KIDSPORTS Continued from Page 10

the volunteer parents. She and five of her friends were chairpersons of Taste of Eugene this year, which is the largest fund raiser for Kidsports.

"We had meetings once a week up until the event, but we had no follow-up meeting afterwards, and we never even got a thank you note," Grube said of her most negative experience with Kidsports. "But overall, I think the premise of Kidsports is a positive one."

Her husband, Mark, has either been an assistant or head coach of about 20 different teams in the past six years.

Mark Grube is essentially satisfied with the program, but he also cited a couple of problems from a coaching point of view.

"There's been a trend lately for Kidsports to have large teams," he said. "With the expansion, it's probably for economic reasons. With the larger teams, though, kids don't get to play as much."

Kidsports requires that the coach play each child for a Kidsports-designated amount of time.

Although Mark Grube believes that most coaches are not interested in training programs, he is an advocate of Kidsports cracking down.

"If coaches aren't going to listen to the rules, if they violate them, then Kidsports should punish them. They really do need to buckle down on the coaches," Mark Grube said. "It's totally bizarre how some of the coaches act. They forget that it's just a game and we're out there to have fun." Rob Boehm, an independent contractor for Kidsports who is the commissioner — meaning he is in charge of the officials — of basketball and baseball/softball, is confident that most of the people are OK.

"Ninety to 95 percent of coaches are good, ruleabiding, decent people who are out there for the kids," Boehm said. "It's the other 5 percent who are a problem, and when you're only dealing with them, it seems like there are a lot of undesirables out there."

Boehm, who has been a referee and coach throughout the different phases of Kidsports since 1972, always tries to avoid any problems by pregame communications with the coaches.

"I always tell coaches before a game that their players, assistant coaches and spectators are a direct extension of their attitude and that their behavior should be two or three notches above everyone else," Boehm said.

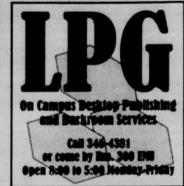
Josephson is a firm believer that the officiating is part of the unique experience of sports, "depending on how the referee or umpire is going to interpret the game on any given day." But his resolve to maintain discipline is foremost on his mind.

Boehm said the solution lays in education and

"There is no magic button to push to fix everything — it will just take time," he said.

Carrie Vincent is a student of journalism and English at the University and has coached and refereed for Kidsports.













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