

## Three Web Sites for Sports Parents

November 14, 2008 at 4:32 PM by Jen Singer | [comment](#)



Somebody's father was yelling at me. I was only seven, but I understood what his problem was: He didn't like that the only girl on the baseball field played better than his own son. He didn't say that, exactly. Rather, he told me that I didn't belong there. But I watched his son send another errant throw toward (or not toward) second base, and I thought, *Yes, I do.*

Thanks to Title IX, I was among the first girls to get to play Little League baseball in my hometown. It was my first experience with organized youth sports. Also, my first experience with parents who really ought to step away from the field and take a chill pill.

After Little League, I went on to play more sports, mostly soccer, through college and beyond. And now, I coach my son's soccer team. I belong there, too.

If you, too, find yourself along the sidelines at your kids' various sporting events, check out these great web sites:

**Moms Team.com** (<http://www.momsteam.com/>) "The trusted source for youth sport parents" is just that. Created by Brooke deLench, author of "Home Team Advantage: The Critical Role of Mothers in Youth Sports," MomsTeam is rich with information on parenting youth sports players. A team of experts offers articles and videos including "Nine Ways to Balance Sports and Family Life" and "Even Olympians Were Kids Once." In the Forums, parents tackle topics like favoritism for the coach's kid and "My son has had three concussions and I don't think the coach cares about it." Whether you're a parent or a coach - or both - this site is for you.

**Vis4Victory.org** (<http://www.Vis4Victory.org>) *V is for Victory. So is IX.* is a national campaign to increase the effectiveness of Title IX. Enacted in 1972, Title IX is a federal law addressing equality in education, academics and sports. The site is housed at the Women's Sports Foundation, which is among the many groups launching the campaign. Here, you'll find a definition of Title IX, its history and several compelling (and humorous) videos on inequalities in girls' sports. At sister site GoGirlWorld.org (<http://www.gogirlworld.org/cgi-bin/iowa/ggw/ahq/equalplay/index.html>), there's a spot to share your "Unbelievables," unbelievable true stories of girls fighting for their right to play.

**Youth Sports Parents** <http://youthsportsparents.blogspot.com/> Mark Hyman, sports journalist and author of the forthcoming book on the troubled state of youth sports, "Until It Hurts," blogs about kids' sports in the news. Recent posts include his take on *People's* article about football and obesity and his view of a study in *Pediatrics* that recommends helmets for baseball infielders. Wise and down-to-earth, Hyman provides common sense thinking about youth sports in the news.