

Case Studies

The case studies section contains three possible options which can be used on the night of the workshop. These are the following;

- Case Study 1 - Brian - baseball player
- Case Study 2 - Paul - swimmer
- Case Study 3 - Hazel - joining a club

Case Study 1: Brian

Brian, an 11-year old, had told his mother that all his friends were trying out for baseball, and that he really wanted to make it into the league. Brian's experience playing baseball up until this point had been limited to pick-up games around the neighborhood. But for several weeks before tryouts he worked hard every day with his father trying to improve his catching, throwing and batting skills. On the day of his tryouts, his hard work paid off and he made the cut. He was ecstatic when the coach called him with the news he had made the team. For the next several weeks Brian lived and breathed baseball. Because of his relative inexperience playing baseball, Brian, like a lot of the other kids on his team, had been deemed second string by the coaches. On Brian's team this meant that he was often neglected while the coach devoted time to working with the more experienced players who would help the team win their games. But in spite of this, Brian's enthusiasm never wavered. He showed up at every practice and gave his all without complaining. And though by the middle of the season he still had not been allowed to play in a single game, his mother said they encouraged him to persevere, instilling the value that just trying your hardest and doing your best was the ultimate goal in sports.

However, eventually Brian began to wonder what the use was of going to practice every day and giving his all when it looked like the entire season was going to pass without his having at least one chance to put his hard work to use. "Why won't the coach give me a chance?" he would ask his mother. But she had no answer for him. She didn't understand how a coach would have children work so hard and then never give them a chance to play. Then one day, she decided to approach the coach in private and ask him why so many of his players never got into the game. "It wouldn't be fair to the other kids," he explained. "They work to be on a winning team. When they're out on the field, it's their job to do what it takes to win and that's my job too. If I didn't play the best players we'd lose, and that would upset everybody. Kids want to play on a winning team"

Towards the end of the season Brian's coach promised him a game on Saturday. The whole family was there to watch him play but in the fifth inning, since the game was tied, it was apparent that he wasn't going to play. Brian's mom confronted the coach, who explained that he had been expecting an easy victory as their opponents had one of the worst records in the league. But because the score was tight he didn't think it would be fair to risk losing the game by having Brian on the field. Brian was very upset after this incident and having not eaten and talked to anyone for days his parents sought help for Brian to deal with the experience. Brian never played again.

What should you do and Why?