

Gloucester County Times

A MediaNews Group newspaper

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The Times welcomes your opinion on issues of public interest in our Reader's View column. Your submission, of no more than 400 words, must include name, address and a verification telephone number. Write in care of Reader's View at the above address. Send e-mail to gctimes@voicenet.com.

Pro athletes aren't heroes

To the Editor:

Today, kids are overly impressed by the performance of professional athletes, some who demonstrate positive traits, and others who demonstrate negative traits and unacceptable behavior. Because of their success on the field or court, these individuals become role models that young people want to emulate.

A distorted aura of superiority is established for athletes who don't deserve this status, such as basketball "bad boys." These high-profile individuals have the

capacity to affect the sense of values of our young people.

These individuals should be given merit for their athletic skills and performance but not given a hero status. The best reaction to this value misappropriation is responsible parents who explain that athletes may be outstanding in what they do, but this does not make them outstanding individuals.

Morton Tener,
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