many teams have established certain training rules to follow, such as getting ten hours of sleep a night; eating at a regular time; and eating a good healthful meal. Each boy was made more conscious of his body and its care. Bob Feller, in his article, "Don't Knock Little Leagues" said that his son Stevie became more conscious of taking care of his body and getting the necessary sleep to compete athletically (35:80).

Physical Benefits

One of Little League baseball's biggest advantages has been the physical development of its participants.

One of the physical benefits derived from participation in Little League was an increase in body strength. Through an organized program of exercises and drills, boys were able to increase their over-all strength.

Another physical benefit from Little League baseball was the development of the young boy's coordination. Professor Miller of Florida State University, believes:

Athletics, under good leadership, can help to teach moral and spiritual values, and can help to mold character. They can provide wholesome recreation, improve strength, agility and endurance (50:67).

Bob Feller, in expressing what Little League baseball had done for his boy Marty, said:

There has been an even more obvious change in Marty, where our oldest boy always has shown good coordination, Marty had a tendency to be awkward and clumsy. But last season as bat boy, the other youngsters let him hit a few at the plate and shag flies in the outfield. Marty made tremendous development (35:80).

Like all athletics, Little League baseball supplied an outlet for release of emotions and inhibitions. Through vigorous and controlled activity, boys have found a safe release for these emotions and inhibitions.

Little League baseball has contributed to the physical fitness of the youth through good exercise. In an article in the Atlantic Monthly entitled, "Little Leaguers Have Big Problems--Their Parents," it is brought out that baseball offers a group of boys moderate exercise in fresh air and a fair chance to prove by working together as a team they can play as well as or better than, another group of players (6:117).

Little League baseball has made the school physical education fitness program a year-round situation. They have worked hand in hand in developing the fitness of our youth. Dr. Creighton J. Hale stated:

Now the data, the facts presented deal with any type of activity as far as physiological evaluation is concerned. It is true of football, true of basketball, and all other activities. No physiological harm can be done to a child, regardless of the sports that we have today. Realizing that basketball is much more

strenuous, still it cannot harm a child physiologically. Perhaps I should point out there is a difference between physical injury and physical harm. You could have a broken bone which is an injury and physiologically it will not harm. In fact, a broken bone, as many know, may mend to be a stronger bone than it was before it was broken.

Scientific research substantiates the fact that competitive athletics do not physically harm normal children and yet there are people who still knowingly or unknowingly perpetuate this idea that there is a physiological harm which can come to a child through competitive sports. In 1948 and 1950 at the International Congress of Sports Medicine this problem was studied and it was agreed by the physiological and medical people that there is no physiological harm done to children by competing in athletics (1:18).

Dr. J. Roswell Gallagher, who heads the adolescent services of Children's Medical Center in Boston emphasized in an issue of Parade, "What we need in America's schools today is more athletics. Parents don't realize that most children need more exercise than they get" (1:18). Little League baseball has given boys a chance for more exercise and has improved the fitness of American youth.

Leisure Time

In a day of modern conveniences, children have had a great deal more leisure time than have past generations. Little League baseball has helped consume this leisure time with a worthwhile and enjoyable activity. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said, "The Little League program helps reduce crime in the community" (50:66). The head of Chicago's police juvenile bureau, Lt.

Michael Delaney, stated, "We're sure Little League cuts down on delinquency. It keeps the kids doing something worthwhile (50:66).

Fundamentals

In the article "Little Leaguers Have Big Problems-- Their Parents" it is brought out that boys, all children, must be taught the fundamentals of any useful activity (6:120). It has been easy to teach fundamentals to boys of Little League age because of their eagerness and enthusiasm. A good example of the ease with which fundamentals could be taught was found in the Thorp Little League teams of 1958 to 1961. In 1958, the team was made up of predominantly eight and nine year olds. Fundamentals were stressed, along with having a good time. In 1958, Thorp lost their first eleven games, then won three out of the last four games. In one year these boys had become so fundamentally sound that they won twelve games and lost only three in 1959. Again in 1960, they won twelve and lost three games. Finally, in 1961, the team won the championship of their league with a record of thirteen wins and only two losses. Most observers of Little League baseball in Ellensburg during these years mentioned that these teams were fundamentally sound.

