

Respect in Sports

www.sportsalliancemn.org

A monthly newsletter for everyone interested in supporting a positive youth sports experience.



The Sports Alliance of Minnesota is a coalition of sports organizations whose mission is to provide tools for creating a positive sports environment.

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National Sportsmanship Day—March 2

The National Alliance for Youth Sports will be partnering with the Institute for International Sport for its 20th Annual National Sportsmanship Day on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010.

National Sportsmanship Day (NSD) is widely acknowledged as the largest sportsmanship initiative in the world. The 2010 National Sportsmanship Day theme is Competitive Self-Restraint. Competitive Self Restraint means competing hard by maintaining one's self control and playing within the rules.

To find out how you can celebrate the 2010 National Sportsmanship Day, or how your club or team can become an official partner, please visit: www.internationalsport.com/nsd.

Upcoming Events!

February 3—
Minnesota National Girls and Women in Sports Day Celebration at the State Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul, Minn. Noon—1pm. Public Welcome

March 2 —
National Sportsmanship Day

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Head Coaching:

Developers of an Online Education Tool Seek to Foster Systemic Change on the Sportsmanship Front

By Paul Steinbach

Courtesy of Athletic Business

Having just been held to negative rushing yardage in a 19-8 loss, University of Oregon running back LeGarrette Blount put his personal post-game frustrations on full display. As shown repeatedly on Boise State's video board to widespread partisan jeering, Blount dropped Bronco linebacker Byron Hout to the blue turf with a clean right cross to the jaw.

It was Thursday, Sept. 3 — opening night of the NCAA's Respect Weekend.

Earlier that day, Oklahoma State University coach Mike Gundy was sufficiently unnerved by the prospect of a pregame handshake between entire teams — the focal-point designate of Respect Weekend proceedings on campuses nationwide — that he announced his team would not participate when Georgia visited that Saturday. "Our first concern was [we'll] have 115 guys out there, and they'll have 70. It just takes one guy to pop off," Gundy explained during a subsequent media luncheon. "Then I don't know how you're going to break it up. How do you control something like that?"

The traditional gesture of sportsmanship concerns others for a different reason. "The handshake is the simple solution that everyone can agree on, but it's something that really takes place at a very superficial level," says Colby Jubenville, director of the Center for Sport Policy and Research at Middle Tennessee State University. "While the handshake is something that is symbolic and I think suggests unity and fair play, at the end of the day these teams are all out there to win. It's this 'win big, win now' mentality that I think really confuses the student-athlete and feeds the fan."

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