



## Soccer considered sign of times

New Castle News

---

Editor, The News: Archie Bunker's alive. Upon reading Fred J. Harlan's letter "Soccer stand earns applause," which appeared in a recent issue of your paper, I was struck by the disdain this man has for something he's unwilling or unable to understand. He's just like our favorite TV sitcom character of the '70s. Harlan sounds a bit paranoid that his favorite American sports are losing their appeal. Could it be that kids have found a better sport? Or is it a desire to play a sport the adults in their lives don't understand, as demonstrated by Harlan? Why? Studies of youth activities show growth not only in soccer, but lacrosse, rowing and extreme sports, because kids grow weary of the adults in their lives interfering in their game. Soccer meets the dictionary definition of sports in more ways than most "real" sports. It requires much greater fitness than most sports (no time-outs or situational substitutions) as well as strength, agility, skill and a level of courage (no pads or headgear and the ball is often kicked at you). The game of soccer also requires teamwork and decision-making ability. Whoever has the ball is "quarterbacking" the action for the team, and once play begins the game is the players'. It's a game requiring imagination and creativity with 11 players working in unison while the coach can do no more than watch. To equate soccer or any sport with terrorism is inexcusable on Harlan's part. Real terrorists took the lives of 120 youth soccer volunteers in the collapse of the towers of the World Trade Center. His words cast a bad light on the thousands of volunteers in western Pennsylvania, including the 184 in Lawrence County, and around the U.S. who give their time to help the children of their community. Tim McCoy director member services PA West Soccer Association

Copyright © 1999-2006 cnhi, inc.