

LETTER TO SPORTS

Dear Sports Editor:

This past Labor Day weekend, we held the fourth annual softball tournament in Randolph to benefit the Craig Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund. We had 17 teams present. There were teams from Erie, North East, Pa., West Seneca, Olean, Brocton, Mayville and other nearby communities.

I was a little disappointed that there were no teams present from the Warren area, but that is another subject. Each year we have added more teams and have had the majority of the past participants return. This was another record year.

I want to thank everyone: the players from all the teams, the umpires association and their crews, those who helped cook, those who gave their time to get the fields ready to play and my wife for her help on and off the field.

A final comment: This is the first year in which I have been able to really participate. I had hoped that my team would have had enough players for me to run the tournament and possibly play an inning or two later in the tournament. That was not so.

Every game, inning and pitch last weekend kept reminding me of my past friend. I wanted to play my favorite game just like he would have. I truly enjoyed every second I had on the field. Even though we lost in the final game in extra innings, I felt like I had won.

Craig was still here with me. I hope that everyone involved took a little bit of that home with them. Thank you to the old Frewsburg Legion County Grape Belt team for bringing back old memories. Congratulations to Shawbucks for a well-deserved tournament victory.

**Thank you,
Thomas G. Mott Jr.,
Tournament Director**