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Little League's Arch Enemy - The Ice Cream Man

God bless the Ice Cream Man. He's been a staple of our world forever, depicted in movies and songs, from Cheech and Chong, to Van Halen. Everywhere he goes, the Ice Cream Man is loved.

Except near a baseball field.

The other day at my boy's baseball practice, the team was put in a trance with the soothing music from the Ice Cream Man.

Here was a team of eight year olds, who haven't even been able to play a game this season due to the rain we've had recently (it hasn't rained in six months, then all of a sudden it decides to do so on the two days we have games scheduled? C'mon...but that's a different story) who have now been turned into Ice Cream magnets, and not ball players.

"I HEAR THE ICE CREAM MAN", one kid shouts. "Coach, can we get ice cream?," another one adds.

How is a coach supposed to compete with the Ice Cream Man? Santa Clause himself could have been coaching, with help from the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy, and the kids would have cared less, because the Ice Cream Man was there.

"OK Red Sox, pay attention to me," I say. Finally, after ten minutes of that music and every kid turning his head to see where this joyous sound is now at, I finally have my team back under control. We start our practice again, then it happens again.

No, not the Ice Cream Man..a new menace to my little league team. One with flashing lights and a siren blaring. It stops about 100 yards from where we are practicing. It's an ambulance.

"Cool, look at that," said the same kid who recently pointed out the other villain in my world. Immediately, all nine of my little leaguers turn their heads in complete astonishment.

"You all better turnaround and pay attention or you're gonna be needing that when you get hit in the head with this ball," I pipe back, know I am the one in charge here.

"Yeah right," their eyes tell me as they stand their with a grin on their face.

At least we accomplished one thing in that practice. We now know who runs the team.