

USA Volleyball & 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 or via e-mail to casestudy@positivecoach.org. PCA will publish all civil responses on our website.



www.positivecoach.org



www.usavolleyball.org

About the National Conversation

USA Volleyball and Positive Coaching Alliance 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.