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Final 4 set in Junior League World Series; International, USA title games are today in Taylor

The final four teams are set in the Junior League Baseball World Series at Taylor's Heritage Park. Chinese Taipei (4-0) will play Curacao (3-1) for the International Championship at 4 p.m. Goodlettsville, Tennessee (3-1), will play Rio Rico, Arizona (3-1) for the USA Championship at 7 p.m.

The USA and International champions play for the World Championship at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The USA West champions from Arizona defeated Lafayette, Louisiana 7-5 late Thursday night to earn the final spot in the USA title game. Arizona built a 7-3 lead through five innings and then held on as Louisiana (2-2) chipped away with two runs in the sixth, but couldn't close the gap. Angel Chavez went 3-for-4, scored twice and knocked in three runs for the winners.

The USA Southeast champions from Goodlettsville, Tennessee had the day off and will be well rested for the USA championship game. By the way, Goodlettsville was a finalist in the 2012 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Two players from that team are on the Junior League team in Taylor.

The Asia-Pacific champions from Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei, completed their perfect four-game run in the International Pool with a 19-2 win over the Canadian national champions from Calgary, Alberta. Chinese Taipei, which scored 11 runs in the third inning, had 18 hits in the five-inning game, four each by Wang Wei An and Yeh Hsiu Hua.

It was the second win of the day for Chinese Taipei, which opened play with a 13-2 win over Curacao, the Latin America champions. The Asia-Pacific champs scored six runs in the second inning and three in the third, then coasted to the five-inning win. Chinese Taipei had just six hits, but benefited from seven walks and four Curacao errors. Yeh pitched a four-hitter to earn the victory. Feng Li Chung had four RBI.

Curacao secured its spot in the International Championship game with a 13-6 win over Brno, Czech Republic. The Latin America champs scored seven runs in the third inning. Nine Curacao players hit safely. Curacao had 14 hits and six walks. Czech Republic finished 2-2 in pool play.

Bedford, Indiana scored three runs in the top of the seventh inning to earn an 11-9 roller coaster win over Massapequa, New York. Ronnie Watson's two-run double was the key hit in the seventh. New York had scored five unanswered runs to take a 9-8 lead into the seventh.

Friday's Schedule:

International Championship Game: Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei vs. Willemstad, Curacao, 4 p.m.

USA Championship Game: Goodlettsville, Tennessee vs. Rio Rico, Arizona, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Schedule:

World Championship Game 2 p.m.

Games are played on World Series Field at Taylor's Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Road. Admission is \$5 per day per carload.

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.

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."

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.

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. The complete schedule, standings and results can be found at www.cityoftaylor.com/jlwsschedule.

Notebook: Crossover consolation games are scheduled Friday and Saturday. On Friday, Canada plays New York at 8 a.m., Czech Republic plays Indiana at 10:30 a.m. and Puerto Rico plays Louisiana at 1 p.m. On Saturday, the runners-up in each pool play at 9 a.m.

The annual Home Run Derby is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday.

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