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Top USA, international teams battle Tuesday in Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN – Four key games are scheduled for Tuesday as teams strive for the championship of the 32nd annual Junior League World Series at Taylor's Heritage Park.

Teams from Mexico and Florida are seeking their third straight wins on Day Three of the weeklong World Series for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the globe. Italy and New York want to remain unbeaten. Chinese Taipei, Aruba, Ohio and California need wins to keep their world championship hopes alive.

Tuesday's Schedule

11 AM – Tainan City, Chinese Taipei (Asia-Pacific champion) vs. San Nicolas de Los Garza, Nuevo Leon (Mexico national champion)
 2 PM – Manhattan Beach, California (USA West champion) vs. Rockledge, Florida (USA Southeast champion)
 5 PM – Oranjestad, Aruba (Latin America champion) vs. Lazio, Italy (Europe/Middle East/Africa champion)
 8 PM – Franklin Square, New York (USA East champion) vs. North Canton, Ohio (USA Central champion)

The USA Southwest champions from Corpus Christi, Texas, and the Canadian national champions from Calgary, Alberta, have the day off before returning to action Wednesday.

The 10 teams compete in one of two pools – USA or International – and play four games in round-robin format over the first five days of the World Series. The top two teams in the International Pool will play at 5 p.m. Friday, followed by the USA championship game at 8 p.m.

The USA and International title holders play for the world championship at 11 a.m. Saturday in a game televised live by ESPN2.

The Junior League World Series has been held in Taylor since it was founded in 1981. The event is the older brother of the more famous Little League World Series for 12-year-olds, held annually in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

World Series Field is located at Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Road. Admission is just \$5 per carload per day or \$10 for the entire week. Both fees include parking.

Here are the results of Monday's games:

Michael Hall's two-run walk-off single in the seventh inning led Rockledge, Florida, to a 7-6 victory over North Canton, Ohio, to kick off Day Two of the Junior League World Series. Hall drove in Blake Beyel from third base and Drew Parrish from second to complete a comeback for the USA Southeast champions, who became the first team to earn a second win. Hall pitched the last four innings for Florida, allowing one run on three hits to earn the victory. Teammate Kevin Clanton hit a grand slam in the third inning to give Rockledge an early lead. Parrish went 2-for-4 and scored twice. Ohio's Jerid Seemann, Nicholas Hillyer and Benjamin Kiesling had two hits apiece. The USA Central champs are 0-1.

Lazio, Italy, made its World Series debut with a 14-1 victory over the Canadian national champions from Calgary, Alberta. The game was halted by the five-inning mercy rule. Italy, the champions of the Europe, the Middle East and Africa region, scored seven runs in the second, three in the third and four in the fourth. Only five of Italy's runs were earned. Italy's Giorgio Bressi and Francesco Novaga each went 2-for-4, scored twice and knocked in two runs. Taylor Roberge had two doubles for Canada, which fell to 0-2 in the International Pool.

The Mexican national champions stunned the Latin American champions from Oranjestad, Aruba, in an extra-inning 7-5 game that left Mexico alone in first place in the International Pool of the World Series. Trailing 5-2, Mexico scored three runs in the top of the sixth inning to tie the game and added two more in the top of the eighth when Jesus Solis scored on a sacrifice fly by Edwin Villarreal and then Jose Diaz singled home Carlos Iruegas. It was Mexico's only lead of the game. Mexico outhit Aruba 14-9. Villarreal, Raul Martinez and Jorge Leo had two hits apiece for the winners and teammate Pedro Tovar hit a solo home run. Aruba was led by Edmar Tromp and Jeandrck Odubar, who each went 3-for-4. Sharif Arends knocked in three runs for Aruba, which fell to 1-1.

Corpus Christi, Texas, players his three home runs in the seventh inning en route to a 16-1 victory over Manhattan Beach, California. Catcher Ricky Arevalo had two home runs in the inning – a two-run blast and a grand slam. He had three hits, scored two runs and had seven RBI. Teammate Nathan Rabe, who had the other two-run homer in the seventh, went 4-for-5, scored four times and knocked in four runs. Texas third baseman Reece Barrett added a two-run homer in the third inning. He scored three runs and had three RBI. All told, the USA Southwest champs had 14 hits and 12 walks off six California pitchers. Texas' Mason Weber, Kalani Ibarra and Rabe combined on a one-hitter. They had 12 strikeouts, but did walk 10. Texas evened its record at 1-1. California fell to 0-2.

Here are the pool play standings after one day of games:

USA Pool

Florida 2-0
 New York 1-0
 Texas 1-1
 Ohio 0-1
 California 0-2

International Pool

Mexico 2-0
 Italy 1-0
 Aruba 1-1
 Chinese Taipei 0-1
 Canada 0-2

Wednesday's Schedule

11 AM – Aruba vs. Canada

2 PM – New York vs. Texas
5 PM – California vs. Ohio
8 PM – Chinese Taipei vs. Italy

There are several ways to follow the games during the week:

- The games are broadcast live on the Internet on streaming video with play by play at www.justin.tv/jlws2012.
- Statistics can be found at <http://juniorlbws2012.bbstats.pointstreak.com>.
- The World Series website is www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries. The site features the complete schedule, results and history of the series.
- The World Series Facebook page, which is nearing 2,000 fans, is www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries.

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