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A Sporting Start

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While acts of horrid sportsmanship in the pros command the headlines—see Roberto Alomar, see Dennis Rodman—hardly a week goes by without a less-noted report of misbehavior by a coach or player at the junior high basketball game or Pop Warner football game. On January 25, Gerry Hart, a former NHL player coaching a Long Island youth hockey team, was arrested and charged with misdemeanor assault for allegedly punching a referee and a 14-year-old opposing player (Hart denies the charges). The boy's attorney, **Richard Roth**, was astounded by Hart's conduct. Such incidents emphasize the importance of last Thursday's gathering of leaders from various athletic governing bodies to discuss sportsmanship.

The group—including honchos from the U.S. Olympic Committee, the four major pro sports, the NCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations—met in New York City to announce the formation of the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance, an organization intended to promote sports' positive values. "We want to emphasize teamwork, interdependence and leadership," said National League president Leonard Coleman. "The values sports can give to young people play a critical role in their development.

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