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USA, INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES ARE FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES AT HERITAGE PARK; TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE WILL ESCORT TEAMS TO WORLD SERIES FIELD

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN – The final four teams are set for the Junior League World Series TONIGHT (Friday) at Taylor's Heritage Park.

- Asia-Pacific champion Tai-Chung, Chinese Taipei (4-0) plays Latin America champion Willemstad, Curacao (2-2) for the International title at 5 p.m.
- USA Southwest champion Corpus Christi, Texas (3-1) plays USA West champion Manhattan Beach, California (3-1) for the USA title at 8 p.m.

The International and USA champions then play for the world championship at 2 p.m. Saturday. The World Series finale will be televised live on ESPN3.

Heritage Park is located at 12111 Pardee Road. Admission is \$5 per carload per day, which includes parking. Everyone is welcome.

The 34th annual Junior League World Series features championship teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the globe. The JLWS is the "older brother" of the famous Little League World Series for 12-year-olds in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Last Saturday, 10 teams from around the globe started World Series week in one of two pools for five days of round-robin play. The teams with the top records play for pool championships on Friday.

"We're down to three games," World Series founder and Director Greg Bzura said. "The excitement continues to build toward Saturday's world championship game. Memories are being made. History is being made."

NOTE: Members of the Taylor Auxiliary Police have volunteered to honor the final four teams by providing a police escort for them from the host hotel, the Holiday Inn at Northline Road and I-75 in Southgate, to World Series Field in Taylor. Teams are scheduled to leave the hotel 90 minutes to two hours before game time. Times are being finalized. Organizers have invited spectators to line Northline Road.

Final Pool Play Standings

USA Pool

Texas 3-1
California 3-1
North Carolina 2-2
Michigan 1-3
Delaware 1-3

International Pool

Chinese Taipei 4-0
Curacao 2-2
Canada 2-2
Mexico 2-2
Czech Republic 0-4

NOTE: With three teams tied at 2-2 in the International Pool, a tiebreaker system is used. The first tiebreaker is "head to head competition." Since Curacao defeated Canada, Canada defeated Mexico and Mexico defeated Curacao, officials went to a second tiebreaker, which rewards defensive plays (defensive runs allowed divided by the number of innings played). It was determined that Curacao allowed the fewest runs per inning, finished runner-up in the International Pool and earned the right to play Chinese Taipei for the International championship.

Thursday's Game Results

Willemstad, Curacao 4, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada 3 (9 Innings)

Thursday's opener saw Latin America champions Willemstad, Curacao keep their hopes alive with a tense 4-3 victory over the Canadian national champions from Regina, Saskatchewan. A bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning (the second extra inning of the game) ended the contest. No team ever had more than a one-run lead from the first inning on. Curacao's Ruwensly Bonifacio and Ruendy Carolina combined on a seven-hitter, with Carolina pitching the last six innings to earn the victory. Canada's Marcus Roflik was the game's hitting star, going 3-for-5, scoring twice and knocking in a run. Roflik and starter Jacob Lipp allowed just five hits. Carolina, Mychellon Jansen and Quendryson Reinilla knocked in runs. Both teams finished 2-2 in the International Pool.

Rutherfordton, North Carolina 17, Corpus Christi, Texas 3

The USA Southeast champions from Rutherfordton, N.C. (2-2), stunned previously unbeaten Corpus Christi, Texas (3-1), 17-3. The boys from Rutherford County had 14 hits. Keaten Sneathen went 4-for-5, scored three runs and had two RBI. Cameron Sneathen, Jace Crowe and Joe Conner had two hits apiece. Cameron Sneathen and Josh Searcy scored three runs each. Conner and Adam McDowell knocked in three runs apiece. Cameron Sneathen and Searcy also combined on a four-hitter. Texas had already qualified to play in the USA championship game at 8 p.m. Friday.

