

What if little Martin had been beamed? Would his mom have sued the kid who pitched it? The stitcher of the ball? Abner Doubleday?

I called Ms. Gonzalez but she never called back. I called her attorney, Alan Glassman, of Brooklyn. He had to put me on hold a lot. "Parents keep calling wanting me to represent their kid," he said.

Imagine that.

*So what did the Millers do when Dieter was hurt? They spoke with his coach, Tony Mannara, and asked "Is there anything Dieter can do to stay close with the team?"*

*Mannara thought about it and answered, "Well, he could keep score."*

*So Dieter went to scorekeeper's school and learned how. He showed up an hour early for every game this year—in uniform—and kept score, kept the pitch count and cheered his cast off. Heck, he even came to practices.*

*"I'd like to have my own Little League team someday," he says.*

*As of press time, his parents had no plans to sue.*

What is Little League supposed to do? It's already eliminated the on-deck circle for safety reasons. Maybe it should just eliminate the bases altogether? Hey, that was a pretty good hit. Ghost runner on second.

Coach Bernstein played Martin that day because Martin went out for the team. So what's the coach supposed to do, keep the kid on the bench all year? Ms. Gonzalez probably would've sued for that, too. Emotional cruelty, perhaps.

Anyway, it's finally over. Martin is 17 now and in high school. If you're his principal you better have F. Lee Bailey on retainer.

*And what did the Miller family get for being cool? What did Dieter get for not sulking, quitting, or detaching like a pop-up base?*

*He won The Little League Good Sport Award.*

*He and his family will soon take an all-expenses-paid trip to Williamsport, Pa. for next week's Little League World Series, where he'll be honored as the kid who found a way to keep helping the team even though he couldn't step on the field.*

*"Big D is a stand-up young man," Coach Mannara says. "He's a fan favorite, a kid you'd never hear a bad word about. He embodies the true spirit of Little League."*

*No, it's not \$125,000.*

*It's better.*