

Tragedy In Anaheim

Written by Coach Corral
Friday, April 10 2009 07:57 -



Nick Adenhardt, the Angels #1 prospect and last night's starting pitcher, died in a hit-and-run accident caused by a drunk driver.

I would like to take this time to ask you all to consider the dangers of driving intoxicated or driving with someone who is intoxicated. It seems Nick Adenhardt and the other two passengers with him who also died in the crash were innocent victims of an irresponsible idiot who at the moment, is still alive and will be charged with felony hit-and-run and possible murder/manslaughter charges.

This is a very precarious time in your young players lives. As I have done all I can to instill good, decent life lessons about responsibility and accountability when it comes to school, baseball and life, their opinions and outlooks on life are still forming, and you parents can make a dramatic difference in hammering home the dangers of alcohol. Don't be fooled into thinking that your child still hasn't been exposed to it yet...they all have, whether first hand or otherwise. TV commercials, movies, and other media play huge roles in showing how fun drinking can be, but never show the ramifications of what drunk driving accidents do.

As someone who has gotten behind the wheel in inebriated states before, this accident really hits home to me...why?

In 1996, I played in Hagerstown, MD, where Nick Adenhardt was from. We used to give baseball clinics to the local leagues, visit schools and gave autographs to all kids who asked for them. Nick would have been 10 years old at the time...I could only assume he may have been one of these camps, or may have autographs from our team...or that I may have made him smile the way I make your boys smile.

I don't want this happening to any of my boys. Please share this with them...and prayers to Nick and the families of this senseless tragedy.

Coach Ruben