

Little League[®] magazine 2014

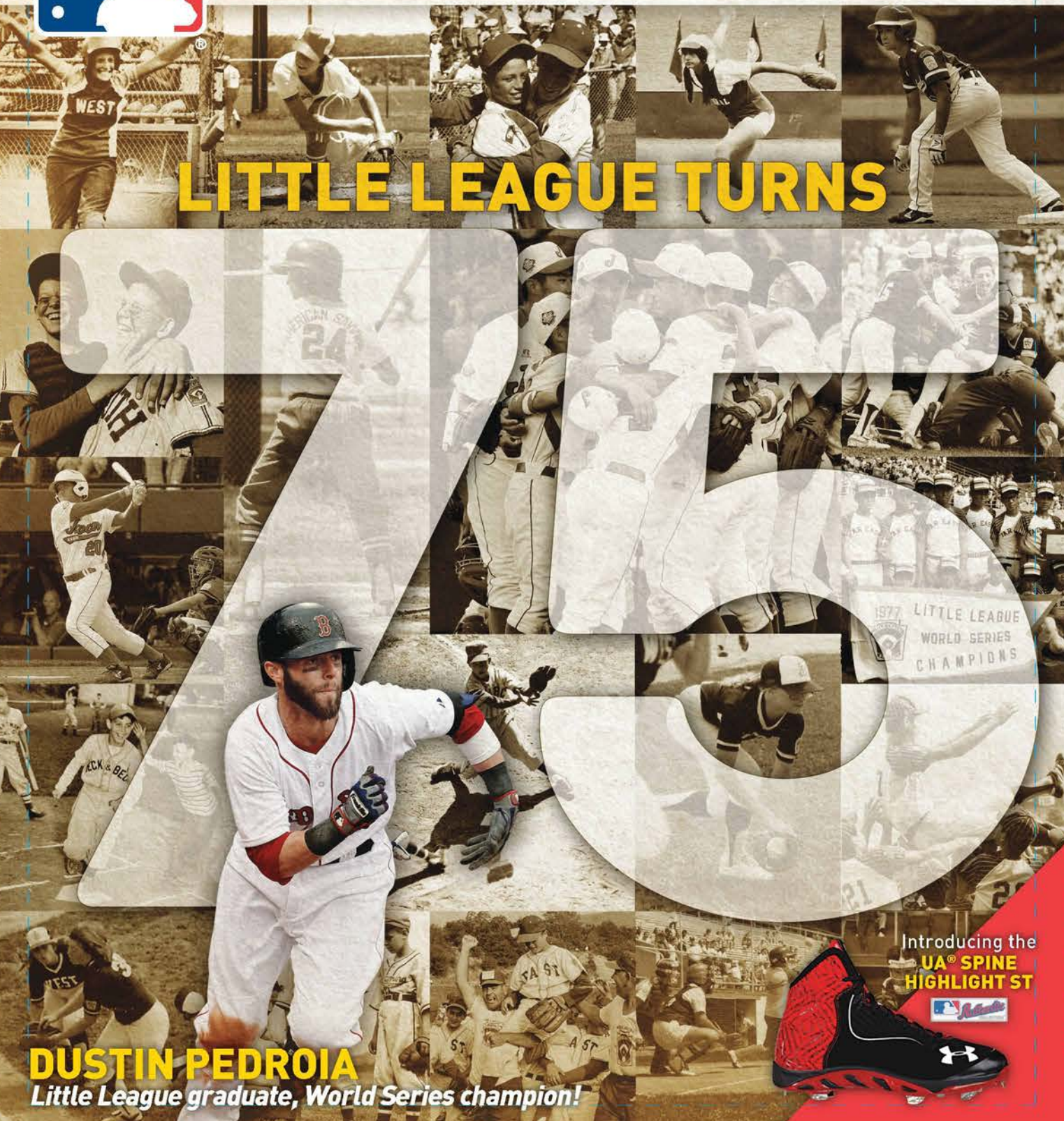
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LITTLE LEAGUE TURNS



DUSTIN PEDROIA
Little League graduate, World Series champion!

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All Summer Long

Little League International in Williamsport, Pa., is the home of the Little League Baseball World Series and the annual Little League Baseball Camp. Little League Baseball Camp is open to kids ages 9–14, whether or not they are members of a Little League team. The camp teaches baseball skills and builds character during five one-week sessions each summer. Williamsport's 72-acre complex provides the perfect setting for children to learn baseball fundamentals, sharpen their skills and enjoy a wide range of recreational activities. It's a chance to enjoy the great outdoors in a healthy, positive environment in which kids develop leadership skills and self-confidence with new friends. For more information visit LittleLeague.org/camp, or contact Little League International at: 570-326-1921 ext. 2225.

THOMAS LEVANSKI/MLB PHOTOS (FAN CAVE), LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL



POP STARS

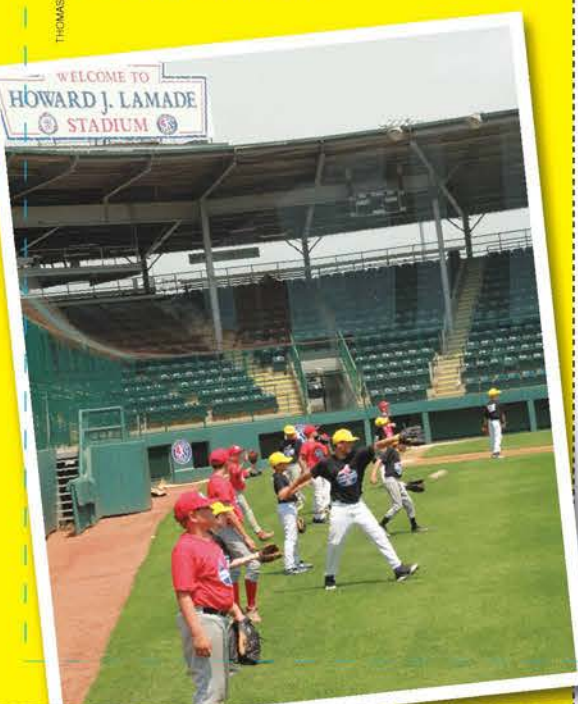
The MLB Fan Cave in New York City is a one-of-a-kind space that combines baseball with pop culture, and it's about to provide a unique mix-up as two MVPs take over with MTV. Reigning World Series MVP David Ortiz and NL MVP Andrew McCutchen are teaming up to executive produce a weekly, 30-episode television series set to debut in April. It focuses on player personalities off the field and brings fans inside both the Cave and the world of baseball.