Social Benefits

There has been little discrimination in Little League

baseball. Bob Feller said:

These Little Leagues not only foster friendships, develop coordination and good health habits in boys, but they break down social barriers and make for a more closely knit community. In our league, for example, we have the banker's son, the industrialist's son, the gardener's son, the grocer's son, the fireman's son and the ballplayer's son. No one pays any attention to how much money the boy's father has, or his social standing. Rich or poor, he's judged on how he performs in open competition. Where else is there a more practical training ground for democracy (35:80).

Not only has there been a lack of discrimination on the social standing of the boys, but there has been very little discrimination because of the color of the skin. A good example of this was brought out in the Christian Century in an article entitled "It Happened In Harlingen: Negro on the Little League Team." In this Little League, one of the teams was sponsored by the Methodist Church. On this team were two negro boys. Many of the townspeople put pressure on officials to eliminate these boys from the squad. The city even threatened to take away the Little League ball park, which was on city land. Parents and boys of the Little League demonstrated that it made no difference what the color of the skin was, they wanted all boys to be given an opportunity to participate. Because of these parents and the boys, the pressure that was put upon this Little League was of no avail and the two negro boys were allowed to continue participating (54:176).

Another illustration of racial harmony was shown in Red Smith's article, "Pop Secol's Ice Cream League." Pop Secol commented, "Here'd be a Chinese kid with a Jew kid on one arm, a Negro kid on the other" (60:90).

The Little League baseball program allowed boys the opportunity to belong to a team or organization. It supplied one of the basic needs of boys of the pre-adolescent age; that of belonging to a group or "gang."

The fostering of friendships was another tangible benefit from participation in the program. A typical situation that occurred in Little League was explained by Arthur Daley and Margaret Baldwin:

In a district playoff in 1947 the two opposing pitchers lived in the same neighborhood and came to the game on the same bicycle, one riding the other on the crossbar. The game was a scoreless tie until the last inning. Then the pitcher who owned the bike hit a home run and won the game 1 to 0. When the two went home together, on the crossbar of the bike was the losing pitcher, tears streaming down his cheeks (14:40).

Through practices and games, boys have picked and helped develop future leaders. Little League baseball has been a good stimulant for the development of these leaders.

Boys, who have been discipline problems in school and at home, many times have been challenged enough and have enough activity in the Little League program that there was a definite improvement in their general attitude.

Seldom mentioned as an attribute of the Little League program was its effect in stimulating boys to improve their

scholastic performance. Many times boys have enjoyed some success in this summer program which spurs them on in an attempt to achieve further success in other areas.

Competition

Competition as a part of life has been taught. It is very much in evidence in all parts of our society, therefore children should be taught to handle competition early.

Bob Feller commented:

I am not conceding, however, that Little Leaguers are too young for competition. I just can't go along with the theorists who insist that too much stress is placed in Little League ball on winning and that a permanent emotional scar is left on a youngster when his team loses.

If this were true, competition would have to be eliminated at birth. Aren't children competing for attention from the moment they are born? Don't they compete when they make their first trip to the sandbox to see who makes the best mud pie, or in the second and third-grade spelldowns.

Baseball is a contest. The object is to win and I don't believe it is normal or desirable to accept a defeat with a shrug.

Understand, I am not trying to encourage emotional outbursts. But, I don't believe that strong desire to succeed is unhealthy. I remember seeing one Little Leaguer cry last year. But he got over it and by the time we went to the drugstore afterward, there were no salty tears diluting his chocolate soda. In fact, he had two. He learned to live with a setback. I've always felt that persons who jump out of windows when their plans go wrong never really experienced defeat before (35:81).

John L. Reichart, M. D. from Chicago states, "No informed person will deny that competition is an essential

part of every child's education and growth" (50:66).

In an article entitled, "Little Leagues Good or Bad," it is commented that:

Children of all ages will instinctively engage in competitive athletics activity, especially in body contact play, such as boxing, wrestling, and bare-hand fighting, with no holds barred. To minimize the dangers of such activities, it is better for adults to organize and direct them (50:66).

