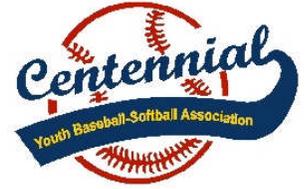


# CYBSA NEWS

CENTENNIAL YOUTH BASEBALL-SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Registration is going on now! Discount for "Early Registration" ends on February 15th. Regular registration begins on February 16th and continues until March 15th. Register today to reserve your spot on a team. Roster spots are first come first served. To register visit the CYBSA website at [www.centennialbaseball.com](http://www.centennialbaseball.com) and click the online registration button. Registration is fast and easy, pay by using a credit card or by e-check.



CYBSA encourages you to tell others about us, and invite them to join for a summer of baseball, softball and fun.

**All registrants will see a charge to their credit card or bank account listing either Active Network or Thriva. No worries, this is the company collecting the registration fees from the on-line registration. The funds are then forwarded on to us here at CYBSA.**

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### Special points of interest:

- \* Invite others to join.
- \* A Shay Day
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- \* PUMP IT UP

## FROM CYBER-SPACE "A SHAY DAY"

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball.

Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by

others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad

smile, put on a team shirt. His Father watched with a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

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**CYBSA**

We're on the web  
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### A Shay day Continued:

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball .... the smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay"

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third! Shay, run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, "Shay, run home! Run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team..

"That day", said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world"

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

## GIRLS SOFTBALL-"PUMP IT UP"

**It's rally time, but your team isn't in the rally spirit. Try some of these ideas to get your teammates off the bench and back in the winning spirit!**

1. Choose a spirit captain for your team before each game or tournament! Her job is to keep the team spirit going.

2. Keep something fun in the dugout for emergency spirit crises. The spirit captain can pull out the spirit gear to give the team an energy boost. Try cowbells, noisemakers, bubbles or an animated toy.

3. Decorate used water bottles and

put some marbles, rocks or pennies inside. When it's rally time, pull them out and make some noise.

When your team is at bat, no one is on the bench! Everyone should be up and cheering for the batter and runners.

**The most important thing to remember is that nothing great was ever achieved without a positive mental attitude. Don't let one negative person bring the team down. When the negativity begins, nip it in the bud! One inning is all it takes to turn the game around. Believe that this is your inning!**