Content will be available on several different channels (MTV, MTV2, mtvU, MTV Hits and MTV Jams) and online. MLB players will also be integrated into existing MTV programming. "Music is a passion of mine, so when I was asked to be involved in a show that brings baseball to MTV, I jumped at it," says McCutchen. "It's going to be fun to show a different side of baseball and the players."

Adds Ortiz: "Players want to be musicians and musicians want to be players. So it's going to be easy to get my friends in baseball to have fun on TV."

75 YEARS
Little League
BIG LEGACY

Around the Horn



HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE

Little Leaguers can proudly celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the program by wearing a special-created commemorative rocker patch on the left sleeve of their uniforms, above the Little League patch. Leagues can order the 75th Anniversary patch at LittleLeagueStore.net.

SCRAPBOOK MEMORIES

Little League Baseball and Softball encourage all leagues to be a part of the 75th Anniversary mosaic. It's simple: Upload a photo or memory by logging on to LittleLeagueBigLegacy.com. For every upload, Little League International will donate \$1 (up to \$50,000) to Pitch In For Baseball, a charity that donates new and gently used youth equipment. Upload your pictures and share your history today. The finished mosaic will be revealed on June 6.



Play and Learn

At The World of Little League, the organization's story unfolds in exhibits that are laid out in a six-inning game format. Each exhibit is comprised of a rich mixture of authentic Little League heritage, artifacts, images, cutting-edge interactive displays and immersive media. All of this combines to bring home the global mission and experience of Little League Baseball and Softball. Take a virtual tour today by logging on to LittleLeagueBigLegacy.com.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

A 60-minute documentary entitled *Little League: A History* has been created and produced by VIA Studios Global, a division of WVIA Public Media. The project illustrates the history and influence that Little League has had throughout the world for 75 years.

After debuting in Minneapolis at the Little League International Congress in April, the documentary is scheduled to air nationally on PBS stations in June. Check your local listings.

Little League
A HISTORY

2014

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENTS

The dates and sites for the nine Little League World Series tournaments this summer stretch from coast to coast and span more than a month.

 BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL (15–18-year-olds)	
July 23–30	Easley, S.C. (Easley Recreation Complex). 14th season in Easley; 47th season overall. 2013 Champion: South Carolina District 7 (Greenville, S.C.)
 LITTLE LEAGUE INTERMEDIATE (50/70) BASEBALL (11–13-year-olds)	
July 29–Aug. 4	Livermore, Calif. (Max Baer Park). Second season in Livermore and overall. 2013 Champion: Izumisano Little League (Osaka, Japan)
 BIG LEAGUE SOFTBALL (14–18-year-old girls)	
Aug. 3–9	Lower Sussex (Del.) Little League Complex. Second season in Lower Sussex; 33rd season overall. 2013 Champion: Delaware District 3 Little League (Lower Sussex, Del.)
 SENIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL (13–16-year-old girls)	
Aug. 3–9	Lower Sussex (Del.) Little League Complex. 11th season in Lower Sussex; 39th season overall. 2013 Champion: Indiana District 11 Little League (South Bend, Ind.)
 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL (11–12-year-old girls)	
Aug. 7–13	Portland, Ore. (Alpenrose Stadium). 21st season in Portland; 41st season overall. 2013 Champion: Sunnyside Little League (Tucson, Ariz.)
 JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL (13–14-year-old girls)	
Aug. 10–16	Kirkland, Wash. (Everest Park). 16th season in Kirkland and overall. 2013 Champion: Palma Ceia/Tampa Bay/Bayshore Little League (Tampa, Fla.)
 JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (13–14-year-olds)	
Aug. 10–16	Taylor, Mich. (Heritage Park). 34th season in Taylor and overall. 2013 Champion: Shing-Ming Junior Little League (Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei)
 SENIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (14–16-year-olds)	
Aug. 10–16	Bangor, Maine (Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium). 13th season in Bangor; 54th season overall. 2013 Champion: Chitre Little League (Chitre, Herrera, Panama)
 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL (11–12-year-olds)	
Aug. 14–24	South Williamsport, Pa. (Lamade/Volunteer Stadiums). 56th season in South Williamsport; 68th season overall. 2013 Champion: Musashi Fuchu Little League (Tokyo, Japan)

75 Little League Around the Horn



Pitch, Hit & Run

Little League International and Major League Baseball invite you to host an MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) presented by Scott's local competition this spring. Hosting a free PHR competition provides boys and girls ages 7–14 the opportunity to showcase their talents in the Official Skills Competition of Major League Baseball.

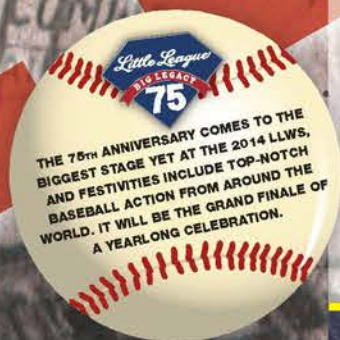
Competitions are held in communities across North America. Local winners in three categories — pitching to a strike zone target, hitting for distance and accuracy, and running against the clock from second base to home plate — advance to the sectional competition in their area. Top players will move on to the team championships, which are hosted by each of the 30 Big League clubs. From there, the top scorers will advance to the PHR National Finals at the 2014 All-Star Game in Minneapolis!

Leagues are scheduling their MLB Pitch, Hit & Run competitions now, so visit the official website (mlb.com/PHR) to view more information and register your league to host. Upon your sign-up, you will receive a local administrator kit containing all the materials needed to conduct the local competition. Get involved today!

What do Derek Jeter, Tony Hawk, Justin Verlander, Dick Vitale and you have in common? Each started out in the same place: on a Little League field with friends. ★ When there were just 30 Little Leaguers in total. Today, there are 2.4 million kids who play Little League Baseball and Little League Softball. More than 35 million people around the world have worn a Little League uniform in the past 75 years. ★ Little League's 75th anniversary is a milestone achievement, and in three-quarters of a century, much has changed. Flip through this magazine to take a step back in time, and find out all the ways you can be a part of the celebration!

Little League has undergone many changes in its 75-year history, but the game remains the same.

