

## Further review

### Soccer sportsmanship goes beyond the field

Watching Zach Stryker break his ankle was nauseating.

His foot was turned 90 degrees, from the rest of his leg. He didn't scream right away, but he couldn't move, either.

The Bethlehem boys' soccer forward broke both of the bones through the growth plate of his ankle during a collision inside the box in Tuesday's late-season showdown with Colonie.

Stryker was on the turf for about 35 minutes as emergency personnel stabilized the injury and transported him to the hospital by ambulance.

The Eagles rallied and won, 2-1.

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Typically that is where an injury story ends.

Until Stryker received a card in the mail from Colonie.

It was signed by all of the team members. It also included a gift certificate to Soccer Unlimited.

"These athletes, who demonstrate fierce competitiveness and aggression on the field,

are incredibly compassionate and caring individuals," Stryker's mother, Marcy, said in an email to the Colonie Athletic Department thanking the team.

"Clearly there is something very right with our schools and with the spirit of athleticism."

"I am so proud to consider myself a soccer mom, and thank you for all that you and your school are doing to raise such an amazing group of kids."

Stryker will work on his soccer skills through his game console and FIFA 12 while in a full leg cast. Luckily, there was no need for surgery.

He won't be able to use the gift certificate anytime soon, but a full recovery is expected.

—Ben Meyers

**BETHELEHEM'S ZACH STRYKER**, right, knows Colonie's kindness.

**MICHAEL P. FARRELL/TIMES UNION**

