Parents more trouble than help to baseball children

A team manager and some parents are very disillusioned with their recent experience in the North Farmington West Bloomfield little league.

"I don't know if I'll coach and man-age again," said Pam Pettit, of NFWB Junior Girls Softball League. "I would have to have one good year to make up

In an open letter to a parent, Mrs. Pettit detailed some of her frustrations in coaching the 10-12 age team this summer.

All of her complaints involved par-ents. There were parents who com-plained about driving kids to games. Mrs. Pettit and team mothers would

agree to pick up those kids, but often they would not be ready on time. Most parents, Mrs. Pettli of Farm-ington Hills, said, would show up for one game all season. During that game they would criticize umpires and the coaches.

No one offered to help all season except two team mothers who helped arrange for rides and watch the kids.

Mrs. Pettit handled both the coaching

"APATHY AMONG the parents is pathetic," said Mrs. Terry Lifton of West Bloomfield, a team mother. "Half of the games the parents don't even show up. They treat it just like a baby sitting service. They drop off

their kids and two hours later they pick them up.

"Once they showed up." Mrs. Lifton said. "they decided they knew more than the coach. If they could have been helping the whole "eason, loging after the coach.

"There were parents who knew the game would end by 5 p.m., but we would have to sit around for 45 min. Little waiting for them to pick up their kids. Unfortunately, in this day and age, you don't leave a child unattended at a field."

Mrs. Lifton added that the coaches do the best job possible. She said that the league does not do enough to instruct coaches.

"That's why I've never coached."
Mrs. Lifton said. "It's not fair to the
girls because I don't know erough
about the game. Too many coaches
are taking on the job and not giving
the girls all they should know."
Officials in both youth baseball and
soccer leagues have complained this
summer about lack of parental
involvement.

MRS. NANCY VANGILDER has two daughters playing softball in NFWB. One plays on Mrs. Pettit's team. Mrs. Vangilder is a team mother for another team

typical of any little league, not just North Farmington West Bloomfield. I attended the games. I have no compaints about the organization, management or coaching, "The only problem," Mrs. Vangilder said, "is that it becomes rather cliquish. Even though there is an attempt to fairly distribute the players on each team, sometimes it becomes lopsied."

on each team, sometimes it becomes loopsided."

Team manager and coach Mrs. Pettit played junior softball herself. When her daughter began playing, it seemed natural for her to become involved as a coach. She may not coach again after this year.

Publish: August 3 and 10, 1978

"The thing which really bothered me." Mrs. Pettit said. "is you would look at 15 little girls who all want to play a certain position. I want to let them play too. I can't let them play there every time. I would do what I bought was best and hear some part of the sideline saying. What's the matter with that manager, putting that girl on second base. If I have first who want to play second base, girls who want to play second base. When the work of the control to the property of the second base. The kids know what's fair." Mrs. Pettit said. "They don't get uptet. If they say something to me it's because the parents prompt it."

Youth cites parents as problem

OPEN LETTER TO
A PARENT FROM
A LITTLE LEAGUE
MANAGER
I had 15 softball games
and 10 practices this season. You are the parent
who came to only one of
those games. Oh. I knew it
was you. I heard you,
the control of the control
thought the outfielder
should be playing closer
to the infield. Before I
even met your child you
called me to complain
that you had six children
of your own to drive to
different activities and
why did I make it so difficult for you by having
so many practices?
Remember when you
asked me to take your
child to some of the
little to some of
the control
that is the control
tha

picked her up. You made uring a game and me 10 minutes late for the game and the other parents were angry with me for the delay in starting the game.

I asked you to tell me I asked you to tell me take your place.

when your child would be trable to make a game but I guess you were too been but that OK. The season was useless because you didn't bother to inform roe. I kept believing in you though, and never gave up trying to play the girls fairly.

YOU WERE THE parent who screamed at the opposing team, criticized the umpire and just couldn't figure out why I placed my girls in the batting lineup as I did. Most of all I appreciated your concern when you approached me during a game and asked. "May I make a suggestion?"

Finally, after the last game. you picked up your child and the two of you drove off and as I stood there watching you I thought. "They didn't say 'thanks'—they didn't say 'thanks'—they didn't seven say 'good-bye." I know you feel you can do the job more effectively, so I am stepping aside so that you can manage a team next year.

ping aside so that you can manage a team next year.

To help you get started, I'll give you an idea of what to expect: 150 hours of hard work without monetary compensation throken down that would be approximately 50 hours actual game time, 30 hours of practices, 5-10 hours conversing with league commissioners and fourhours of meetings learning first aid and softball strategy).

You must learn the there is a strategy in the control of the

they only have to watch one thing while you must

directions at once.

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Set time aside for team pictures.
Expect the unexpected.
Expect criticism from parents and your own coaches—but be ready—tell them. "If you think you can do it better, take over." After that they won't say anything.

Pam Pettit Softball Manager

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS NOTICE

The City of Farmington Hills will hold a Public Hearing August 14, 1978 at 7:00 o'Clock P.M., at the City Administration Building in the Council Chambers at 3155 Even Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, to discuss the Housing Assistance Pan pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant Program. Comments from the Public well be welcome.

LIVONIA



MON.-FRI. 8-5

SAT. 8-12

Dog field competition

A fun trial, training session and water test will be conducted by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Michigan Sunday at the Highland Rec-

reation Area near Milford.

Entries will be accepted beginning 8 p.m. and the program should get started at approximately 8:30 a.m. There is no charge for spectators.

The test will be conducted at the Rem Course.

Barn Course.

Specific details about the registration fee and the day's program may be
obtained by contacting Ken Pauley at
755.0413



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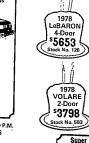
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