THE 75th



1940s

In its first decade, Little League expanded into several states thanks to word of mouth and the end of World War II. Little League's first postseason tournament — known today as the Little League World Series (LLWS) — was played in August 1947. The Maynard Midgets of Williamsport won the inaugural championship, then called the National Little League Tournament.

CHECK OUT PHOTOS FROM LITTLE LEAGUE'S 75-YEAR JOURNEY HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE MAGAZINE!

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL



1930s

Little League Baseball began in Williamsport, Pa., when Carl Edwin Stotz, an oil clerk, was inspired by his nephews to create a three-team league that would play on a field two-thirds the size of a standard baseball diamond. Stotz convinced a lumber company, a dairy and a pretzel maker to sponsor the teams for \$30 each. On June 6, 1939, the first Little League game was played at Park Point in Williamsport.

1950s

The first Little Leagues outside the United States were organized at each end of the Panama Canal. President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the second week in June "National Little League Week," while future President George W. Bush began playing at Central Little League in Texas. Joey Jay, a Little League graduate from Connecticut, became the first to play Major League Baseball.



1960s

TV caused a Little League boom, thanks to coverage (in color!) of the LLBWS on ABC's "Wide World of Sports." President Lyndon Johnson signed a law allowing Little League to operate in all 50 states, expanding it to a program with more than 5,500 leagues.

1970s

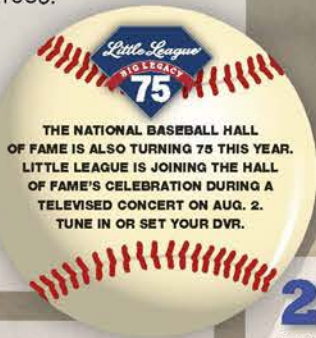
Technology began to change everything. Developed in cooperation with Little League, the first aluminum bat was used by players during the '70s, and the batting helmets originally designed two decades earlier by Dr. Creighton J. Hale, Little League's director of research, were improved. Newly created Little League Softball programs allowed girls to benefit from these innovations, too.



1980s

Soon after Little League turned 50, it created new opportunities, particularly the Little League Challenger Division for children with physical and developmental disabilities. The Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum opened its doors in Williamsport, then enshrined Major League ace Tom Seaver in its Hall of Excellence in 1988.

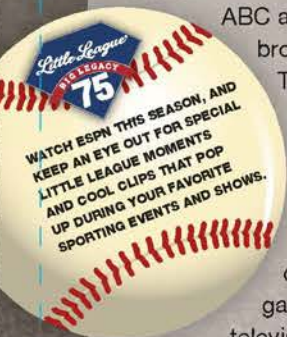
Four years later, the graduate of Spartan Little League in Fresno, Calif., was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



1990s

The 50th LLBWS was played in 1996, and the tournament grew to include 16 teams, reflecting the organization's expanded reach in more than 100 countries.

ABC and ESPN also broadened their TV coverage of the international tournament. For the first time, Little League's U.S. Regional championship games were televised on ESPN2 for fans across the country.

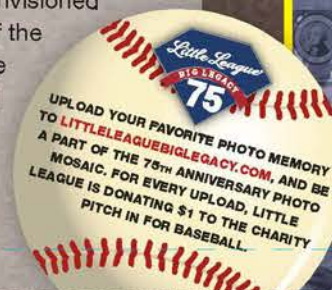


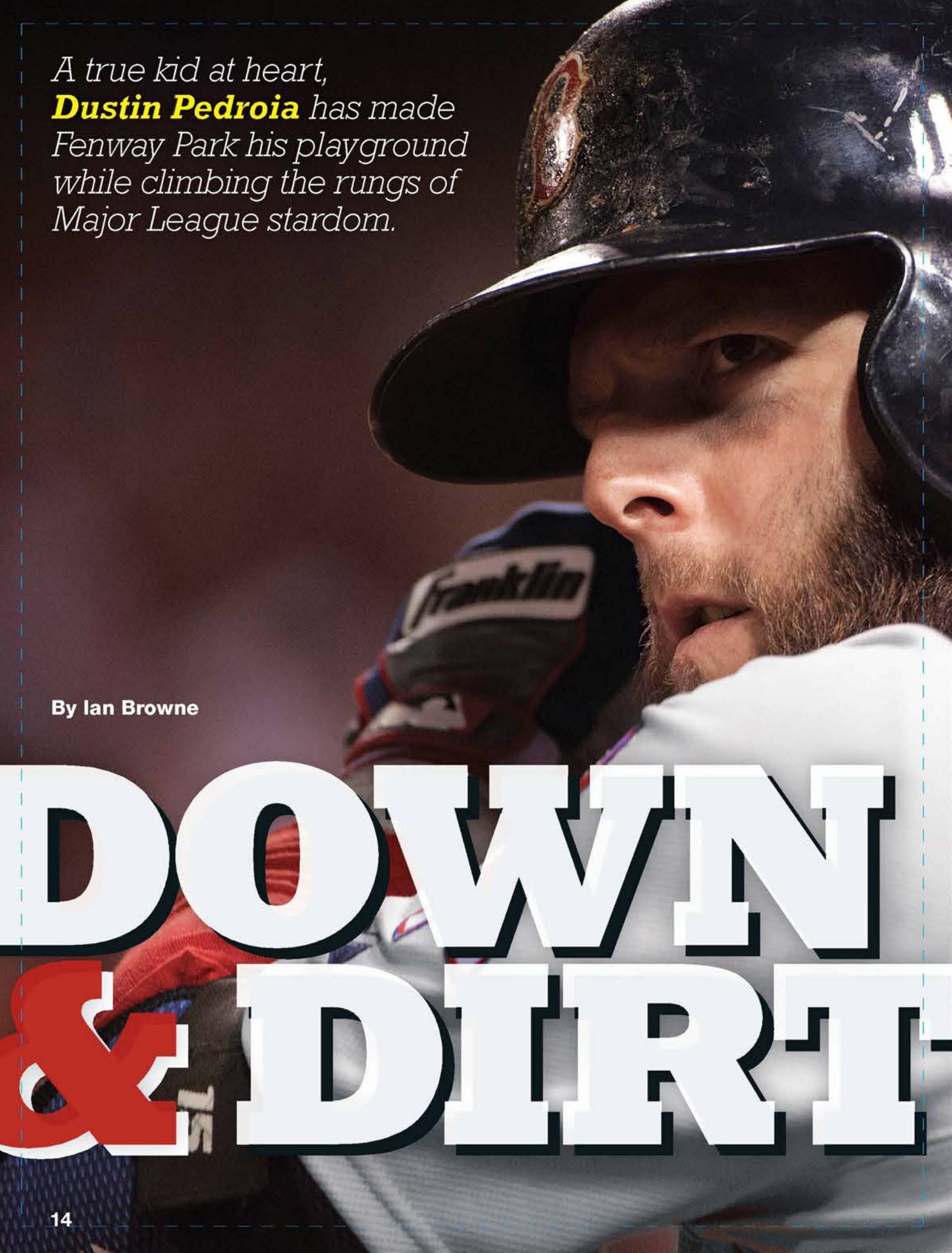
2000s

Little League reached the White House when graduate George W. Bush was elected President and invited Little Leaguers to play Tee Ball on the South Lawn. Also this decade, the opening of Volunteer Stadium ushered expansion of the LLBWS to its 16-team format.