Under sensible supervision, most boys have competed without harm in Little League baseball.

Emotionally, Little League has had very little real lasting effect on pre-adolescent boys. Dr. Creighton J. Hale denied that youngsters are exposed to severe emotional pressures when they play Little League baseball. Dr. Hale said:

A Pennsylvania State University study showed that a group of boys who played in the Little League World Series and won--boys exposed to all levels of stimulation--were the best adjusted boys in their schools, homes and community.

Tests at the University of California at Los Angeles show that boys playing in tournaments are no greater stimulated than kids playing softball in a physical education class at school (50:25).

Harry A. Scott, a professor at Columbia University in an article "Not So Little" emphasized:

For those who fear the evil effects of competitive sports, it should be pointed out that even if there were no athletics for children, they would still be subject to the emotional disturbances resulting from thwarted ambitions in other activities or failure to achieve in the levels expected of them by their parents, teachers and others who are intimately connected with them.

Throughout their lives children compete for marks in school, and for recognition and social status. If the emotional scars resulting from these "normal" activities could be measured, they would probably exceed the disturbances resulting from the comparatively healthy and innocuous game of baseball (55:243-244).

Competition in the Little League baseball program has contributed to better achievement and performance. Studies have shown that the boys who participate in Little League have diversified interests, not only in school but in other community activities.

Family

An excellent opportunity that the Little League program has provided is that of bringing the family closer together in a common interest. Father and son can meet on a common ground. Mother becomes involved in money raising projects for the program and sister is one of the biggest rooters. In an age where the tendency is toward decentralization of the family, Little League baseball has counteracted this movement by helping to create a chance for family togetherness.

Community Benefits

The Little League baseball movement has pointed out the need for community recreation programs. Mr. John Bunn, athletic director at Springfield College stated:

. . . that 55 percent of the communities where Little League baseball was organized did not have a recreation department and when Little League baseball came in, 32 of these as a result of the stimulus of Little League baseball have organized public recreation departments (1:20).

Because of this program, people have had a tendency to enjoy a famous American tradition, that of friendliness and neighborliness. Bob Feller emphasized that because of Little League baseball:

There is a new neighborliness, too, among the adults. Getting together at the ball games is almost as easy for the grown-ups as for the youngsters; we simply let the kids show the way (35:81).

Finally, the Little League program can supplement inadequate school programs. Speaking of education of the gifted student, Fred V. Hein, Ph.D., Department of Health Education of the American Medical Association stated:

In many areas of education the gifted child has been neglected, but in P.E., including athletics, this is certainly not the case. The physically gifted child has usually had the cream of facilities, equipment and time and attention from personnel (50:25).

Frequently, this has meant that there has been little or no sports programs for other children. At the elementary school level, as a general rule, facilities and personnel are too limited to support both programs. With our crowded schools these conditions are not likely to improve in the near future. Thus those who are most physically fit are likely to receive the major share of attention. Such a program can help to perpetuate physical unfitness among many children so deprived of opportunity for participation (50:66).

The original purpose of Little League baseball was to provide a program for young boys and it has in many ways accomplished this.

CHAPTER VI

RECOMMENDATIONS

Little League baseball is a well established institution. It cannot be eliminated by its many critics. Therefore, educators, physical educators, recreation directors, and physicians should ally themselves with the program and help to establish the necessary reforms to insure a balanced program for the pre-adolescent boy.

The program must have responsible adults working in all phases of Little League. The program must be geared more to the needs of the boys, and the cost of the program should be kept to a minimum.

Little League baseball must be freed of unnecessary and undesirable pressures and overstimulation. Children should have fun while they are playing.

The following recommendations could help accomplish these goals and insure a better program.

Adult Leadership

The following recommendations pertain to the area of adult leadership:

1. Coaches and managers must be more carefully selected. Pat Ireland, a co-founder of a revised program of Little League in Ketterling, Ohio, has stated:

We pick our managers not from baseball stars, but from men who best handle youngsters . . . Smiles are what we're looking for and we get lots of them (28:93).

It is very important that men of responsibility are picked because they are the ones who are going to insure the success of this youth program.

