

Coquitlam Little League and Me

Coquitlam Little League has played a major role in my life and shaped me to be the person I am today. This is the mission statement of Little League: “the Little League program assists children in developing the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being. By espousing the virtues of character, courage and loyalty, the Little League Baseball program is designed to develop superior citizens rather than superior athletes.” Early on I took these values to heart and applied them into playing and interacting with other players. As a result of the last 11 years playing in Coquitlam Little League, I achieved excellence as a player, and learned many valuable lessons as an umpire.

Over my 11 years of playing baseball, I have created many meaningful relationships with other players and amazing coaches who inspired and pushed me to be better as a pitcher and a catcher every season. Many of these coaches like Tyler, Atsu, Sandon, Beamer, Jim and Bill believed in me and continued to encourage me to persevere. In the 2017 Canadian National Championship at Calgary, our Team BC went in to the semi-final as an underdog beating Alberta, and then bested Team Ontario at the final. I was one of the top 3 batters in my team and was able to enjoy the privilege of going to the 2017 Senior World Series in Easley, South Carolina representing Canada, which has been the highest accomplishment for me in baseball.

Another way that I benefited from the league was becoming an umpire. Like most kids trying something new, it was a scary experience at first. With gentle nudging of parents and encouragement from other players, I was able to gain confidence in this new role and handle different situations. In the beginning I was not sure of the calls I made, and this resulted in parents or players criticizing me. There were many times I wanted to quit and never umpire again. However, through constant encouragement and positive feedback from others, I persevered and became one of the best and most reliable umpires in this league. I continue to give back to the League by exemplifying fairness, levelheadedness under pressure and respectful speech and manner when umpiring games.

I plan to attend Simon Fraser University in the fall where I will be taking economics and business related courses to pursue a career in entrepreneurship upon graduation. The experiences I have learned and developed from my 11 years with Coquitlam Little League will always be a part of me and I will continue to be part of Coquitlam Little League either as an umpire or as a coach.