2010s

To date, Little League created its first new division in 14 years with the launch of the Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division for players ages 11–13, and reenvisioned its history with the renovation of the Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum, now called The World of Little League. Africa and the Czech Republic played in the LLBWS for the first time. ♦



A close-up, profile view of baseball player Dustin Pedroia. He is wearing a dark, worn-in baseball helmet with a red and white logo on the side. He has a beard and is looking off to the side with a focused expression. He is wearing a white baseball uniform. In the background, a blue Franklin baseball glove is visible.

*A true kid at heart,
Dustin Pedroia has made
Fenway Park his playground
while climbing the rungs of
Major League stardom.*

By Ian Browne

DOWN & DIRTY



THE FUN THING ABOUT RED SOX STAR second baseman Dustin Pedroia is that he still enjoys playing baseball every bit as much as he did decades ago on the Little League fields of Woodland, Calif. Since then, hardly a day has gone by that Pedroia, now 30, has finished a game with a clean uniform.

Back in October, the former Rookie of the Year and MVP won his second World Series ring, helping the Red Sox defeat the St. Louis Cardinals at home. It was a sweet season for Pedroia, who was itching to get back to the playoffs after a three-year drought. In a recent interview with *Little League Magazine*, the dynamic Big Leaguer talked about his baseball past, present and future.

YOU WON THE WORLD SERIES AS A ROOKIE AND AGAIN IN 2013. DO YOU APPRECIATE IT MORE AS A VETERAN?

Last year will always be special. There was so much adversity in the city. After the Boston Marathon tragedy, we felt like we were playing for a lot more. We didn't want to let anyone down. But at the beginning of the year, nobody expected anything from us. Our main focus was just to win as many games as possible.

To be the underdog from the beginning and play as well as we did — it was a pretty special group of guys — was great.

WHAT MOMENT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST FROM THE 2013 POSTSEASON?

Probably the grand slam by David Ortiz in Game 2 of the ALCS, and then Shane Victorino's grand slam in Game 6. Those are the two things that I'll always remember.

It's like 2007, because I remember the ALCS more than the World Series. If David doesn't hit that home run, we go down 2 games to none against the Tigers. It would have been tough to come back against their pitching staff; that's a pretty deep hole. Those moments were unbelievable.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO CLINCH THE WORLD SERIES AT FENWAY, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DONE SINCE 1918?

To be honest, you have so many emotions at the beginning of the game. You're nervous even after playing 162 games during the year. I was just going out there and trying to win.

I was really nervous for Game 6, knowing that the whole city hadn't experienced a World Series clincher in 95 years. It couldn't get any better than what happened.

DID THE TEAM'S STRUGGLES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS MAKE YOU APPRECIATE THE SUCCESS OF 2013 MORE?

Yeah. It stinks when you're going through it, but you learn a lot. I think everyone understands how hard it is to win the World Series, especially considering what we dealt with the last couple of years. We were one game away from the playoffs in 2011

Y



“WHETHER OFFENSIVELY, DEFENSIVELY OR THROUGH THEIR PITCHING, THE TEAMS THAT ARE IN IT YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT ARE RELENTLESS IN WHAT THEY DO AND BELIEVE IN THEIR APPROACH.”

and then finished in last place in '12. We knew we had a tough challenge ahead. Obviously the goals were still the same. We were trying to be the team that won the last game.

YOU PLAYED LITTLE LEAGUE AS A KID. WHAT ARE YOUR BEST MEMORIES?

I just loved going to the field. I always looked forward to it. I'd put on my uniform as soon as I got home from school, since we played night games during the week. Then on the weekends, I'd put it on right when I woke up. I was just excited to get there and play.

DID YOU PLAY A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT POSITIONS?

I played shortstop, pitched and caught a little bit, too.

HOW WERE YOU AS A PITCHER?

I was good. (laughs) Come on, what do you think?

DURING THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES EACH YEAR, YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATES ARE GLUED TO THE TV IN THE CLUBHOUSE. IS IT A REMINDER OF HOW MUCH FUN IT WAS TO PLAY BACK THEN?

Yeah, that's why everyone watches it. In Little League, you just played the game for fun. It brings back memories of what we did in Little League and how much we enjoyed it.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE A LITTLE LEAGUER?

I would tell them to have fun. Playing Little League is not a job. When I played, I tried to emulate the Major Leaguers. I remember playing for the Indians in Little League when Albert Belle played for them in the Bigs, and everyone on my team would hold his bat straight up like Belle did.

You should enjoy every second of it with your friends. If you win or lose at that level, no one should care.

YOU WERE DRAFTED BY THE RED SOX IN 2004. DO YOU REMEMBER WATCHING THEIR HISTORIC RUN ON TV THAT YEAR?

Yeah, I watched it all. I was rooting hard for the Red Sox. You always pull for the team that drafts you.

I remember thinking if they could just win Game 4 of the ALCS, their pitching was lined up with shutdown guys the next two games. And in Game 7, anything can happen. They came out and jumped on [the Yankees] and swung the bats great.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO PLAY IN THE WORLD SERIES AS A ROOKIE IN 2007?

It all happened so fast. Those four days felt like they were wrapped into one. In the ALCS against Cleveland we were down, 3-1, and it seemed like we were a minute from being out of it. Then all of a sudden, we just kept playing. Sure enough, we won the World Series, and it still felt like we had more games to play. It was a blast.

HOW ABOUT HITTING A HOME RUN IN YOUR FIRST WORLD SERIES AT-BAT?

