

SOME PARENTS AND COACHES ARE DESTROYING THE GAME I LOVE – BASEBALL

This is a great example of how glorified ‘street agents’ are ruining high school sports:

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Ron Savage @CoachSavage17 · 1h

After deleted and then speed tweeting to try to get people to forget, @JRudd_Scout doubles down with a NY Times back page follow up in which he doubles down by saying if you are really good and your teammates are average, don't just skip starts.... Bail on them. 🤦



Josh Rudd @JRudd_Scout · 1h

Alright X-verse... let's lean into it. @FlatgroundApp @FlatgroundBats

01/27/2024

LEANING INTO IT

www.jruddscout.com

EDITORIAL BY J. RUDD SCOUT

COLLEGE BASEBALL RECRUITING



BY JOSH RUDD, FLATGROUND SPORTS
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YES, PITCHERS. SKIP HIGH SCHOOL STARTS.

TO PERFORM BEST DURING THE CRITICAL MONTHS OF RECRUITING, SHORTEN SPRING SEASON. COACHES WHO GET THE BIG PICTURE WILL COLLABORATE.

Well, he could quit playing high school altogether – which is one of my recommendations for elite recruits playing on the average HS team in America these days. (Academy programs is another topic we've covered at length on this platform.) However, I support playing high school for most kids.

My reasons for supporting high school sports are likely the same as yours – personal and social growth – but one of my reasons is not for athletic development. Due to declining resources, the best on-field training is no longer found at your local high school. And at the end of the day, the best ballplayer is getting the scholarship.

So how can a recruit find a balance between spring, summer, and fall? Well, one good way for teenage pitchers to find a happy medium between seasons is to push back the start of HS. This doesn't mean lying to your coach.

For a recruit to be at their best in summer & fall, going pedal-to-the-metal in February and March won't be the advice of any expert. Telling the high school coach "my arm isn't ready yet" is, in my opinion, a direct and truthful statement. Some may call it selfish, but I'd call it smart. And hell, this also allows pitchers to be even stronger come playoff time when the almighty state title is up for grabs.

I watch it every year. Coaches will claim that they slowly ramp up their guys, but that seems to mean 60-80-100 for the run-of-the-mill HS coach. The kid will be throwing 100+ pitches before the real calendar even turns to spring.

I'm not going to defend my record – it's well documented and publicly available. But to summarize it, I could care less about anybody finding value in my content other than young players and their families. That's who this is all about. It's not about state championships, or travel circuits, or even recruiting.

It's about setting the kid up for success in life. Getting to college is a good start.

I inadvertently caused a firestorm on X with a recent post that read: "Tell your HS coach that your arm isn't ready. Skip the first four starts of spring. Those four starts will roll over & be your first four of summer – when recruiting actually happens. Make sure the tank isn't empty when it matters most."

The message was poorly written & I have no problem taking the blame for that. With such growth to my platform, I need to be a little more thoughtful these days. However, there is an underlying idea to the original post that's important to explore.

We're all aware of the issues surrounding arm care and the overuse of amateur pitchers. (We've documented that extensively on this platform over the years.) With the spring season approaching, recruits need to have a workload management plan in place – specifically those high-end, uncommitted pitchers who will be workhorses for their HS team.

So, what can a recruit do to avoid performing poorly at the most important moments – those innings that can potentially earn him a college education and tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship money?

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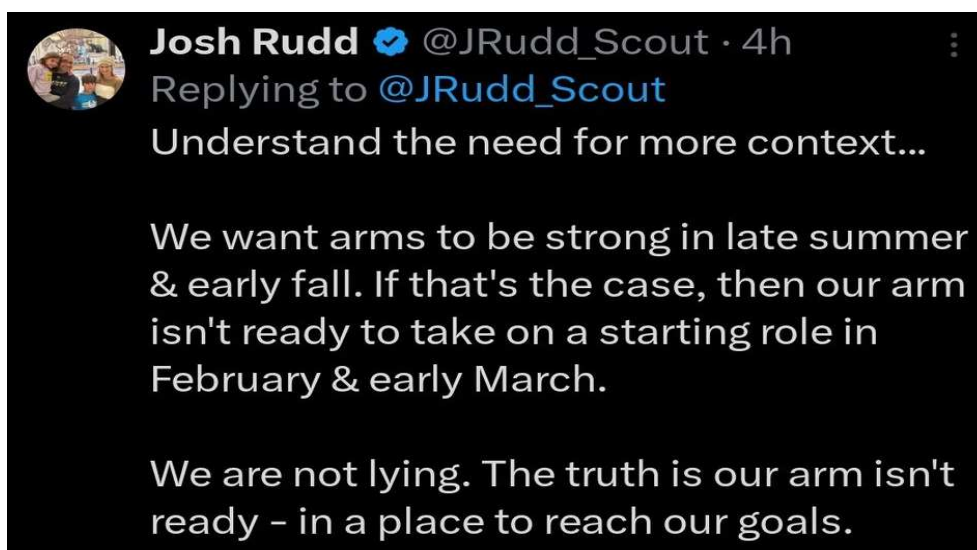
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The deleted tweet – I replied:





