

# Positive Coaching Alliance

## NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON GOOD COACHING

CASE STUDY #3 | JULY 2008

### THE LIMITS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

**SITUATION** Sara Tucholsky's first college home run was a 3-run shot in the 2nd inning of a scoreless game to determine whether her Western Oregon (WOU) team or Central Washington (CWU) would qualify for the NCAA Division 2 softball tournament. Rounding first, Tucholsky's knee gave out and she collapsed. Mallory Holtman, CWU's star 1st-baseman, reacted to Tucholsky in pain on the ground. She and teammate Liz Wallace carried Tucholsky, allowing her to score the third run for WOU, which went on to win 4-2.

- QUERY**
- Was Holtman and Wallace's action an example of outstanding sportsmanship or of a lack of competitiveness? Why?
  - If you were the CWU pitcher, how might you feel about your teammates enabling the opponent to score what might have been the winning run?
  - If this had happened in a high-stakes professional championship, would it be appropriate for an opposing player to do what Holtman did? Why or why not?
  - Would you encourage your child to emulate Mallory Holtman? What might you say to him or her?
  - What might a comparable act of sportsmanship be in other sports?

- ACTION**
- Distribute copies to parents at the next youth sports event you attend.
  - Send it to friends involved in youth sports and ask their opinions.
  - Share this case and discuss these questions with your child.
  - Share your opinion at [www.positivecoach.org/CaseStudies.aspx](http://www.positivecoach.org/CaseStudies.aspx) or via e-mail to [casestudy@positivecoach.org](mailto:casestudy@positivecoach.org). PCA will publish all civil responses on our website.



[www.positivecoach.org](http://www.positivecoach.org)

American Medical Society  
for Sports Medicine

American Youth Soccer  
Organization

Institute for International  
Sport

Little League International

National Association for  
Sport & Physical Education

National Federation of State  
High School Associations

Michigan State University  
Institute for the Study of  
Youth Sports

Pop Warner Little Scholars,  
Inc.

USA Volleyball

USA Water Polo

US Lacrosse

#### About the National Conversation

Positive Coaching Alliance and its partners in the National Conversation distribute Case Studies periodically to stimulate conversation among youth and high school sports parents, coaches and leaders about the elements of good (and bad) coaching. If you share our goal that youth athletes receive the best coaching available, help us get these case studies to people you know who are involved with youth sports. Thank you.