That was crazy. I was leading off the first inning and just trying to get on base. It was really cold. I hit it well, but I didn't think I hit it well enough to get out; I thought it was going to hit the top of the wall and be a double. It barely got out.

YOUR “LASER SHOW” NICKNAME HAS TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN. YOU SEEM TO EMBRACE IT JUDGING BY YOUR TWITTER HANDLE (@15LASERSHOW). TELL US HOW THAT GOT STARTED.

I would say stuff like that in college, when we were using aluminum bats. Sometimes I'd joke around about it in front of the media if we were hanging out in the dugout. But the first time I really said it publicly was in 2010 when David Ortiz was in a slump and I was sticking up for him. I reminded everyone that in my rookie year I

didn't hit at all the first month of the season. And then I added, "What happened after that? Laser show." It was pretty funny the way it stuck.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REGULAR SEASON AND THE PLAYOFFS?

Everything is a little bit faster. Pitchers don't hold back. They're going to give all their velocity. They're going to be careful of where they throw the ball. Scouting reports are magnified.

It's the same thing from an offensive approach. We're always prepared, but we'll be more prepared for each pitcher and what his tendencies are. It's a game within the game — that makes it fun.

IS THERE A COMMON THREAD BETWEEN CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS?

They're all relentless. Whether offensively, defensively or through their pitching, the teams that are in it year in and year out and go deep in the playoffs are relentless in what they do and believe in their approach.

PEOPLE OFTEN CALL YOU BOSTON'S DEREK JETER. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT COMPARISON?

If you ask every single player, he's the guy they admire the most. He treats everyone with respect and plays the game hard. I know he's with the Yankees and our fans hate the Yankees, but we all love him. [Being compared to him is] probably the biggest compliment you can receive.

DO YOU ENJOY WATCHING YOUNG STARS, LIKE MIKE TROUT, MANNY MACHADO AND BRYCE HARPER REACH THE MAJORS?

It's awesome. We saw Trout a few times last year and Machado a lot. We played against Harper, too. Their talent level is through the roof. Those guys are going to carry the game for 20 years. It's amazing to watch them.

I remember watching Ken Griffey Jr. as a kid. With guys like that, it seems like they're playing Little League. They bring that stuff every night.

YOU AND ORTIZ HAVE A PRETTY STRONG RELATIONSHIP. WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE GOING THROUGH THE UPS AND DOWNS WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS?

It's been awesome. I've hit in front of him for most of my career, except for my first year when I batted leadoff. We care about winning and that bonds us. At the same time, though, he has fun and makes

you take a step back and realize that you should enjoy playing the game. When you're struggling, he pulls you out of it. He's always there as a teammate and a friend. It's a special relationship.

HAVEN'T YOU ALSO BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS WITH DODGERS OUTFIELDER ANDRE ETHIER SINCE COLLEGE?

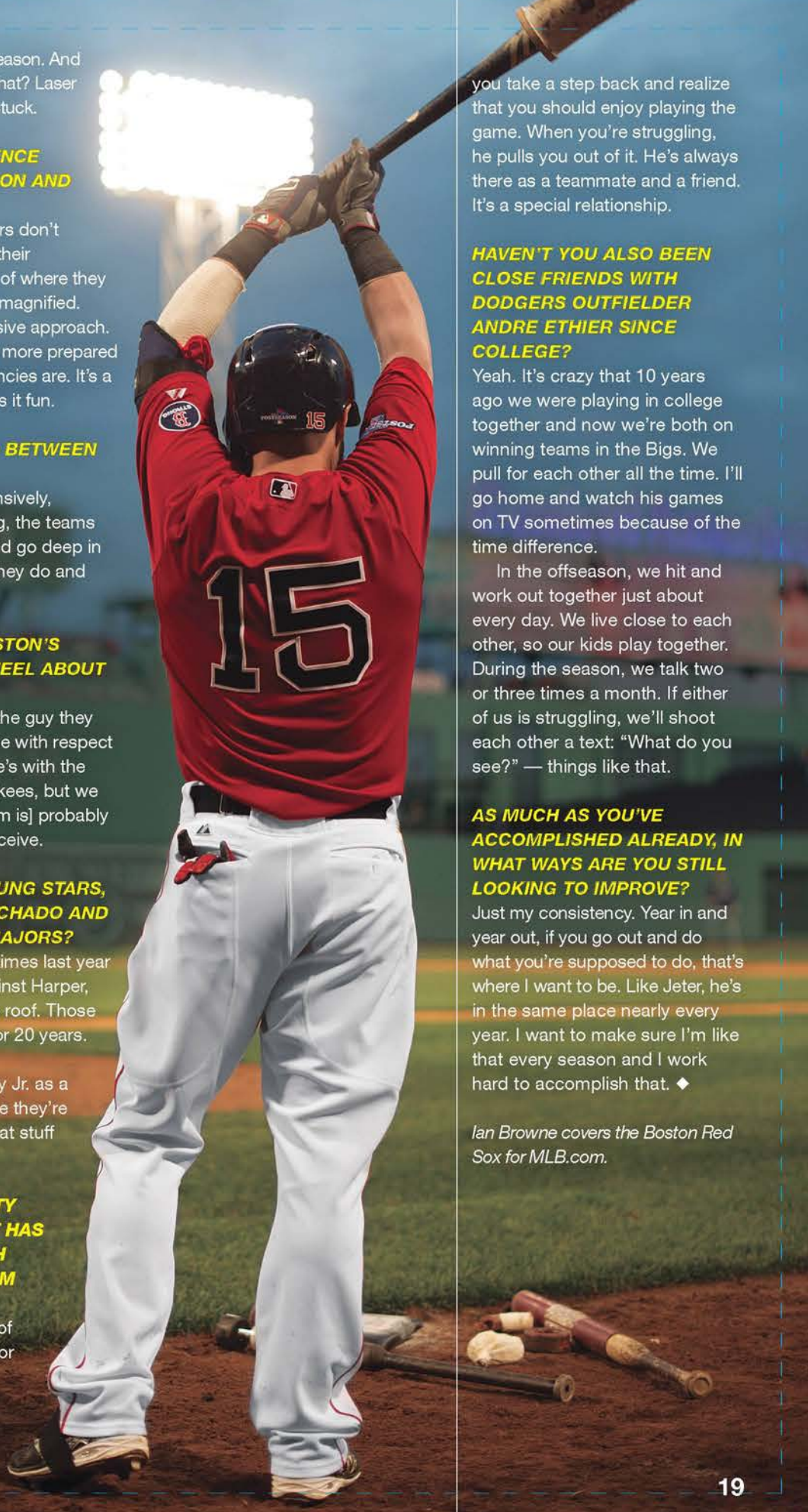
Yeah. It's crazy that 10 years ago we were playing in college together and now we're both on winning teams in the Bigs. We pull for each other all the time. I'll go home and watch his games on TV sometimes because of the time difference.

