

Silary out of bounds on Penn Charter coverage

I was disappointed by Ted Silary's column (Oct. 20).

While I value tremendously the positive exposure he has given to high school athletics, he exceeded the limits of responsible coverage when he reported an internal disciplinary matter between student-athletes and administrators at our school. By making that matter a topic of public record, Silary only succeeded in punishing the suspended players for a second time. Any adult truly concerned about the education of our

young people realizes that they will make mistakes.

Adolescence, in particular, is a highly vulnerable period. Teenagers are wrestling with self-esteem, peer pressure and the expectations of their families. As teachers, coaches and reporters who deal with these young people, we have a duty to nurture their self-esteem, not to attack it. They are not professional athletes paid to entertain the public. They are kids who require a certain degree of custodial care.

I hope Silary leaves the issue of discipline to the home and school where it belongs. If he wants to paint a more complete picture of Penn Charter's football team, I would encourage him to do a story on their more exceptional involvement in our school's community service program.

WILLIAM C. KASHATUS
Chair of Religious Studies
William Penn Charter School
Philadelphia



Opinion • Letters

OCTOBER 28, 1997