

Author hits a homer with his baseball message

By Bob Ware

Supposedly, we all have a book inside of our hearts and heads. Some would say that our book likely is the greatest novel not yet written by an author who is unrecognized by similar peers.



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Locally, a retired teacher has broken the mold. David Evans has put his pen to paper and his fingertips to the keys. His diligence has garnered him an in-the-park home run with his first novel, *A Message for Baseball*.

Throughout his life, David has been a fan of all levels of baseball. His father shared his love of the game with his son

and instilled respect for players from yesteryear and how they played the game.

In *A Message for Baseball* we spend a not-so-average day at the ballpark with the author and his hand-chosen guests. Their superb seats near the backstop, on the third base line, positions the four of them to interact with integral characters that have been designated by Walter Johnson's roster.

The middle of the 140-page book will not be reviewed since you must savor it for yourself. Like a no-hitter or an in-the-park home run, you need to experience the moment in order to have the memories.

The book zeroes in on eight points:

1. Eliminate the Wuss Clause. A hitter who fouls off on strike three is out.
2. Eliminate the Waste Number. A hitter walks on ball three.

3. Reduce the "holding runners on first delays" with a lead off line. There would be no throws to first if the first baseman stays at the bag.

4. Reduce Rubber Chicken Walks. The more walks, or hit batters a team gives up, the more bases the hitters get.

5. Eliminate Fluke Foul Outs. Only fly balls caught in fair territory are outs.

6. Reduce pitches in the "Career Injury Zone." The hitter and all base runners score.

7. Start a complete program to avoid arm injuries at all age levels. A dedicated program goal should to reduce injuries by at least 10 percent a year.

8. Use dependable technology to call balls and strikes. On the scoreboard, show where every pitch crosses the plate. Take away unnecessary conflict and controversy.

If baseball doesn't change soon, it will

definitely become a third-rate sport. Since our society has many action-packed sports to choose from most days of the week, dull and slow-moving baseball will not satiate our thirst for lively competition.

Since there is not a legend of baseball like Walter Johnson, ready to be called up and willing to save baseball from itself, it is going to be up to you and me to push for relevant, 21st century changes to the game. David Evans' book is the clarion call that needs to be heard and answered.

To buy a copy, go to www.amessageforbaseball.com.

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