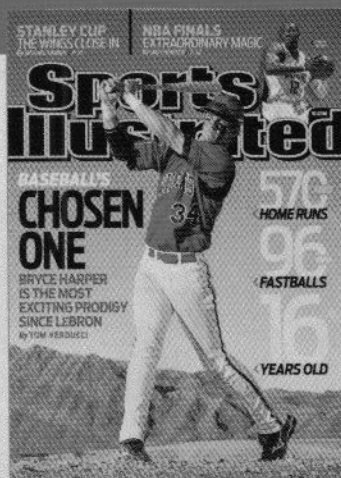


Letters

Although Bryce Harper's potential is exciting, I can't help but feel concern about his being robbed of his youth. Even LeBron got to finish high school. Adulthood will come soon enough for Bryce, and it will last much longer than his shortened childhood.

Chuck Chubbuck, Stow, Ohio



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I have no doubt Bryce Harper may be the greatest prospect of his generation (*Baseball's LeBron*, June 8), but your story left this Little League coach with an empty feeling. Nowhere was there mention of Harper's relationship with his Las Vegas High teammates; in fact, there was very little in the article that led one to believe he has ever experienced the joy of being a member of a team. His Wildcats may have won a game by a score of 31-1 this season, but they finished a pedestrian 27-12 and didn't make it to the state tournament. I would argue that Harper has work left to do at the high school level.

Alan McKay, Reno

Consider this passage: "He hits for power to all fields. . . . He's an instinctive defender with a phenomenal arm and a smooth, quick stride that helps him cover the alleys with ease. . . . 'Can you imagine someone so good at so much that he could be a lefthander throwing 96 miles per hour—and not be wanted as a pitcher? . . . He's better at this game than anyone else I've seen in high school or college.'" It comes not from your

Harper cover story but from the SI VAULT—specifically, your May 17, 1999, story on a young kid named Josh Hamilton who made it big but not without some severe impediments along the way. A cautionary tale for Harper, perhaps?

Jeff Cobb, Katy, Texas

I stopped reading Tom Verducci's story on Harper when I reached the words "Scott Boras." Why does a kid who wears a Bible citation on his wrist tape have as an adviser the devil incarnate of MLB? One word: *money*.

*Mark Ramos
North Providence, R.I.*



Walk-off Winner

I have three sons, all of whom are baseball players. I showed them the picture of Mark Miller, pitcher for the College of Wooster, leaving the field after losing the NCAA Division III championship game to the University

of St. Thomas (*LEADING OFF*, June 8). We were all struck by the dignity Miller displayed while walking off the field, glove in hand and head held high. While St. Thomas may be champion, Mark was a winner too.

*Kevin Tate
Newtown Square, Pa.*

Rock the Vote

Dan Patrick suggests using All-Star fan voting for Manny Ramirez as a referendum on how much people care about performance-enhancing drugs (*JUST MY TYPE*, June 8). What we need is a referendum on fan voting itself. For example, who needs another Internet campaign on behalf of some local second-rate player? Give the selection of All-Star starters to the players and the press. That way real fans will get real All-Stars.

*Norm Miller
Farmington Hills, Mich.*

Pujols & Co. Criteria

In noting that Albert Pujols joined an exclusive group of players who had .330 career batting averages at the time they hit their 300th home runs (*INSIDE BASEBALL*, June 8), you omitted these Hall of Fam-

ers: Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Rogers Hornsby, Babe Ruth and Al Simmons.

*Michael Leonard
River Forest, Ill.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of an editing error, the parameters should also have included the limitation that the hitters had fewer than 500 strikeouts—in which case the original grouping (Pujols, Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Stan Musial) would have been correct.

Precious Memories

Phil Taylor's story about former Olympic basketball player Robert Jeangerard (*POINT AFTER*, June 8) touched my heart. My father died with Alzheimer's, and as the disease progressed we all heard the stories over and over about his American Legion baseball team and his Michigan Tech basketball and track accomplishments. Those stories seemed to be the only thing he could remember.

Susan Guy, Kalkaska, Mich.

Incidents like Jeangerard's wandering off may be dealt with more easily in the very near future. GTX, a technology company, and Aetrex Worldwide, a footwear company, have announced plans for shoes containing a GPS chip that will allow family members or safety personnel to locate anyone wearing the shoes through online tracking software. The technology additionally includes "geo-fence" capabilities, triggering an automatic alert if the individual crosses a set perimeter around his home or neighborhood. I'm the director of George Mason's program in assisted living/senior housing administration, and I served as an adviser in the development of this product.

Andrew Carle, Fairfax, Va.

Contact SI

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