



Catholic Social Teaching

Every Kid Should Play

"I can't believe the article my dad showed me that was in the paper yesterday," Jaime told his good friend Sam. "You're not going to believe this."

Jaime went on to tell Sam that a T-ball coach had paid one of his players \$25 to hurt a mentally disabled eight-year-old team-mate so that the coach wouldn't have to put the boy in the game.

"No way! I don't believe it," said Sam.

"Me either. Do you remember when we were in T-ball? There was the rule that every kid had to play at least three innings. I guess the coach wanted to get around that rule because this boy wasn't very good or something." Jaime went on, "The article says that the boy was hit in the head and in the groin with a baseball just before the game. He didn't play in the game. His mom must have known what was going on because she called the police. They said that the coach just wanted to win, that he was too competitive."

"But they're eight-year-olds!" Sam still couldn't believe it. "Who would treat an eight-year-old like that? Who would treat anybody like that?"

"Well, the coach had two sons on the team," Jaime added. "Maybe he wanted them to get more playing time. Who knows? Anyway, he was arrested and charged with criminal solicitation to commit aggravated assault and the corruption of minors."

"It makes me so mad," said Sam.

"It makes me think about the times I've picked on kids," shared Jaime. "I never really thought about what it must have felt like for them."

"Yeah, me too," admitted Sam.

(Story based on facts from an Associated Press story, July 16, 2005, Pittsburgh.)

The Dignity of All People

God creates each person in his image and likeness. Christians are to respect the dignity of all people as Jesus did. We are to respect others as children of God.