In the offseason, we hit and work out together just about every day. We live close to each other, so our kids play together. During the season, we talk two or three times a month. If either of us is struggling, we'll shoot each other a text: "What do you see?" — things like that.

AS MUCH AS YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY, IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU STILL LOOKING TO IMPROVE?

Just my consistency. Year in and year out, if you go out and do what you're supposed to do, that's where I want to be. Like Jeter, he's in the same place nearly every year. I want to make sure I'm like that every season and I work hard to accomplish that. ♦

Ian Browne covers the Boston Red Sox for MLB.com.



MIGUEL CABRERA ON HITTING LIKE AN MVP



Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera knows a thing or two about offense. After all, he led the American League in batting average and on-base plus slugging percentage for two straight years, winning the league MVP Award in both seasons. In 2012, Cabrera also became the first player since 1967 to win the batting Triple Crown. But he came from humble beginnings in Venezuela, where he learned the game from his father, an amateur player, and his mother, a softball star. Here are some of his tips for making the most of your at-bats:

COACH KNOWS

Don't try to do too much. Go out there and have fun when you play the game. The most important thing is to listen to the coaches, because they will always see something that you didn't see in a game. They want you to get better. The only way you're going to improve is to listen to everything they say in practice and apply it in games.



POWER ISN'T EVERYTHING

Using a big bat isn't necessarily best. It has to feel comfortable. You don't want to use a big bat that doesn't feel good. You've got to feel like it fits your size, and then learn the right way to swing the bat.

My family taught me the importance of hitting the ball to the opposite field. Home runs come with age, when you get stronger and learn more about hitting. I always tell kids to stay through the ball and try to swing to the middle of the ball. That's the best way to hit home runs. But don't try to hit a home run every time you go to the plate, either; instead, look to hit it hard up the middle. That's how you become a good hitter.

BACK TO BASICS

Playing Tee Ball — or taking a bunch of swings every day off a tee — is the best way to practice your swing. If you're able to do that consistently, you're going to get better and better. ♦



1959
THE MODERN BATTER'S HELMET WAS DEVELOPED BY DR. CREIGHTON J. HALE, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL.



DOUBLE DIAMOND

Ashley Gale, a high school softball player and Little League coach, excels on both fields.

By Chris Downs



BEING YOUNG IS FUN, AND 17-YEAR-OLD LITTLE LEAGUE

softball coach Ashley Gale is sharing the good times that come from the game's hits, hustle and high-fives with the players in the Jefferson Area Girls Softball League (JAGS). For the past three seasons, Ashley, now a senior at Western Albemarle High School, has done all the things a typical teenager does, plus made time to coach a Major Division softball team in Charlottesville, Va.

"Bringing girls' fast-pitch softball to my community has been one of my greatest joys," says Ashley, a third baseman for her high school team. "I started playing when I was 8, and it feels great to give back."

Ashley's foray into coaching began in the spring of 2012, when she was just 15. Ten girls had registered to play for the JAGS, but no one had signed on to coach them. "The idea of sharing my passion for the game with these girls made me so excited that I knew I had to do it," says Ashley, who quickly made her mark on the league, introducing a safety facemask for infielders. "I wanted to introduce it at an early age," she says. "That way, when the girls got older, it would feel natural."

Ashley's role in the JAGS program carries plenty of responsibility, including hosting player registration before each season. Her efforts have inspired 32 girls to join the program, creating an additional 9-10-year-old team and a new 7-8-year-old team. That's especially impressive considering that 2014 is just the JAGS' fourth season.

"Ashley is a leader and a role model," says Sarah Tesoriere, whose daughter, Bella, is a member of the Crozet Little Warriors. "The players and parents alike adore her. She leads by example, teaching the girls character, sportsmanship and the fundamentals of the game."

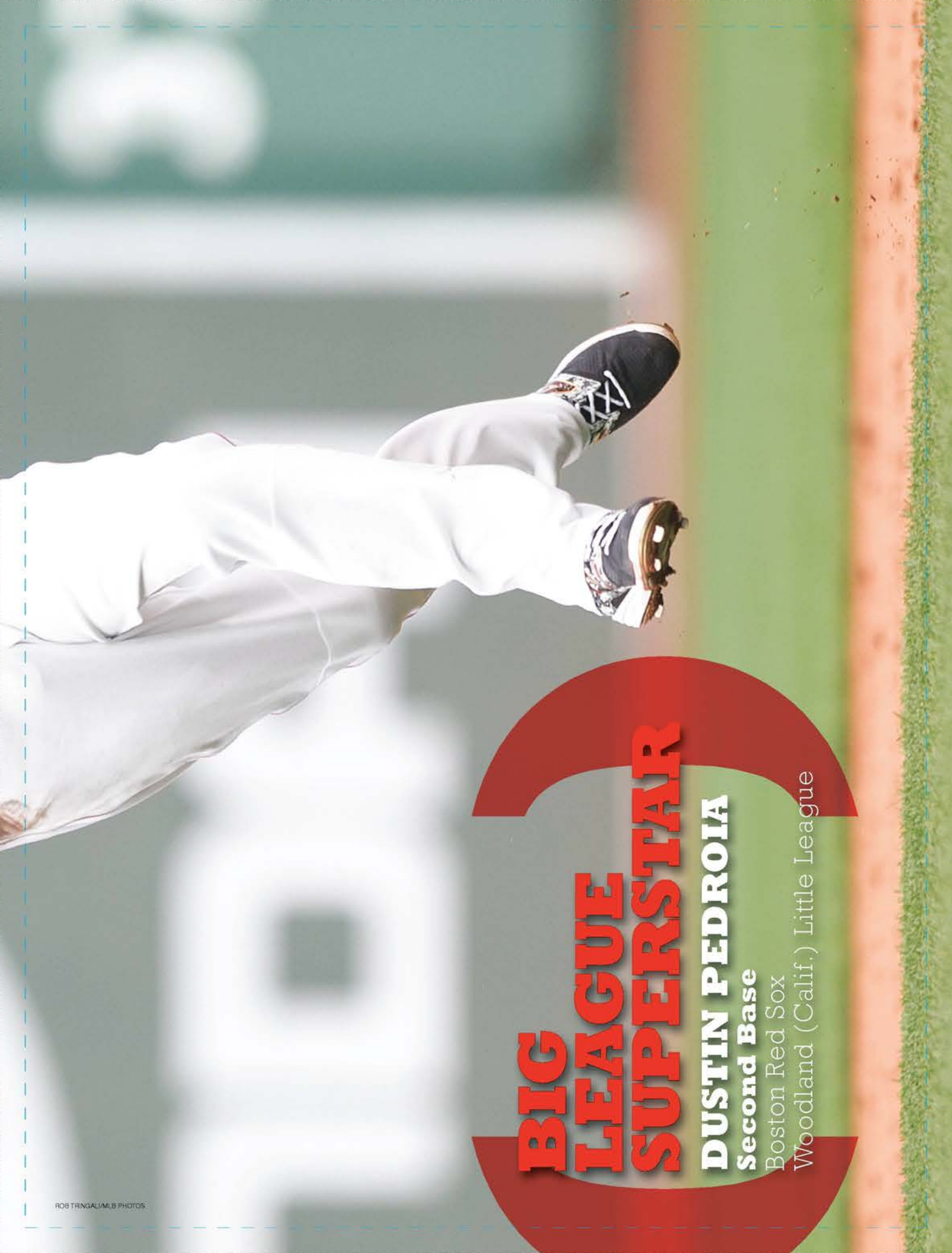
According to Ashley's mother, Kimberly, a member of the JAGS Board of Directors, the local high school softball team has not been successful in recent years, giving Ashley another incentive to coach. "She wants to build a feeder program for her school," says Kimberly.