2. League officials in each area must establish close links with school and park systems and recreation supervisors to take advantage of the skills of these local leaders. Only through cooperation and the using of all available qualified youth leaders can Little League baseball escape many of the criticisms that have been made.
3. Parental interference should not be permitted. A parental education program should be sponsored by each local league. Every parent of a Little League boy should make an attempt to attend. In a parental education program, the parent would be told the correct manners to be employed while they are involved in the Little League baseball program. Each parent should be instructed to cheer all players on either team when a good play is made during a game,

desist from booing, not dispute the decisions of the umpires, leave the coaching to the coaches and to encourage good sportsmanship among players and adults. Parents should be allowed to participate in the Little League program only after they clearly understand the philosophy of the program and the way in which it will be conducted.

Choosing Teams

1. The Little League teams should be obtainable to all boys of the pre-adolescent age. Qualified personnel other than coaches should divide the boys to be reasonably sure that no team will be too strong. This division would be made after watching all the boys participate in organized practices for at least two weeks. This procedure would be followed each year.
2. The teams should be divided according to the height, weight, age, maturity and ability of the boys. In many Washington State junior high schools, the track teams are divided in this manner. This program has established a smooth working operation where a boy can expect to participate with boys of his own qualifications.

3. Before any boy is allowed to participate in the Little League program, he should be required to have a complete physical examination. This would cut down on injuries that have resulted because boys have participated who should not have.

Games

1. Every boy should play at least two innings a game. Each team has fifteen players which means that six boys are not playing. At the beginning of the third inning both teams could be required to substitute all six of the substitutes. The starting players could be reinserted at the beginning of the fifth inning and not before. This would leave no decision in the hands of the coach whether to substitute or not. It would make an interesting game for everyone concerned, instead of just nine ballplayers and their parents.
2. All Little League ball games should be played during the day. This is when the young boy has leisure time to spare. It is also the time of day when he is not tired and can perform at peak capacity.

3. Little League teams should not be allowed to travel further than their own town or if it is a rural area, the immediate vicinity.
4. Little League players should not be allowed to throw the curve ball. Rules have been adopted concerning leading off bases and the same thing could be done about the curve ball. The injuries of "Little League Elbow" and "Little League Shoulder" have been caused mainly by the tension put on the shoulder and elbow from throwing the curve ball. Boy's arms and shoulders haven't developed sufficiently to take this pressure. Banning the curve ball would also allow players to learn the fundamentals of batting because it is easier to hit the straight ball.
5. Little League teams should not be allowed to play more than two games a week. In this way, the young boy's body can physically and mentally rebound to normalcy between games.

Length of Season

1. Little League baseball's training season should be shortened. Practices should not be allowed until fifteen days before the opening of the season. No organized winter practices would be

allowed.

2. All post season tournaments should be dropped.

When the regular league season ends, the baseball season should be over. A league championship has been determined which is reward enough for any boy on the team.

3. The practice of choosing all-star teams should be abandoned. Being chosen on an all-star team has given many boys a false sense of worth, which has later been detrimental to them. As they get older they will have many opportunities to be chosen for these honors.

Minor League

1. The boys who do not meet the age, height, weight and maturity requirement would play in a league with boys of similar ability. Usually the boys who are involved in this lower league are from the ages six to ten. For the lower league, a different type of program would be initiated. This league should play T-ball. The ball is not pitched, it sits on a tee from which the batter attempts to hit it onto the playing field. With this type of game, every youngster is a fielder as well as a hitter. The game moves very rapidly because the normal catcher

and pitcher domination has been eliminated.

Costs

1. The publicity of Little League baseball should be kept at a minimum. Only the results of the games and the schedules of coming games should be publicized in the newspaper. It is not necessary to point out anything about player heroics or the league standings.
2. Uniforms should be made simple. All that is really necessary is a uniform hat and tee shirt. The expense of the sponsor would be cut by one-half.
3. Investments in the Little League ball parks should be kept to a reasonable amount. The playing field and backstops should be kept in the best possible condition because of the injury factors. Elaborate stands, scoreboards and clubhouses are all luxury items which are not necessary. The money used for these things could be used to good advantage in other parts of a community recreation program.

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