

World Series regional play under way across the USA and Canada

Junior League World Series

Regional News

The teams that arrive in Taylor, Michigan, for the Junior League World Series of baseball are already champions. Four teams have qualified for the 2010 World Series: Chinese Taipei (Asia-Pacific region champs), Ukraine (champions of Europe, the Middle East and Africa), Guatemala (Latin America champs) and Guaymas, Sonora, the national champions of Mexico.

Competition in six regions continues: five in the United States and the national tournament in Canada. Here are some highlights:

USA Central Region in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Midland, which won the Michigan state championship for the fourth straight year, opened regional play on Saturday with a 5-4 win over North Canton, Ohio. The state champions from Iowa, Kentucky and Indiana also won their regional openers.

USA East Region in Freehold Township, New Jersey

The state champions of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Delaware and the host team all won their tournament openers on Saturday. The New Jersey and Maine state champs start play Sunday.

USA Southeast Region in Greenville, South Carolina

Mechanicsville, Virginia, became the first team to win two games in round-robin play. Elberton, Georgia (1-0) is the only other undefeated team. With seven state champions in the hunt, the Southeast regional is the smallest this year in the Junior League.

USA Southwest Region in Midland, Texas

There are two Texas state champions and both of them are 2-0. The Texas East champs from Tyler have beaten the state champs of New Mexico (15-3) and Mississippi (13-0). The Texas West champs from Waco have wins over the host team from Midland (5-4) and the state champs of Colorado (16-2). The undefeated teams square off at 8 p.m. Sunday Texas time.

USA West Region in Laguna Niguel, California

Three California teams are in the final four of the USA West regional. In Monday's semifinal games, the North California state champions from Rocklin, California (5-0) take on the Hawaiian state champs from Hilo (4-1), while the South California state champs from El Monte (4-1) battle the host team from Laguna Niguel (4-1). Eleven state championship teams were involved in the USA West region.

Canadian Region in Lethbridge, Alberta

Day two of round-robin pool play continues Sunday. Winners on Saturday's opening day of competition were the provincial champions from Coquitlam, British Columbia; Orleans, Ontario; and Medicine Hat, Alberta.

About the Junior League World Series

The 30th annual Junior League World Series features the world's best teams of 13- and 14-year-old baseball players. It's the big brother of the Little League World Series, which features the best 12-year-olds in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Opening ceremonies of the 2010 Junior League World Series begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, August 14, at World Series Field in Taylor's Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Road. Everyone is invited. Admission is free. The night will include a parade of champions, speeches by dignitaries, the ceremonial first pitch and fireworks.

Opening day of games is Sunday, August 15. Games are scheduled for noon, 2:45 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Games continue through August 21.

Admission is just \$5 per carload per day or \$10 for the entire week. For more information, visit www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries.



