

Good Sportsmanship Leads to Home Run



When some people play sports, all they think about is winning. They couldn't imagine helping someone on the other team -- especially if it meant their team might lose the game.

But helping an opposing player is exactly what some softball players from Central Washington University did in a game against Western Oregon University. They carried a player from Western Oregon around the bases so she could score a home run.

It was the most important game of the year for both teams. The team that won the game would go on to the playoffs. In the game, Sara Tucholsky, a Western Oregon outfielder, hit the first home run of her career.

Two runners who were on base scored. Tucholsky missed first base as she was running and went back to step on it. But she collapsed from an injury to her right knee. All she could do was crawl back to first base.

NEWS WORD BOX

imagine opposing
collapsed injury
playoffs umpire

The umpire said if Tucholsky's teammates tried to help her, she would be called out. If Tucholsky's coach put in someone to run the bases for her, the hit only would count as a single. So Central Washington first baseman Mallory Holtman asked the umpire if her team could help Tucholsky. The umpire said there was no rule against it. Holtman and shortstop Liz Wallace picked up Tucholsky and carried her around the bases, letting her touch each base with her left toe. The home run counted. Western Oregon won the game, 4-2.

Holtman did not think what she did was a big deal. "Honestly, it's one of those things that I hope anyone would do for me," she said.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE SOFTBALL GAME

An umpire rechecked the rules after the game, and Central Washington could have allowed another player to run the bases for Tucholsky.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

This story got a lot of attention on ESPN and in newspapers. Why, do you think, did the story get so much press?