READERS FORUM

In our last issue we encouraged our readers to help make of this rubric a truly open forum for ideas. We were delighted to hear subsequently from Mr. Frank VanBaren, of Loveland, Colorado. In reading our recent articles on competitive sports he was convinced that an important argument in favor of such activities had been given inadequate attention. Taking pen in hand therefore he developed that aspect of the issue at hand, from the perspective of a businessman. It's that difference in perspective which makes of his comments a worthwhile addition to a debate which had already been worked over in these pages by educators. We thank Mr. VanBaren for sharing his ideas with us, and we extend again an invitation to all of our readers to do the same.

Dear Editor:

I have read, with a great deal of amusement, your readers' discussion regarding the value of organized sports activities in Christian schools. I feel compelled to provide what, I believe, is additional insight into the discussion.

There are some benefits of

competitive events that I believe are profound. In addition to the responsibility to care for the body, as Mr. Tim Heemstra has outlined, there is the responsibility to develop a Christian attitude in all of our life. That refers to church activities, work activities, all secular activities. This objective must be clearly

underscored in considering sports activities.

Perhaps I, not that informed of the circumstances in your area in particular and not associated in the training of youth, but a businessman, struggling somewhat differently. things When you seek a good dependable employee, you seldom look at the amount of knowledge of an individual. What is most important characteristics such are honesty, dependability, cheerfulness, zeal, enthusiasm, diligence, energy, ambition, loyalty. These are all expressions of attitude. As a student obtains knowledge it is the desire of everyone that the student obtain a good attitude and thereby lead a more productive life as a Christian. For that is the Christian's responsibility.

Organized sports require first a good attitude which leads to the obtaining of knowledge. Many of the requirements of a good sport are also needed in success of Christian living. How often we must be good losers, so that the profitability of sports is not in developing a winning attitude, but in developing empathy for other players and accepting loss without quitting or affecting the attitude. In that way the player becomes a real winner.

It appears to me the biggest problem is with parents' involve-Because someone may become obese, you don't condemn all food and put the blame on the abundant supply of food. Until a Christian perspective of sports and its value is understood, it's impossible to reprove parents or other Christians for acting foolishly. Through good school spirit and the development of Christian character, organized sports can be a very good factor. For even Scripture refers us to the race and prize which the Christian must run and pursue.

Frank VanBaren Loveland, Colorado