

I would first like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Wapakoneta students and community on yet another outstanding year. Last year's Redskin athletes won 8 of 20 contested WBL Championships (an amazing 40%), en route to our second consecutive WBL All Sports Championship. The hard work by our athletes, coaches, parents, and the support of our entire community has not gone unnoticed.

As I enjoyed my summer days, I had the opportunity to attend baseball games at every level; pee wee, high school, Lima Locos, Fort Wayne TinCaps, and Cincinnati Reds. Not surprisingly, as the level of play increased, so too did the number of fans in attendance. As I observed these fans at all levels, I witnessed some acts and heard words that, if reflected upon later, likely would not have been the fans' proudest moments. While fans yelled at officials, coaches, players, and other fans, I was proud to call Wapakoneta home. There are times when we all get caught up in the intensity of the moment, so it would be hypocritical of me to say that I have never seen a Wapakoneta fan say or do something that wasn't right. However, as a whole, our community has a great sense of pride in doing what is right, and teaching our kids to do the same. Because of this, when I am outside the community, I am still surprised, on occasion, at the words people so freely use, regardless of who is around. Being a parent has taught me that the next generation has very good hearing, so each time I hear a negative word uttered, I am reminded of a poem by an anonymous author I once read:

### **He is Only a Boy**

Please don't curse the boy down there,  
He is my son you see.  
He's only just a boy you know,  
He means a lot to me.  
I did not raise my son dear fan,  
For you to call him names.  
He may not be a super-star,  
It's just a high school game.  
So please don't curse those boys down there,  
They do the best they can.  
They never tried to lose a game.  
They're boys and you're a man.  
The game belongs to them you see,  
You are just a guest.  
They do not need a fan like you,  
They need the very best.  
If you have nothing nice to say,  
Please leave the boys alone,  
And if you have no manners,  
Why don't you stay home.  
So please don't curse those boys down there,  
Each one's his parents' son.  
Win, lose or tie, you see.  
To us they're "NUMBER ONE"  
-Anonymous

That boy could be the coaches, players, officials or the people selling tickets, running the scoreboard or passing out popcorn. Regardless of the score, there is a reason the Redskins win on and off the field - it all starts with those in the stands.

Thank you Wapakoneta and Go Redskins!