Tai-Chung, Chinese Taipei 4, Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico 0

Chinese Taipei won for the fourth straight time in the International Pool, defeating the Mexican national champions from Mexicali, Baja California, 4-0. In four games, Chinese Taipei pitchers have allowed two runs. Against Mexico, Ji-Hong Liu pitched a five-hitter, walking two and striking out two. The Asia-Pacific champs had nine hits – two each from Pei-Fong Dai and Chih-Heng Chiu. Liu scored two of his team's runs. I-Wei Li had two RBI. Mexico finished pool play 2-2.

Manhattan Beach, California 10, Newark, Delaware 0

The Thursday night game turned into a 10-0 route. Manhattan Beach, California (3-1) needed a win and the West champions defeated Newark, Delaware (1-3). California scored two runs in the first inning and eight more times in the third inning. Chris Penna and Joey Acosta hit back-to-back homeruns to right field in the

third. Penna was 2-for-2, scored two runs and knocked in two. Acosta was 2-for-3 with a run and three RBI. Garrett Auville also went 2-for-2, scored a run and had two RBI. Pitcher Nick Solan did his part, throwing a four-hit shutout, striking out four in the game cut short by the 10-run rule.

Friday's Schedule:

- Crossover Game: Newark, Delaware vs. Brno, Czech Republic on the Senior Field, 9 a.m.
- Crossover Game: Midland, Michigan vs. Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico on the Senior Field, 11 a.m.
- Crossover Game: Rutherfordton, North Carolina vs. Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on the Senior Field, 1 p.m.
- International Championship Game: Tai Chung, Chinese Taipei vs. Willemstad, Curacao at World Series Field, 5 p.m.
- USA Championship Game: Corpus Christi, Texas vs. Manhattan Beach, California at World Series Field, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Schedule:

- Home Run Derby, 9 a.m.
- Crossover Game: USA vs. International Runners-up at the Senior Field, 10 a.m.
- World Championship Game: USA vs. International Champions at World Series Field, 2 p.m.

Friday's championship games will be broadcast by streaming video with play by play at www.vaughnlive.tv/jlws. The world championship game will be broadcast live at 2 p.m. Saturday by ESPN3 and on www.ESPN.go.com. The finale will be rebroadcast at 10 a.m. Monday on ESPN2.

NOTEBOOK

A number of current or past professional baseball players played for teams in the Junior League World Series before making it as stars in the big leagues. They include Gary Sheffield, Eric Bedard, Brett Myers, brothers Jose and Javier Valentin, Erubiel Durazo, Chad Hermansen, Derek Bell, Delino DeShields, Shannon Withem, Adam Loewen and Chris Brock. Sheffield and Bell were teammates on the Belmont Heights team from Tampa, Florida, that won the Junior League world championship in 1982. Some future major leaguers may be on the rosters in 2014.

Other future stars to play in Taylor have included Chris Dingman and Steve Reinprecht, Junior League teammates in 1989 with Edmonton, Alberta, who went on to play in the National Hockey League. Matt Cassel (Northridge, California, 1995) is a quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings in the National Football League. Mark "Bo" Pelini, a member of the 1981 champions on Boardman, Ohio, went on to play safety for Ohio State University's football team and is now head football coach at the University of Nebraska...

The 16 umpires working the Junior League World Series include Kurt Bailey of Fort Wayne, Indiana; William Berger of Ventura, California; Bill Freeman of Southington, Connecticut; Bradley Garrison of Big Spring, Texas; Babe Glumack of Hibbing, Minnesota; Wayne Kurtz of Coaldale, Alberta, Canada; and Roberto Rivera-Rosado of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Also serving as umpires are Jason Fred Runyan of Central, Colorado; Jack Schultz of Bellvue, Washington; Larry Taylor Sr. of Punta Gorda, Florida; Fred Tempels of Winnweiler, Germany; Russell Tudor of Alexandria, Virginia; and John West Jr. of Holbrook, Massachusetts.

Returning umpires are George Glick of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as director of umpires; Orland King of Kenton, Ohio, as assistant director; and son Greg King, also of Kenton.

For more information on the JLWS, visit www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries and "like" the World Series Facebook page: www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries.