



## Respect:

*To treat others with a positive feeling of esteem or deference*

*Synonyms: courtesy, esteem, appreciation*

## Respect Story

This Minnesota Regional High School Baseball Sectional Championship Game between Totino-Grace and Mounds View played on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 became more than a game to advance to the State Championship. It demonstrated a heart tugging end to a dramatic finish and then culminated in a show of respect that gained worldwide media attention.

Ty Koehn, the pitcher for Mounds View was facing his childhood friend, Jack Kocon, in the ninth inning. Ty and Jack played for the same little league team but in high school played on these two opposing teams. Despite attending different high schools the boys did remain in touch with each other. The championship game ended when Ty struck out his friend Jack for the final out.

What happened next garnered attention across all social media platforms. When Koehn's team went out to celebrate the victory, Ty Koehn met up with his longtime friend in front of home plate and gave Kocon a hug. It was the ultimate sign of respect to a longtime friend that he just defeated. Afterward in an interview Koehn said, "I knew I had to say something. Our friendship is more important than just the silly outcome of a game. I had to make sure he knew that before we celebrated."

Ty gave Jack words of encouragement and told him during the embrace, "You had a great season, you're a great player and don't let this situation, don't let this outcome affect our friendship." Jack stated afterwards in an interview, "I was just thinking in 20 years I'm not gonna remember the score of that game. But I'm gonna remember him coming up to me after that and just kind of being there for me when I needed someone."

Mark Downey, Ty's coach added this comment to expression of respect, "He is a tremendous competitor, but as you saw on the video, he understands there is a bigger picture and friendship really matter..." Coach Downey summed it up well as he acknowledged the value of being a great competitor while honoring relationships.

Catch the video on YouTube and you will be able to witness the dramatic display of respect by one young athlete to another after a very intense championship game.



