



Have FUN Watching Sports!

By Barbara Gilmour

The last time we got together, we talked about how sports are more fun when everyone plays like a “Cool Kind Kid.”

Rudy brought his friend Spenser today and introduced him to the group. Spenser said he doesn’t play sports, but loves to be a spectator. He watches games on TV, at school and in his community.

Carmen wondered, “What’s a spectator?” Spenser explained, “Somebody who’s watching a game instead of playing.”

If spectators are everyone but players, how should a “Cool Kind Kid” act when watching a game? Spencer said, “When they play the national anthem, people should be respectful. Then we cheer at the end.” Rudy jumped up and shouted, “Go Team!” Then he added, “Cheering for your team is cool. It shows you support them.”



Truman shared, “I sometimes get in trouble when I cheer for my team. Because I’m so big, no one can see past me when I stand up and cheer.”

Tanner asked, “So what do you do?” Truman answered, “I try to be a ‘Cool Kind Dragon’ and cheer sitting down, or sit in the back so I don’t block anyone’s view.” All the kids told Truman, “That’s ‘cool’ and ‘kind.’”

Nicole said, “There are times it’s okay to cheer, and times it’s not. My family likes tennis, but we have to be quiet during games.” Carmen said, “I watched my uncle play golf once. He said talking can distract golfers, so that’s a quiet game, too.”

Spenser shared, “I like to watch games, but it bugs me when people in the stands are rude. It isn’t cool to shout mean things at the other team, the coaches or the officials.” Rudy added, “I don’t like when parents get angry and shout at their own kids when they make a mistake. That takes all the fun out of the game.” Nicole added, “How do you think those kids feel when they hear someone shouting at them?”

“I know kids who hate when their parents come to games because they are sooooo embarrassed,” said Carmen. Spenser shared, “At my school, we send home rules at the beginning of the year for how spectators should act at games. That helps the game be fun for everyone.”

Tanner wondered how else to be cool and kind when watching a game. He said, “I think being on time shows respect for everyone, both players and spectators.”

Nicole added, “Show respect for the fields and equipment. If we don’t, after a while, there won’t be things to play with.” Stephen added, “Eating at a game is fun, but you have to be careful not to spill stuff on the people around you. It’s really uncool to throw food or trash around.”

Tanner stood up and said, “I think the way to be a cool, kind spectator is to follow The Golden Rule: Treat other people the way you want them to treat you. Then we all have a good time.” Everyone stood and cheered!

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandmom, is the creator and developer of the Tanner’s Manners: Be a “Cool Kind Kid” Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning “Cool Kind Kid” Audio CD. She also writes the Children’s Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrensmanners.blogspot.com>. The “Cool Kind Kid” team is committed to helping kids reject bullying by offering them the social skills tools they need to redefine “cool.” © Cool Kind Kid. 866-KID-KIND. www.CoolKindKid.com