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## Rhode Island, Chinese Taipei, Florida and Venezuela win on opening day of World Series

The 31st annual Junior League Baseball World Series is under way at Taylor's Heritage Park.

Regional champions from Rhode Island, Chinese Taipei, Florida and Venezuela won Sunday on the first day of games. Four more games are scheduled for Tuesday.

Johnston, Rhode Island, scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to break a 2-2 tie and then held on for a 5-2 win over North Canton, Ohio, in the opening game. The game marked the debut for any team from Rhode Island in the 31-year-old World Series. Third baseman Gian Martellini had two hits. Shortstop James Picchi scored twice. Zach Coro pitched three hitless innings in relief to get the win. Ohio's Tristan Ross went 3-for-4 and made a great catch in center field, preventing a home run.

Hung Yuan Lin stroked a three-run home run in the first inning and Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei, scored eight more runs in the second inning in an 11-0 win over Emilia, Italy. Chun Yu Wang, Yi Chung Tseng and Cheng En Li combined for a one-hit pitching performance for the Asia-Pacific champions.

Tampa, Florida, scored three runs in the fifth inning and two more in the sixth to earn a come-from-behind 9-6 win over Tucson, Arizona. There were six home runs in the game – three for each team. Augie Otero, Eddie Became and Johnny Rodriguez hit dingers for Arizona. Ryan Ellis, Cole Gibbs and Ronnie Ramirez hit homers for Florida. Tampa is 18-0 since the start of post-season all-star play. Ramirez, Gibbs and Jake Bak had three hits apiece for Florida. Otero (3-for-4) Rodriguez and Became combined for seven of their team's eight hits.

Mikey Edie's towering 343-foot home run was the difference in a 4-3 victory by Latin Maracaibo, Venezuela, over Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. Venezuela took a 3-0 lead before the Puerto Rican national champions tied it with three runs in the fourth. Edie homered to lead off the fifth and Venezuela held on for the win.

### Monday's Games

Tucson, Arizona (USA West) vs. Rosenberg, Texas (USA Southwest), 11:00 a.m.

Yabucoa, Puerto Rico vs. Surrey, British Columbia (Canada), 2 p.m.

Yabucoa, Chinese Taipei (Asia-Pacific) vs. Maracaibo, Venezuela (Latin America), 5 p.m.

Johnston, Rhode Island (USA East) vs. Tampa, Florida (USA Southeast), 8 p.m.

The Junior League World Series features the 10 best teams of 13- and 14-year old players from around the world. The international tournament is the older brother of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Admission is just \$5 per carload per game or \$10 for the entire series. Both fees include parking. Heritage Park is located at 12111 Pardee Road, Taylor.

### Notes

Rhode Island representatives will add their state flag to the Hill of Champions prior to the start of the 8 p.m. game.

Lakes of Taylor Golf Club will donate 15 percent of food purchases at the restaurant to the Junior League World Series between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 16. Lakes is located at 25505 Northline Road.

For more information on the World Series, including standings, schedule and history, visit [www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries](http://www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries).

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