

TV Star to Speak Up

BRIAN GRAY Toronto Sun

TV drama *Doomstown* -- will be playing baseball with youth at the Griffin Centre in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood.

Appearing on CTV last Sunday, *Doomstown* addressed the issues of gun

violence and Canadian youth.

Today's appearance is to educate youth about the dangers of guns and hanging out with the wrong crowd.



Doomstown actor K.C. Collins, Griffin Centre youth and staff along with the community enjoy a baseball game at Silverview Park. K.C. speaks to the youth about the benefits of participating in recreational sports, activities and the programs offered through Griffin Centre.



JOE O'CONNAL/SUN

Actor K.C. Collins cheers on at-risk and developmentally delayed youth playing baseball in North York yesterday.

Ballpark over the streets

BRODIE FENLON
Toronto Sun

T.O. actor talks of benefits of sports
at game featuring at-risk youth

It's only baseball, but for some kids, it can be a lifeline from guns, gangs and crime.

Just ask Toronto-born actor K.C. Collins, who led off a game of baseball for at-risk and developmentally delayed youths from North York yesterday — days after the premier of his hit TV movie *Doomstown*.

"This is the kind of thing that kept me off the streets," Collins said as young clients

of the Griffin Centre ran out on the diamond.

"These kids, if they have something positive in their lives, they'll stay away from the negative stuff."

The Griffin Centre offers a variety of mental health services to about 1,000 youths and adults each year. Among its roster of programs is Y-Connect, a support pro-

gram based in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood for youths aged 15-24 who are living with mental health or substance abuse problems.

Collins, who was raised from the age of 6 by his grandmother in the Jane St. and Weston Rd. area, said extracurricular activities kept him from trouble. He went to Rochester on a college base-

ball scholarship before leaving it all for acting.

"My grandmother put me in every sport imaginable," he said. "Kids need guidance, bottom line, and this (baseball) is a form of guidance."

Doomstown, which aired Sunday on CTV, tells the story of two drug-dealing friends who come face to face with gun violence. Collins plays Jeddi, who must decide whether to co-operate with the police or go into hiding after his best friend is gunned down on a basketball court.