David Limbaugh @RHS_SID · 35m
No. He says skip your first four starts.

NFHS and states have implemented pitch count rules.

He is telling kids to tank their spring starts so their summer ball coach, without those rules, can throw him.



David Limbaugh @RHS_SID · 38m
You are part of the problem!

Colleges have found players since college baseball began.

If you can play, you will be found.
'Birdogs' like me help coaches and kids get together. Not for money. For the love of the game.



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Josh Rudd  @JRudd_Scout · 3h
Replying to @BryantWard23 and @FlatgroundApp

Not suggesting to lie to coaches.
Suggesting to mention your arm is not ready to accomplish the year-long goals that include being strong through summer when you can see them and early fall when you want them at your camp.



4,005



David Limbaugh @RHS_SID · 42m
This is wrong!

You have four seasons of high school baseball.



This is probably the worst thing I have ever seen ON a baseball field!

Two 15U coaches agreed to fix a summer ball game!

https://x.com/RHS_SID/status/1683136917519433728?s=20

‘We are short’: TSSAA working around falling numbers for baseball, softball umpires

“A softball contest between Page and visiting Spring Hill was postponed Tuesday because of a shortage of officials. That’s not the only time it has occurred or is expected to happen this spring.”



pic.twitter.com/mn6buY11Ub

— Page High Softball (@Softball_Page) March 29, 2022

I wonder why?

““The environment for youth sports has become toxic,” Delahant told NJ Advance Media. “No one can lose a game anymore without blaming somebody else. We need to teach our kids that they’re not going to win every game they play and how to lose with respect for both their opponents as well as the officials on the game.””

N.J. youth baseball umpire violently attacked by coach, needed surgery for broken jaw

“A youth baseball umpire was brutally attacked by a coach during a game in Branchburg earlier this month, leaving the umpire with a broken jaw that required extensive dental surgery, according to Brian Delahant, the league president.”

STOP BAD BEHAVIOR AT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC EVENTS.

TSSAA creates new fines for schools if high school sports fans are unruly

“While several clarifications were made to existing rules, the TSSAA says two of the changes were related to unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators.”

Some Parents and Coaches are destroying the game I love – Baseball



Tom Seaver holds the record for most overall Opening Day starts, with 16. He pitched 11 for the Mets, three for the Reds and two for the White Sox. “Tom Terrific” proved successful opening the season, posting a 7-2 record.

He has a couple of great quotes, “In baseball, my theory is to strive for consistency, not to worry about the numbers. If you dwell on statistics you get short sighted, if you aim for consistency, the numbers will be there at the end.” and “If you don’t think baseball is a big deal, don’t do it. But if you do, do it right.”

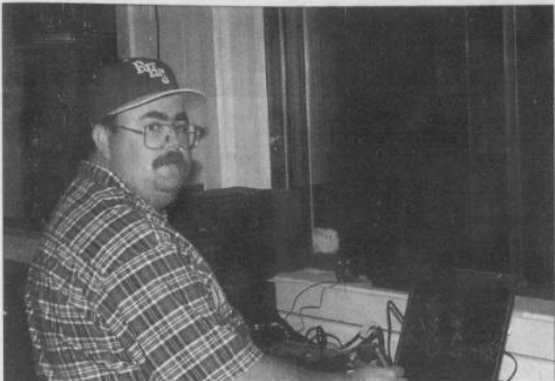
My late mom hated baseball. Not really, but she said she did. I grew up on a baseball field, where my dad played independent baseball with his two brothers. **My late dad** loved his baseball. Dad passed away from cancer when I was 12 following my last season of Little League. When I was playing in Little League, he told me some things I remember being told like it was yesterday. One was “The Game Knows.” and the other was “Play hard or don’t play at all.” I was known for playing hard, from baseball to basketball to later slow-pitch softball.

