

Marin Independent Journal Reader's Forum for December 28

IJ column downplays the downsides of field lights

I read Danny Schmidt's column in the Dec. 23 IJ, regarding his advocacy for adding stadium lights at Marin Catholic High School.

This column gives the impression that the lights would only have an impact on the surrounding neighborhood for 10 nights a year for varsity football games.

It fails to mention that the lights will be on from October until April five nights per week until 10 p.m. The fields would be used for football, soccer, lacrosse and possibly track events every night.

The column states that playing fields are at a premium in Marin; however, Marin Catholic admits that it will be using its fields exclusively 98 percent of the time.

This is hardly an addition to our community field issue.

Can you imagine the addition of four 80-foot light towers in the heart of Ross Valley?

This will light up this peaceful end of the valley and give the appearance of a Kmart parking lot.

If these lights are installed, it may create the same public outcry as the WinCup apartment complex in Corte Madera.

It is true that the surrounding neighborhoods are subject to the day-time noise from the fields all year round and this is not an issue with the neighbors. However, we did not bargain to have this field noise intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of our homes in the evening.

The Marin planning department has decided that these lights are not appropriate for this area of Marin.

— *Dan Brady, Greenbrae*