

Living up to our expectations

It's a well known fact around this office that I enjoy softball. In fact, it's been said I'm a little obsessive about the game at times. And I don't deny it, having shared coaching duties of a midget girls fastball team with two good friends of mine for several years now.

Gord, Michael and I consider fastball our stress management therapy, the time we put all the concerns of work behind us for the couple of hours and devote ourselves to the game.

And our team is great. I'm always quick to lay praises on all 14 members of the squad, whose dedication and commitment to the team is certainly the envy of many of our rivals in the Intercounty Softball league.

But last week, I was more impressed than usual. We spend the weekend playing in a tournament, against teams regularly playing tier one fastball. The competition was intense.

And after a full weekend of fastball, we managed to finish third, just out of the money, but, judging from the level of competition, quite respectable.

We returned to regular season play, to face one of the teams we played in the tournament, Monday night.

This team had suffered their first loss to us early in the tournament, and were later eliminated by another defeat. It would be safe to say they didn't like us.

And it would be equally safe to say the feeling is somewhat mutual.

Anyway, resuming regular season play earlier this week, we faced our rivals.

It wasn't pretty.

They pulled every trick in the book, to embarrass, jeer, intimidate, and downright insult members of our team during the game.

Both coaches from the opposing team were issued warnings from their own umpires for using foul language and yelling on the diamond.

That lack of sportsmanship always annoys me to no end. In fact it infuriates me.

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But we beat them fair and square — in spite of their cheap tactics.

And without one wrong word from our girls. They shrugged off every insult, every act of intimidation and every display of poor sportsmanship with a smile.

At times, a rather forced smile.

It was quite a task for a group of 17 to 19-year-old girls. I was pleased.

Our team has always been a class act, and after their performance this week, they certainly reinforced that claim.

But I started to wonder why there was such a difference in the two teams. Why were they such jerks? Was it just a bad bunch of girls?

Were their coaches less than ideal? That would be an easy explanation, but I don't buy it.

No, I've come to the conclusion, it's simply because kids in their late teens will simply live up to what is expected of them. Our girls know the image their coaches want to project and they just do it — without being told.

It's not because we're better coaches than the others — far from it, since that team has always given us a good run for our money.

But I think it's perhaps our girls have a couple of qualities within themselves, some members of the other team lacked.

Simply stated, they respect the game.

And perhaps more importantly, they respect themselves.

CORRECTIVE NOTICE BY GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

The Director of Investigation and Research (Competition Bureau, Industry Canada) has informed us that savings claims published by Goodyear from January to May 1994 in various newspapers across Canada for the promotion of some of its replacement passenger tires have raised questions under the misleading advertising sections 52(1)(a) and 52(1)(d) of the Competition Act.

The advertisements contained savings claims such as: "25% off"; "four tires for the price of three"; "the second at half price" which were not based on the ordinary selling prices of these tires in all cases.

Goodyear has resolved this situation by ensuring that all current and future savings claims published by Goodyear are based on the regular price at which the product is sold in the relevant market area. We have also established an internal multi-tier advertising review system to support this commitment.



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