

THE PARENTS WISH

Dear Coach,

Tomorrow morning our son starts hockey. He's going to step out on the ice and his great adventure that will probably include joys and disappointments begins.

So we wish you would take him by his young hand and teach him the things he will have to know. Teach him to respect the referee and that his judgment is final. Teach him not to hate his competitors, but to admire their skills.

Teach him it is just as important to be a playmaker and get an assist as it to score a goal. Teach him to play as a team and never to be selfish. Teach him never to blame his goaltender when a goal is scored against him because five mistakes were probably made before the puck got to the goalie.

Teach him that winning is not everything, but trying to win is. Teach him it is far more honourable to lose than it is to cheat. Teach him to be a competitor. Teach him to close his ears to the howling mob and to stand up for himself if he thinks he is right. Teach him gently but don't coddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

This is a big order Coach, and we place our son in your hands. See what you can do for him. He is such a nice little fellow.

Sincerely,

His loving Mom & Dad