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Junior League Baseball World Series continues with five more great games in Taylor, Michigan

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN – Five more games are scheduled for Wednesday as teams jockey for position in the standings of the Junior League baseball World Series at Taylor's Heritage Park.

Every game is significant as the top two teams in the International and USA pools play one another on Friday for a spot in world championship game at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Today's Schedule:

Manati, Puerto Rico vs. Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei, 9 a.m.
 Rio Rico, Arizona vs. Massapequa Park, New York, Noon
 Manati, Puerto Rico vs. Brno, Czech Republic, 2:45 p.m.
 Rio Rico, Arizona vs. Bedford, Indiana, 5:30 p.m.
 Goodlettsville, Tennessee vs. Massapequa Park, New York, 8:15 p.m.

The USA Southeast champions from Tennessee (2-1) helped their chances late Tuesday night with a wild 13-12 win over the previously undefeated USA Southwest champs from Lafayette, Louisiana (2-1). The USA Central champions from Bedford, Indiana (1-1) are in the mix. They have played two games so far: a loss to Louisiana followed by a win over Tennessee. Rio Rico, Arizona (0-1) and Massapequa Park, New York (0-1) are looking for their first win and play each other at noon.

In the International Pool, the Latin America champions from Willemstad, Curacao (2-0) won their first two games by a combined score of 32-5 and they have the day off before playing twice on Thursday. The World Series schedule was altered after three rainouts on Monday. The Asia-Pacific champions of Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei (1-0) have a chance to tie for the lead with a morning game vs. Manati, Puerto Rico (1-1). The European champs from Brno, Czech Republic are also 1-1, while the Canadian national champions from Calgary, Alberta (0-3) have the day off before seeking their first win on Thursday.

USA Pool

Goodlettsville, Tennessee (2-1)
 Lafayette, Louisiana (2-1)
 Bedford, Indiana (1-1)
 Massapequa Park, New York (0-1)
 Rio Rico, Arizona (0-1)

International Pool

Willemstad, Curacao (2-0)
 Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei (1-0)
 Manati, Puerto Rico (1-1)
 Brno, Czech Republic (1-1)
 Calgary, Alberta, Canada (0-3)

Tuesday's results

Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei 6, Brno, Czech Republic 1
 Manati, Puerto Rico 9, Calgary, Alberta, Canada 1
 Bedford, Indiana 6, Goodlettsville, Tennessee 4
 Willemstad, Curacao 18, Calgary, Alberta, Canada 2
 Goodlettsville, Tennessee 13, Lafayette, Louisiana 12

Thursday's revised schedule

Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei vs. Willemstad, Curacao, 9 a.m.
 Massapequa, New York vs. Bedford, Indiana, Noon
 Brno, Czech Republic vs. Willemstad, Curacao, 2:45 p.m.
 Calgary, Alberta vs. Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei, 5:30 p.m.
 Lafayette, Louisiana vs. Rio Rico, Arizona, 8:15 p.m.

Friday's schedule

International Championship Game, 4 p.m.
 USA Championship Game, 7 p.m.

Saturday's schedule

World Championship Game, 2 p.m.

World Series Notebook

Jose Valentin, who played for the 1983 Junior League World Series champions from Manati, Puerto Rico, returned to Taylor to support his hometown team on Tuesday. Valentin went on to a long career in the Major Leagues. His father Jose Sr. was "team president" of the Manati squad in 1983 and also managed the 1989 world champions that included son Javier. This year, Jose Sr. is back managing the Puerto Rico national champions, including his grandson.

Thanks to the members of the Taylor Moose, who will provide lunch to the teams Wednesday and Thursday.

About the Junior League World Series

The 33rd annual world tournament for 13- and 14-year-old ballplayers is the "older brother" of the more famous Little League World Series for 12-year-olds played in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. When players turn 13 and 14, they can compete in Taylor.

The world title Saturday afternoon, August 17. The World Series finale will be broadcast live by ESPN on its website www.ESPN3.com. The game will be replayed on television on ESPN2 at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 21.

Admission is \$5 per day per carload – or \$10 for a weeklong pass. Both prices include parking. Heritage Park is located at 12111 Pardee Road in Taylor.

To date, World Series teams have come from 29 states and 24 international locations. The 2012 Junior League world champion was Rockledge, Florida. Midland, the 2013 state champion from Michigan, competed in the Central Region tournament, making it to the final four.

For more information on the Junior League World Series, visit the website www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries or follow all year long on Facebook at www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries.

Games are streamed on the Internet at www.justin.tv/jlws_mi. Fans also can follow the games at www.gamechanger.io. Search for “Junior League World Series.”

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