I have been involved with high school baseball in Tennessee since 1997.

RUTHERFORD

RUTHERFORD: SPORTS

www.tennessean.com THE TENNESSEAN Wednesday, May 7, 2003 13



David Limbaugh is known as the Riverdale sports information director, a title he's earned after six years of compiling Riverdale baseball information.

Limbaugh knows the score

Riverdale benefits from statistician's passion

By TOM KREAGER
Sports Writer

Walk into the press box at the Riverdale High School baseball diamond and step into David Limbaugh's hobby.

It consists of a laptop, with music files dialed up. A television is tuned in to whatever baseball game is on the air beside him. Cell phones go off, periodically. Some may be personal calls. However, most are either people adding to his hobby or tapping into it.

Limbaugh is a modern-day sports junkie. He always has been. His hobby is just fueled by Riverdale athletics - specifically baseball and football.

"All of my life I've either played sports or watched sports," says Limbaugh, whose son J.D. is a sophomore on the team. "It's my hobby."

Limbaugh is affectionately known as the Riverdale sports information director by Riverdale baseball coach Buddy Powers. It's a title that he's earned after six years of compiling Riverdale baseball information.

Limbaugh runs his own Web site - riverdalewarriors.com that is full of Warrior baseball news and photos. The site began a few years ago after Limbaugh decided to build his own page.

Limbaugh lists all baseball scores from District 7-AAA. He also runs the district's standings, updates on the Warriors' games and links to newspapers where viewers can find a story on Riverdale athletics.

"I've donated that to the school," Limbaugh said. "I've registered that domain and that's a donation I make to the school."

Limbaugh started his hobby at Riverdale after attending a few baseball games. There wasn't any music or anything else to entertain fans. So, Limbaugh decided to do something about it.

"I just showed up one day," said Limbaugh, who used to run sound for bands. "I looked up one day and they didn't have any music or announcer or anything. I just showed up one day with a boom box and a box of C.D.s and pushed play."

He's been playing for the Warriors ever since.

Limbaugh said he isn't into entertaining the fans simply because he has a son on the team. Limbaugh said that he already has done this for the Warriors without any personal connections and he'll continue to do it after he doesn't have any children involved in Riverdale athletics.

"I'll do it for the rest of my life," Limbaugh said. "It's my mini-vacation."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

TSSAA is proud to recognize David Limbaugh as a distinguished service honoree as a contributor.

When you think of Riverdale High School athletics one name comes to everyone's mind. . . David Limbaugh, who is also known as the RHS SID. David has poured almost his entire adult life into the athletic programs at Riverdale and for its community. David had three children graduate from Riverdale and two boys that played football and baseball respectively. He has been involved with athletics at Riverdale since 1994 and most recently gave up his job in the corporate world seven years ago to go back to school and get his teaching degree. In 2012 David began teaching at RHS. In those years David has worn many hats and filled many roles and responsibilities.

David has been a vital asset at numerous TSSAA championship events over the years. He has been the music guy at the BlueCross Bowl in Cookeville and the TSSAA State Wrestling Championships in Franklin. David helps with numerous duties during Spring Fling including stats, P.A. announcing, and music at Riverdale during the week and at MTSU during the championships. Many coaches also call David to help with post

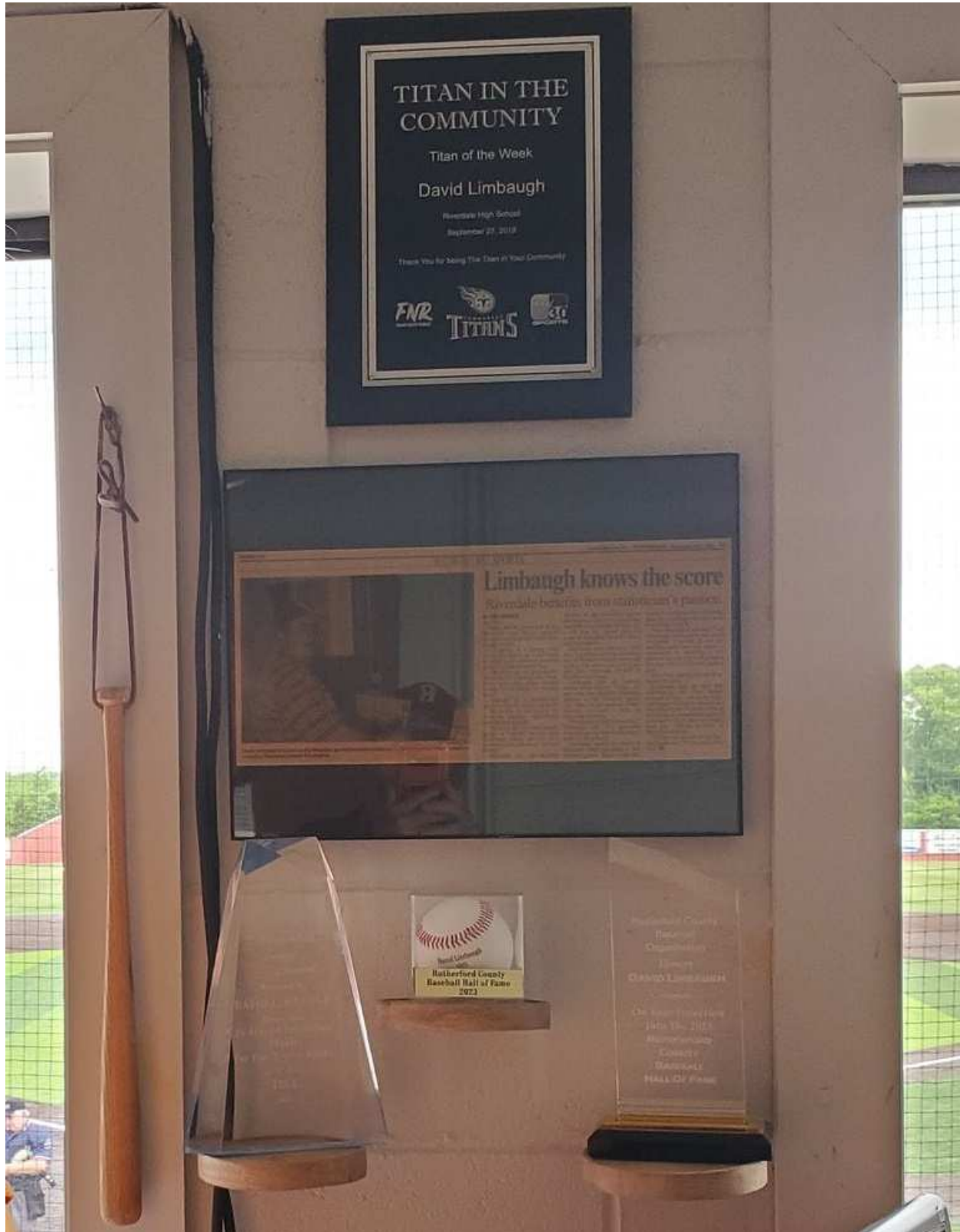
season brackets, stats, or just with help in setting up a PA system.



David also serves as the webmaster at Riverdale, maintaining and updating all the sports websites along with running the school's athletic twitter account. Not only does David do all this for athletics, but he also volunteers his time on Saturdays and after school hours to tutor students across the county on the ACT. David's impact reaches across the mid-state and state as well..

TSSAA proudly salutes David Limbaugh for his tremendous contributions and impact he has had on athletics and young people in Tennessee.

The Limbaugh Lounge at WT Jones Field at Riverdale High School:



I love baseball. I hate the way baseball, the game, is being treated now.

I have always had my pet peeves, ingrained in me by my late dad and from watching the Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant show every Sunday on TV during football season.

My list has been:

Not showing the proper respect during the National Anthem.

Not running out ground balls or pop ups.

**Going across the infield between mound and the plate when making an out on the bases.
Go around behind the plate, catcher, and umpire.**

Not being ready on deck or in the hole.

Infielders not having all their hats and gloves in the same place and outfielders not having all of their hats and gloves in one place to be ready to be picked up and take the field.

Not knowing where to throw the ball when it is hit to you.

Missing signs.

Pitchers walking down towards the plate to get throws back from the catcher and then walking back up the mound to get ready to pitch the next pitch.

