



## **Don't Forget the Positive Side of Sports**

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Sometimes we get so wrapped up with what's wrong in sports, we almost fail to take notice of what's right.

Real examples of what's right make it easier to understand how sportsmanship should be.

A story has been circulating around the national airways. It is an account of giving of oneself to help a fellow athlete. This story comes from the State of Washington and involves softball players Sara Tucholsky and Mallory Holtman.

Tucholsky had never hit a college home run, while Holtman was her school's home run leader.

They met recently to help their teams fight for a spot in the NCAA Division II softball tournament, and their paths would cross in a most unusual way.

Tucholsky's team had already won the first game of a doubleheader when she came to bat in the top of the second inning in Game 2 with two runners on base and the score tied 0-0.

Tucholsky got hold of one and knew right away it was gone.

Because of her excitement she missed first base. When she retraced her steps she blew out her right knee.

Assistance from coaches or trainers would have caused an out, and a pinch runner would change Tucholsky's only home run into a two-run single.

People were concerned for her well being, so Tucholsky's coach was ready to send in a pinch runner when Holtman stepped forward and asked if it would be OK for her and a teammate to carry Tucholsky around the bases.

Keep in mind, this is a member of the opposition jeopardizing her team's chances for a postseason berth.

Holtman and another teammate supported Tucholsky's weight between them as they began the slow journey around the bases.

The fans gave the girls a standing ovation as they performed their selfless act.

This story shows how winning isn't everything. Sometimes we have to sacrifice and do what's right – give of ourselves to help someone else. This is a story that will last forever.

Then there's Tyler Lincoln.

Lincoln is a senior who competed for the Brodhead-Juda wrestling team.

In December, Tyler participated in a tournament at Madison East High School. So did Ripon's Nathan Schendel.

Lincoln was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler. Schendel placed sixth in his 103-pound weight class.

Lincoln watched Schendel wrestle and noticed something different about him.

Schendel is an autistic young man who never wrestled prior to this past season. He also lost his father in September and his mother four years ago.

Nathan Schendel's enthusiasm affected Tyler Lincoln so much, Lincoln ended up giving his outstanding wrestler award to Schendel, and said Nathan was more of a winner than anybody by just wrestling.

Here are two examples of kids showing us adults how to act at sporting events.

Sports isn't just about becoming good athletes, it's about becoming good people. We need to take notice.