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Junior League World Series continues Tuesday at Heritage Park

A three-run home run by Sherman Lacrus lifted Curacao to a 5-2 victory over Mexico in the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

Curacao, the Latin America champions, became the first team to win two games in the 28th annual World Series for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the world.

Four more great games are scheduled for Tuesday at Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Road.

Tuesday's schedule:

Johnston, Iowa (1-0) vs. Alvin, Texas (1-1), 11 a.m.

London, England (0-1) vs. Willemstad, Curacao (2-0), 2 p.m.

Manila, Philippines (1-0) vs. Boca Del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico (1-1), 5 p.m.

Hilo, Hawaii (1-1) vs. Canton, Massachusetts (1-0), 8 p.m.

All games are played on World Series Field in Taylor's Heritage Park. Admission is \$5 per carload per day or \$10 per car for the entire series. Both fees include parking. For updates, visit www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries.

Monday's results at a glance:

Hilo, Hawaii 8, Mechanicsville, Virginia 6

Manila, Philippines 6, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada 4

Canton, Massachusetts 10, Alvin, Texas 4

Willemstad, Curacao 5, Boca Del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico 2

Monday highlights:

The homer by Lacrus was the difference in the 5-2 victory by Willemstad, Curacao, over the Mexican national champions from Boca Del Rio, Veracruz. The dinger came in the four-run fourth inning as Kirvin Moesquit and Rayshelon Carolina scored in front of him. Denjerick Virginie had two of his team's seven hits, but the Latin America champions were helped more by six Mexico errors. Veracruz pitcher Jose Ramon gave up five hits and five runs, but none of the runs was earned. Alexander Rodriguez pitched into the seventh inning for Curacao and earned the victory, striking out eight and allowing four hits. Even Zuriel Torres had two of Mexico's hits. Curacao (2-0) is the first team in the International Pool to reach two wins. Mexico is 1-1.

Hilo, Hawaii, won its first game of the Junior League World Series. The USA West champions won a wild 8-6 game over Mechanicsville, Virginia, on Monday. Hawaii (1-1) broke open a 4-4 tie with three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Connor Yoshioka, Ridge Hoopii-Haslam, Kean Wong and Jayce Carvalho all singled during the inning. Hoopii-Haslam led off the game with a home run and Ekelu Martins led off the fifth with another homer. Carvalho was 3-for-3 with two runs batted in. Wong, the starting pitcher, got the victory. Blake Spiers scored two of Virginia's runs. The USA South champions fell to 0-2. There were 10 errors in the game, six by Hawaii.

Manila, Philippines' experience in the Junior League World Series showed in the all-stars' 6-4 victory over Coquitlam, British Columbia. The Asia-Pacific champions were runners-up last year in Taylor. Three of the four returning players led the way in the win over the Canadian national champs. Lead-off batter Jose Miguel San Juan knocked in two runs and scored one, Lorenzo Ramos went 2-for-3 and scored and Charles Catangui was 2-for-4, knocked in a run and was the winning pitcher. Manila led from the second inning on, although Team Canada kept it close by scoring solo runs in the sixth and seventh innings. Sheldon Vannerus had two hits and two RBI, but British Columbia fell to 0-2. Manila is 1-0.

Canton, Massachusetts (1-0) erupted for six runs in the third inning and four more in the fourth to account for a 10-4 win over Alvin, Texas. A two-run triple by Christopher Tamasi and a run-scoring double by John Ruane IV were the big hits in the third. Thomas Jenkins' two-run single was a key hit in the fourth. Tamasi was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and Jenkins was 2-for-2. Brennan Sullivan picked up the victory on the mound for the USA East champions. Texas (1-1) took a 3-0 lead in the third. Taylor Reed, Dillon Dukes and Raymond Williams had two hits apiece for the Southwest champs.

The other two teams in the series – Johnston, Iowa (1-0) and London, England (0-1) – had the day off, but return to play on Tuesday.

Standings after Monday's games

USA Pool

Johnston, Iowa (Central) 1-0

Canton, Massachusetts (East) 1-0

Alvin, Texas (Southwest) 1-1

Hilo, Hawaii (West) 1-1

Mechanicsville, Virginia (South) 0-2

International Pool

Willemstad, Curacao (Latin America) 2-0

Manila, Philippines (Asia-Pacific) 1-0

Boca Del Rio, Veracruz (Mexico) 1-1

London, England (Europe) 0-1

Coquitlam, British Columbia (Canada) 0-2

The Junior League World Series is considered the older brother of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In fact, some of the boys who played in Williamsport as 12-year-olds will play this year in Taylor as 13- or 14-year-olds.

The teams in Taylor are divided into two pools: USA and International. Teams play in a round-robin format the first five days of the World Series.

On Friday, August 15, the top two teams in the International Pool play at 5 p.m. Friday, August 15; the two leaders in the USA Pool play at 8 p.m.

The two winners play for the world championship at 5 p.m. Saturday, August 16. The championship game will be broadcast live on ESPNU and shown on tape delay by ESPN2.

All games will be broadcast via streaming audio on the Internet at www.cityoftaylor.com/listen.

To date, 27 different USA states have been represented in the JLWS. Curacao and England – which made their Taylor debut on Sunday – brought to 20 the total of international nations to play in the World Series. Current professionals who played in the JLWS include the Detroit Tigers' Gary Sheffield.

Umpires, who volunteer to call balls and strikes during the series, have come from 32 states and 12 international nations.

For more information on the tournament visit the World Series Web site: www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries.

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