Players wearing their hats backwards or not even wearing one when on a baseball field.

Please notice I didn’t list striking out.

I didn’t list making an out. I didn’t list walking a batter. I didn’t list making an error. Baseball is a hard game to play. Men make millions of dollars being successful swinging the bat around one out of every four times. It is the only sport with an ERROR Column on the scoreboard. I get frustrated when I see a kid get mad because he hit a hard line drive at the shortstop. He hit the ball hard. It found a glove. It happens. I get just as frustrated when he shows off at first after blooming one over the shortstop.

A dear friend and baseball coach told me that he had heard that a young baseball player gets beat up four times every game. He beats himself up for making an error or striking out or some other failure. His teammates beat him up in the dugout. His coach beats him up after the game. His parents beat him up on the way home. And we wonder why kids quit playing the game.

Why Children Are Abandoning Baseball



Why Kids Quit: The Car Ride Home

Baseball is all about failure.

The problem in America today is no one wants failure. Kids can't fail in school anymore. Parents can't handle their kids not being as successful as their friends' kids. For the Yuppie Generation, the BMW was the status symbol. Now the status symbol is your son or daughter getting a sports scholarship. Parents have to blast their kid's latest accomplishments all over social media.

I helped a great friend with a youth baseball tournament in Summer of 2019.

If Tom Seaver was at the ballfields I was at, he would be shaking his head in disgust. Here is a laundry list of things I saw:

Let me preface this by saying it was hot, around 92 degrees. I was born in 1960. When I was 13 I was hauling hay, picking up 80 pound bales using the twine and knee technique and throwing them to my cousins the stackers on the bed of the truck. We worked from before sunup to around sundown then went down to the city park and played baseball under the lights.

Back to my list:

Dads took turns walking up to the backstop when their son batted, standing about 8-10 feet behind him, with their cell phone cameras videotaping the at-bat and giving pitch-by-pitch

advice like “Keep your head still, don’t roll your wrist, don’t step out of the box!”. One kid took a key walk in a 1-0 game and his dad muttered under his breath “swing the bat!” as he left the backstop.

A mom got mad because the dugouts didn’t have electrical outlets for the players’ fans.

Coaches warmed up the pitchers before the game and between innings so the catcher could rest.

A pitcher struggles to throw strikes and someone yells “Throw it in there!”

A kid came in throwing gas. His first three pitches were higher than the batter’s head. He then threw 2 strikes in a row. On pitch 6, a pitch over the batter’s head again, the batter swings for strike three. Dad? yells “The pitcher has a gold chain on!” He didn’t yell that while the pitcher was warming up with his coach while the catcher stood next to the coach resting. He didn’t yell that on ball 1 or 2 or 3 or strike 1 or 2.

I saw a play where the throw took the first baseman over the bag as the runner was getting to the bag and they collided, and the ball came loose. The players stood up, dusted themselves off, smiled and gave each other some dap. The mom? of the first basemen screamed “That was over-aggressive! He should be out!” The mom? of the batter yelled back “He has a right to run to first base!” I am wondering what the first mom? thought he could do. Stop via parachute like a funny car? Turn a hard right like an F16 fighter jet? Mom#1? yelled back “He hit him too hard!” Mom#2? seemed to take the high road and not respond.

During a pitching change, the coach came out to warm up the new pitcher and the catcher went and stood in the dugout. One team actually put a pop-up tent IN THEIR DUGOUT!”

During one team’s rally, around the sixth batter or so, the catcher called time-out for a water break and his coach brought him a cup of water. Did I mention moms and dads throwing Gatorades over the fence during the game to their sons? Did I mention players didn’t bother chasing foul balls out of play? They don’t even leave the on-deck circle to chase foul balls at the backstop. I hope the umpire has a watch that counts steps.

Again, I know it was hot. I understand dehydration and heat stroke. But we are talking about a 6-inning, 2-hour time limit baseball game. We wonder why kids struggle in school. Where are they learning a work ethic? To overcome adversity? To excel under stress? To adapt to the conditions? To accept the fact that you cannot be successful every time you do something. If my dad was alive today to witness what I saw, he would have left in disgust.

People are ruining the game I love and a generation of kids. A friend uses one word for it. BRUTAL.

I sent this in as a Letter to the Editor to my Local Paper, *Letter to editor: Limbaugh on baseball*