

From: Dan Rodden

Date: Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 11:04 AM

I had the honor of being assigned to the playoff game at Kankakee Bishop McNamara on Saturday. I want to bring the conduct of the E-P contingent to your collective attention.

Starting with the coaching staff, I have rarely been in contact with a staff that has shown consistent regard for the officials. Coach Abbot was extraordinarily easy to work with, and even in situations that I'm sure roused his ire he maintained his decorum. The rest of the staff, likewise, was respectful of the officials in regards to the oft-heard badgering that usually accompanies a close game.

The players were polite and respectful as well. This is not particularly surprising in that most teams follow the lead of the coaching staff. It was refreshing to observe a team with such a good demeanor.

Last, and certainly not least was the crowd itself. It is not uncommon for us to hear disparaging comments from onlookers, especially in games where the ebb and flow of the game seems to be going against them, and particularly on the road. There was some shouted disapproval, but as a whole the crowd was exemplary.

I send you these comments in the hope that you will be pleased, but not surprised. It is obvious that there has been a concerted effort to make things the way they are. Even more remarkable is the fact that it is a co-op, and that the opportunity for one or the other of the schools had a chance to drop the ball with a resounding thud. In my experience, rarely do superior achievement and exemplary sportsmanship evidence themselves together. The Erie-Prophetstown co-op has done exactly that. If you could bottle and sell the formula I would personally buy it for all of the IHSA member schools.

Congratulations on a great year, a great football team, and great leadership at all levels.

Sincerely,

Dan Rodden