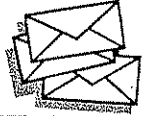


LETTERS



to
the

EDITOR

NEW CASTLE NEWS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Soccer provided rewards

Editor, The News:

I have a few comments about the "soccer bashing" letter in this past Saturday's paper.

First of all, I do not understand how soccer is not a real sport. I played soccer for 12 years and was beaten up and injured as much as any football player.

Who cares if it's a foreign sport, isn't the United States supposed to be the "melting pot" of the world? So being a real American means accepting people and traditions from other countries, such as religions, foods, clothes and sports.

As far as I know, Friday is not the official night for high school football; it's just tradition. If parents, or children, wish to play soccer on Friday night, or any other time, that is their business and they have the freedom to choose which sports they play. Also, onlookers have the choice whether to watch soccer or not.

If you would rather watch football, then go right ahead, because you have the right as an American.

As for soccer being a "no skill, no work game," I completely disagree. I played varsity soccer for five years and was required to lift weights and do conditioning in the off season, just like football players. I also played indoor soccer to keep my skills sharp. So, I worked just as hard to gain the rewards of soccer as football players do to gain their rewards.

I have no idea how minds and bodies are being wasted by soccer. I was in the best shape of my life when I played soccer and I had a blast. It also taught me sportsmanship, competition and teamwork and kept me away from peer influences of drugs and alcohol.

I urge all Americans to broaden their horizons and look past old prejudices to experience the game of soccer.

Ashlee Nealer
Edinburg