

brighter side

While it is not possible to accommodate all letters of thanks or appreciation received, due to the volume, many are interesting and deserving. The Evening News will periodically publish such letters in this column.

Bedford 3B a gem in the community

I have been a coach/participant/official for 40 years

in basketball, football, ice hockey and baseball. Recently retired, I went through the various training meetings and hands-on clinics that Bedford 3B Baseball provided and became a 3B Baseball umpire. I found that this group is well organized, has a chain of command and sticks by its house rules. It's a no-nonsense organization.

There are over 750 boys playing baseball, guided by 180 coaches. There are 70 umpires, with 65 percent

who are high school age or younger. Often, it is their first job, and they learn about dealing with all kinds of people, that mistakes are made, the importance of being on time and supporting each other as a group. It's a great growing experience for them. Plus the money they earn stays in the community.

There is a group of 16 people who hold various positions in the organization, from president to concessions to booster direc-

tor. They put in numerous hours, starting in February and ending in September. They are ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

Scott Young is the umpire director. He is the glue that holds everything together. He is firm, but fair, and has a great calmness about him when dealing with the public. A modest man, he supports his staff and often diverts his praise to others.

I suspect that people in the

Lambertville/Temperance area consider 3B Baseball a normal function of the community, that every borough and town has a baseball program like their own. Believe me, this is not the case. I have been a member of several athletic organizations. Bedford has a hidden gem, a diamond in the rough. Listed here are 16 ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They should be commended for what they do. They are an asset to the

community: Mike Woolford, Dan Sporel, Ken Andres, Jay Villarreal, Dave Hottman, Carey Rakich, Randy Krupp, Bill Zgorzelski, Steve Rechsteiner, Scotty Young, Jean Rakich, Dave Eason, Matt Chetcuti, Matt Wagenhauser, Mark Moening and Jim Schieb Jr.

"No man stands so tall, as when he stoops to help a boy." — Unknown

**Jake Jacobs
Toledo**