

LETTERS to the EDITOR

American values seen in soccer

Editor, The News:

My "hope for this country" is that narrow-minded and uninformed individuals such as Fred J. Harlan will wake up and realize that the organized sport of soccer is not "anti-American" or a threat to American values.

I am appalled that someone would try to pass off such thinly disguised prejudice as "American tradition."

While skills and methods of training are different in soccer and football, individuals who want to excel in either of the two sports must be dedicated, hard working, physically fit and possess the intelligence to play the game.

One fact that Harlan may find interesting is that many football teams recruit great soccer players to be their kickers, because of their strength and precision. Sounds like some skill is involved there, doesn't it?

Yes, high school football is a western Pennsylvania tradition, one that I look forward to and respect. However, females do not have the option to participate.

Soccer is one of the first team sports made available to boys and girls alike. Without it, children wouldn't be exposed to the early lessons of working together as a team, rejoicing in triumphs and supporting each other when they falter. Parents who are exposing their children to this and other organized sports should be applauded, not questioned.

We need to support our children's interests and talents both on and off the field in every way possible, whether we are cheering the baseball team to victory or attending a choral concert.

Is there still hope for America? Not as long as people such as Harlan are breeding the same narrow-minded way of thinking that sparks terrorism. They are discriminating and limiting people's options, while degrading and defaming other individuals' opinions because they differ from theirs.

And Harlan calls soccer "anti-American?"

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