

# Pinkerton honor student calling balls and strikes

By Kevin Moschella  
DERRY NEWS STAFF

Of the 105 umpires certified by the Merrimack Valley Umpires Association there is only one who has to have his parents drive him to the games.

Adam Boise, 16, became a Teen Associate Member of the MVUA in August and has been umpiring middle school and Little League games this season. He is one of two certified umpires in New Hampshire under the age of 18.

"I've always liked baseball and I played some Little League," said Boise. "This was a way for me to stay in the game without actually playing."

Boise was introduced to the program through family friend and secretary and treasurer of the MVUA Joel Saren, who said the need for umpires has them looking for umpires of all ages now.

"Coaches are happy to see a certified ump on the field," said Saren. "We started the TAM program four or five years ago because of the lack of qualified umpires for all the games in the area. Hopefully it will start to get bigger. It pays better than McDonald's."



DERRY NEWS/BOB ROSS

**Adam Boise, 16 of Derry, earned his umpire's patch last year from the MVUA.**

the written test, including all the adults in the course. The one thing he lacks is years of baseball experience.

"The experience is the biggest thing I need to gain to get better, but the veteran umps are always there for questions I have and want to help me get better," he added.

Saren said the toughest part of the job for young umpires like Boise is standing up to parents and coaches they have been

Boise says he typically is paid \$35 to \$40 per game for the hour and a half to two hours of work.

"I like being at the games and getting the experience," said Boise. "The money is a nice added bonus."

So far Boise has umpired Methuen and Hampstead Little League games and Timberlane Middle School games.

In the Little League games he is the lone umpire on the field and has to deal with the criticism of the coaches and parents.

"I prefer being a field umpire and not behind the plate so I'm not a human-target. Sometimes the catcher moves and I end up with the ball in my lap," Boise said.

"But the hardest part is just trying to keep every play separate and not letting personal feelings toward a coach or player get in the way of making the right call," he added.

Boise has all the training any other certified MVUA umpire has which includes a six-week class and three on-field clinics, as well as a 50-question written test.

He scored the highest of anyone in his class last August on

taught to respect.

"Some of our TAM umpires don't have the guts to tell someone who's 50 years old to be quiet or throw them out if they get out of hand," said Saren. "For the most part though everyone treats them the same as any other umpire that is fully qualified."

Boise has also been the statistician for the Pinkerton Academy football team for the past six years and for the lacrosse and basketball team the last two years.

"I like keeping the stats for my teams," said Boise. "I'm there at most practices and all games like I'm on the team just without a uniform."

He hopes to continue umpiring and keeping statistics in the future as he goes on to college.

The Pinkerton honor student is looking at Dartmouth, Wake Forest, the University of New Hampshire and Boston College to continue his studies.

"It's something I'd like to keep doing," said Boise, referring to umpiring. "Hopefully I'll get certified to do high school games and more."

Now Boise needs to just get a little older so he can drive to the games.