

After assault in Texas, high-school refs should get combat pay



MIKE BIANCHI
Commentary

Why was that ref even on the field in the first place to be assaulted by those two players in Texas?

Why would anybody in their right mind want to be an official or an umpire at the high school or youth

league level?

Why would you spend two hours of your time driving to and from the game and another three hours officiating the game — all for a whopping financial gain of about \$20 by the time you pay for

gas and food?

“It you’re in it for the money, you’re in for the wrong reasons,” says long-time local official Allen Cramer, the president of the Central Florida Officials Association. “The reason many of us do it is

because we’ve been involved in sports our entire lives and this is sort of our way of giving back.”

And what thanks do they get?

Ask Robert Watts, the high school official in San Antonio who was targeted

and endured a vicious blindside hit by two players from Jay High School a few days ago. In the viral video of the incident, millions have watched with horror as one of the

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