

Other coaches, all of whom put in between eight and 20 hours a week of unpaid work, have different styles. Some watch the games quietly, putting little pressure on the team; others constantly assert themselves, calling out orders and directions in peppery style from the sidelines to encourage their team's victory.

SPECTATOR PARENTS, TOO, contribute to the game's spirit. Some unabashedly root for their own son and go so far as to boo the other team; calling out insults. Others, probably the majority, are not quite so brazen.

"In the heat of the game, I'll admit that sometimes I do feel like yelling out insults," admitted one mother. "I never do, though. A person who does that is usually ostracized by the other parents. Nobody approves of that kind of thing when dealing with little kids."



MARTY ABRAHAM

from May through late June or July. All-star games and championships are part of the pre-planned program.

IN THE MEMORIES of most parents, even the most enthusiastic Little League boosters, baseball was a casual game, organized back in the '40s and early '50s by the kids themselves in their own neighborhoods. Parents were rarely called upon to chauffeur young players, much less to act as coaches or managers.

Whole generations of boys grew up without ever having their parents play the role of dutiful spectators.

The advent of Little League ball has changed the entire complexion of the game for the children of these parents. Once a come-as-you-are, come-when-you-feel-like-it proposition, junior baseball is serious business, another super structure in the pattern of growing up suburban style.



Jim Ray is ready.

Since most Little League games are held during early evening hours, whole families often attend, sitting on the sidelines with picnic baskets and thermos bottles filled with soft drinks and sometimes 5 o'clock Bloody Marys.

Admittedly, in a game that is organized, supervised and run by parents, there is always a delicate balance between the proper amount of guidance and out and out bull-ness.

Beginning in late April boys attend practice sessions set up by their coaches. By May they are selling candy door to door to help pay for the cost of their uniforms. Prizes are given by the league to top salesmen as an added incentive.

The games themselves, which run only six innings, are scheduled by league officials and are played



Steve Michuta winds up.



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fun in the sun TENNIS

If you're looking for a sport that is easy on the budget, keeps the entire family trim and is fun at any speed, then it's time to take up tennis.

"The physical fitness aspect of the game accounts for most of its soaring popularity," Butch Buchholz, former tennis pro, believes. "Tennis is one of the finest ways to keep the body toned because practically every muscle is being used. And, depending upon the game's pace, it can be a real calorie burner."

According to Buchholz, there are several other reasons for the nationwide surge in tennis. "It doesn't take a lot of money to get started in tennis. You can buy excellent equipment for under \$50.

"Tennis is a wonderful sport," Buchholz said. "Anyone from the age of seven to seventy can play because individuals can set their own pace. Depending upon the amount of exercise desired, it can be a leisurely activity or a sizzling, fast-paced sport.

"The advent of indoor tennis courts has been vital to the game's growth," according to Buchholz.

Nor does tennis require a lot of time. Because an active game can be played within an hour or two, it can fit the tightest of schedules.

For all these reasons, one of the most frequently heard questions today is... "Tennis, anyone?"