

# SOUTH SIDE SPORTS

## Green youth sports looking to improve overall experience

By SEAN PATRICK

**GREEN** — In an effort to continue to foster positive athletic experiences, the Green Baseball/Softball Federation (GBSF) partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance to host a parent goal meeting/workshop March 13.

GBSF President Rick Yohman said the primary goal of the meeting was to “help parents play a more positive role in a child’s sports experience.”

“I have been involved in coaching high school baseball for 18 years,” he said. “I have seen the product of bad coaching and of kids that get pushed too much. We are trying to focus coaches and parents on

what matters and what will help players continue to love their game.”

Yohman said more than 100 parents attended the meeting, which he described as “the first of its kind in our community.”

“We collaborated with several other youth sports organizations. That’s what made it special. We didn’t just hold it for our parents,” he said. “We expanded it and offered it to groups such as the Green Bulldog Youth Football program, the Green High School Athletic Department, the Green Schools Foundation, the Green Youth Basketball Association, Green Lacrosse Club and the Green All Sports Booster Club. So, we garnered a lot of support and involvement.

That’s what we were really excited about. We’ve opened the door to do more and collaborate further to improve the athletic experience for kids here in Green.”

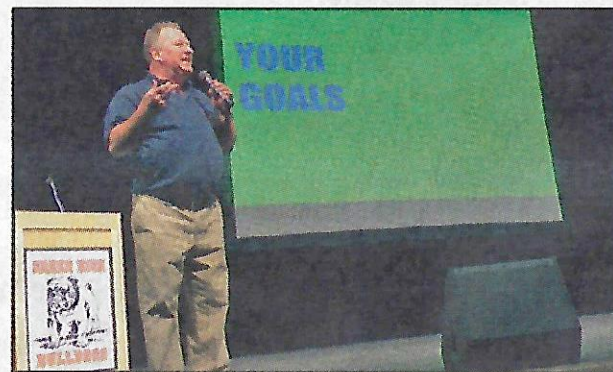
Feedback from the meeting has been “very positive,” Yohman said.

“We hope the parents got something out of it. Hopefully, they now have a different perspective on how they can improve their child’s athletic experience and how they can interact with coaches better. Everybody wants to do the right thing and have it be a good environment for their child and all the kids to participate in,” he stated. “I think this is something we will try to do again. I think this is something that can benefit the whole community, and it’s applicable to all sports. It’s the right kind of program to do to help parents understand what they can do on their end. And then from our end, we require our coaches to get cer-

tified. If they don’t want to go through the Positive Coaching Alliance training, they will not coach in GBSF. So, we’re trying to address it from both sides. We’re helping to train the coaches, and now we’re helping the parents to understand how they can improve things.”

According to Yohman, the GBSF has been trying to “lead the way” in improving the youth sports experience in the community.

“Green Baseball/Softball Federation is celebrating our 60th year of serving the Green area, so it’s a big anniversary,” he said. “It started in 1958 and has grown into what we are today. We serve about 600 kids in a season. We offer youth baseball and softball programs starting at age 4 and going up through age 18. We have recreational-level programs available for the kids who just want to get out and play and have fun, and we also have travel programs for the kids who are



**Ken Harkenrider, a Positive Coaching Alliance trainer, spoke at a March 13 parent goal meeting/workshop, which was sponsored by the Green Baseball/Softball Federation.**

Photo courtesy of Rick Yohman

a little more serious, with a little more advanced level of competition.”

Yohman said groups such as GBSF play an important role in a community.

“It offers kids a chance to participate in sports and to learn some valuable life lessons they can carry with them,” he said. “Plus, when you ask kids why they play a sport, the No. 1

answer is fun, and we want to provide that opportunity for all kids in the community.”

Those interested in learning more about the GBSF should visit [www.gbsf.us](http://www.gbsf.us), Yohman said.

“We are a volunteer organization and we are always looking for folks who are willing to volunteer their time,” he stated.

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