



Brewster coach/selectman found not guilty

By Rich Eldred

Cape Codd

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BREWSTER — Selectman Dan Rabold was found not guilty in an assault case last Friday in a trial before Judge Brian Merrick in Orleans District Court.

“It’s nice to be not guilty of something I didn’t do,” Rabold said. “Even better than not guilty is it being over. Having it hang over your head for a year is arduous, waiting for your time in court for the truth to come out.”

Bill Munroe had accused Rabold, who coached a Brewster Little League team, of assaulting his son, who was on the team, last June 9 during a game.

“One boy was up at bat and I was calling out encouragement and all of a sudden I heard a clink of bats. I didn’t know what had happened and I turned around,” Rabold recalled at the time.

The boy had accidentally knocked over some bats while taking a practice swing and while Rabold was watching he took a second swing and knocked over some more.

“I went over and told him to cut it out. It was kind of dangerous what he was doing. The bat was out of his hands and he bent over to pick it up and his back was to me,” Rabold explained. “I didn’t know if he could see me approach so I reached out and tapped his back to let him know I was there. He stood up at that moment and he had a wet shirt on and it made a slap sound. The field was quite quiet after the bats fell over.”

That brought the boy’s father out of the crowd.

“He never saw it coming,” Munroe said of his son. “It knocked the wind out of him. Rabold lost his head. The coach ran over. My son was in a bent down position picking up the bat and he (Rabold) ran back, hit him in the back with an open hand.”

He raced to the third base line and confronted Rabold and told him he would “snap his neck” if he ever touched his son again, according to the police report. That remark caused Rabold to file a cross complaint late last year, which resolved with pre-trial probation earlier this year. Munroe took his son off the field and went home before filing a criminal complaint on June 10.

After listening to five witnesses for the state and three for the defense, Judge Merrick issued his not guilty verdict (there was no jury).

“Our position was it was inadvertent contact, that the boy was standing up at the same time Mr. Rabold was approaching him with his hand out trying to protect him from hitting the bats around him,” explained [Elisa Zawadzka](#), Rabold’s attorney.

She was pleased with the outcome.

“I really do think the correct verdict was ‘not guilty.’ It’s a shame it had to take a year for that to happen. But I’m very happy for Mr. Rabold and I’m glad it is over for him because he’s been sweating it for a long time,” she explained.

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