Ashley hopes to continue coaching after she enrolls at the University of Virginia this fall. Although it will be difficult, her dedication to her local Little League community has given her family great pride. "We hope Ashley's story will inspire other teens to consider coaching," Kimberly says. "Little League has a great structure for children to learn the sport at all different levels." ♦

Chris Downs is the director of publicity for Little League International.







BIG LEAGUE SUPERSTAR

DUSTIN PEDROIA

Second Base

Boston Red Sox

Woodland (Calif.) Little League



BANNIE DAYS



**A NEW DIVISION.
NEW COUNTRIES.
NEW CHAMPIONS.
CATCH ALL THE
HIGHLIGHTS FROM
LITTLE LEAGUE'S
ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENTS.**

Preparation for the Little League World Series begins early in the season, as standout local players shine and each league's all-star team is assembled. Thousands of teams then play tens of thousands of games to become region champions and, ultimately, earn Little League World Series (LLWS) berths. The action culminates with the Little League Baseball World Series championship game in late August each year.

To be the very best, teams must work together and play well enough against either the top baseball or softball players in the world. During the summer of 2013, nine Little League World Series champions were crowned. Representatives from the international side of the bracket won four of the five baseball divisions, while teams from the United States captured the banners at all four softball tournaments. The inaugural Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball World Series, Little League's first tournament addition since 1999, was also a hit.

In this feature, we'll recap the exciting events from the 2013 tournaments. To view scores and more information, visit LLBWS.org.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL *Williamsport, Pa.*

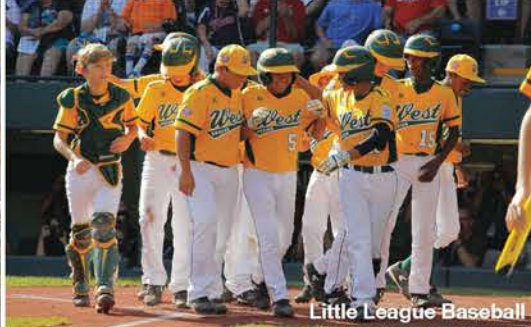
For the second straight year, a team representing the Japan Region was crowned champion of the Little League Baseball World Series (LLBWS). Tokyo's Musashi Fuchu Little League defeated Eastlake Little League, the United States champion from Chula Vista, Calif., 6-4, at Howard J. Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, Pa.

A crowd of 28,119 turned out for the title game of a tournament that thrilled throughout. Australia, the country with the second largest number of chartered Little League teams in the world, made its first appearance in the LLBWS, as its national champion, Perth Metro Central Little League, was among the eight international teams in the 16-team tournament. A team from South Moravia Little League in Brno, Czech Republic, also made history as the first club from a former Soviet bloc country to reach the LLBWS, representing the Europe and Africa Region.

The world title is the second for Musashi Fuchu Little League and its manager, Masumi Omae, who previously led his team to the championship in 2003. It was the ninth time a Japanese team won the LLBWS, and the 34th victory overall for a non-U.S. representative. The repeat title is the first for Japan since 1967 and '68, when West Tokyo and Wakayama, Osaka, won in back-to-back seasons.



Intermediate 50/70 Baseball



Little League Baseball



Little League Baseball



LITTLE LEAGUE INTERMEDIATE (50/70) BASEBALL *Livermore, Calif.*

Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball made its debut on an international stage in its first-ever LLWS appearance. Heading into the championship game, Izumisano Little League from Osaka, Japan, the Asia-Pacific Region champion, had outscored its opponents by a total of 41-3, and was the team to beat.

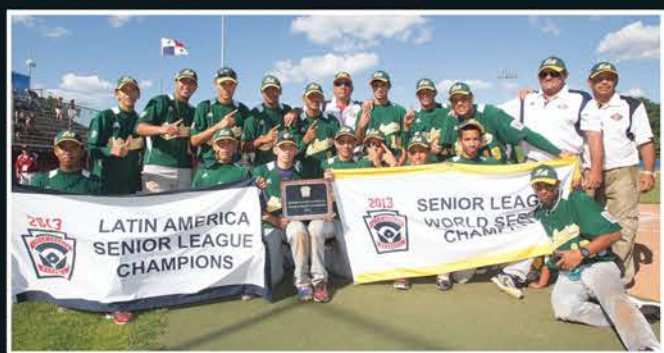
In the end, the club never lost. Behind the pitching of Taisei Shimabe, Japan defeated the East Region champion from Pennsylvania, Collier Township/Chartiers Valley Little League, 10-1, at Max Baer Park in Livermore, Calif. Izumisano's players will go down in history as the first to carry the Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball World Series banner.



JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL *Taylor, Mich.*

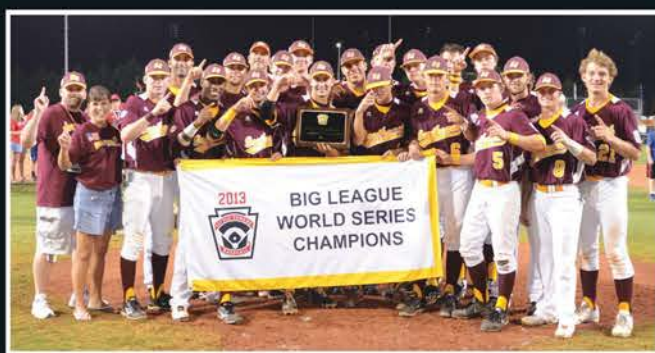
Chun An Wu led the way for the Asia-Pacific champion from Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei, knocking in three runs in his team's 11-2 victory over the West Region champion from Rio Rico, Ariz. Fans gathered at Heritage Park in Taylor, Mich., were treated to a five-run, fifth-inning outburst by Chinese Taipei, the second representatives from the country to win the Junior League Baseball World Series. The first time came in 2010, when a team from Taipei City defeated Tyler, Texas, 9-1.

The Brno, Czech Republic, Little League that sent a squad to the LLBWS also reached the Junior League Baseball championship round.



SENIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL *Bangor, Maine*

Panama's Chitre Little League emerged from pool play as the Latin America representative for the Senior League Baseball World Series and didn't stop until it had a trophy. In the top of the sixth inning, the team scored the only two runs it would need to surpass Kennett Square (Pa.) KAU Little League, 2-1, at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor, Maine, for the title. Abel Frias crossed home plate on a passed ball with the championship game-winning run.



BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL *Easley, S.C.*

South Carolina's District 7 all-stars from Greenville didn't have to travel very far — just 20 minutes down the road, in fact — to strike championship gold. The Southeast Region entered the Big League Baseball World Series championship game undefeated, having outscored opponents, 50-4, on the way to glory. The local boys continued their winning streak by defeating the Latin America Region champion, Venezuela's District 1, 6-1, for their third Big League Baseball World Series championship in six years.



Big League Softball



Junior League Softball



Little League Softball



Senior League Softball



Little League Softball



Little League Softball



Little League Softball

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Portland, Ore.

For the first time in 23 years, the Little League Softball World Series champion emerged from the West Region of the United States. A Sunnyside Little League team from Tucson, Ariz., became the state's first Little League Softball World Series champion after defeating McLean (Va.) Softball Little League, 9-0, in the title game on Aug. 14. The tournament also celebrated a milestone, as this season marked its 20th anniversary at host site Alpenrose Dairy Farm.

JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Kirkland, Wash.

Behind the pitching of Dana Rowley, who struck out 10 batters, and a potent offense that scored 10 runs, South Tampa (Fla.) Little League earned the title in the Junior League Softball World Series. The Southeast Region champion held the tournament's host team, Kirkland National/American Little League, to just four hits in a 10-1 victory at Everest Park.

An expanded tournament format — 10 squads played this year as opposed to nine in 2012 — increased the opportunity for teams to reach the Junior League Softball World Series. With the win, the Southeast Region collected its fifth Junior League Softball World Series championship banner in the tournament's 15-year history.

SENIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Lower Sussex, Del.

For the first time in history, a team from Europe advanced to the Senior League Softball World Series. Lombardia Little League of Milan, Italy, reached the championship game, held at Bruce E. Layton Field in Sussex County, Del., on Aug. 10. Lombardia didn't make it all the way, though, as Indiana District 11 Little League, representing the Central Region, defeated the Italian squad, 5-1, to clinch the title.

BIG LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Lower Sussex, Del.

In addition to hosting the Senior League Softball World Series, Lower Sussex, Del., welcomed the Big League Softball tournament to town for the first time ever. The host team from Delaware District 3 went undefeated in pool play to force a meeting with the also undefeated Puerto Rico District 1 team in the title game. Ultimately, Delaware prevailed, scoring six runs in the fifth inning to upend Puerto Rico, 11-6. The win completed a perfect 5-0 tournament for the hometown team.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Two Tokyo transplants found common ground in their new home through Little League Baseball.



Theo (left)



Theo (middle) and Bessie (right)

Siblings Bessie Noll, 18, and Theo Welckie, 11, are die-hard Twins fans from Minnesota, but for the past decade they have lived in Japan with their mom, dad and younger sister, Ella. During their time overseas, Bessie — now a standout softball player at Stanford University — and Theo both played for Tokyo's Musashi-Fuchu Little League, whose representatives won the 2013 Little League Baseball World Series (LLBWS). We caught up with them to talk about Little League's culture abroad.

HOW OFTEN DO LITTLE LEAGUERS IN JAPAN PRACTICE?

Theo: We're practicing all year long. Little League teams in Japan really do spend that much time on the field.

Bessie: My brother and I have a combined 10 years of Japanese Little League Baseball experience with Musashi-Fuchu Little League. It was fun but a ton of work. No one can overlook the skills that come from countless repetitions and many, many practices.

When I go back to Minnesota during the summer, I play on a fairly committed softball team that travels for tournaments. Theo and I joke about the two-hour, two-day-a-week practices there compared to the year-round, sometimes 10-hour practices, even on weekends and national holidays, in Japan.

WHAT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED?

Bessie: When I joined Musashi Fuchu Little League, I had just moved to Japan and spoke no Japanese. The kids looked at me funny when I ate the PB&J sandwich my mom packed me for lunch. The rest of the team ate home-cooked obento, which is a single-portion meal with fish

or meat, rice, and pickled or cooked vegetables, usually served in a box-shaped container.

IS THE LLBWS A BIG DEAL FOR JAPANESE FAMILIES?

Bessie: The effort that goes into many Japanese Little League teams is directed toward a trip to Williamsport, Pa. The LLBWS becomes a very real dream that for the majority of kids never comes true, yet they still live, breathe and love baseball.

WERE THE 2013 LLBWS CHAMPS POPULAR?

Theo: After the LLBWS, the local city mayor invited the team to Fuchu City Hall and sponsored a parade. I joined the celebration with my teammates, including my friend Nishino, whose older brother pitched in the international final against Mexico. We didn't get to sit in the big comfy leather chairs with the all-stars, but we stood behind and listened to the adults talk about how proud they were of the team.

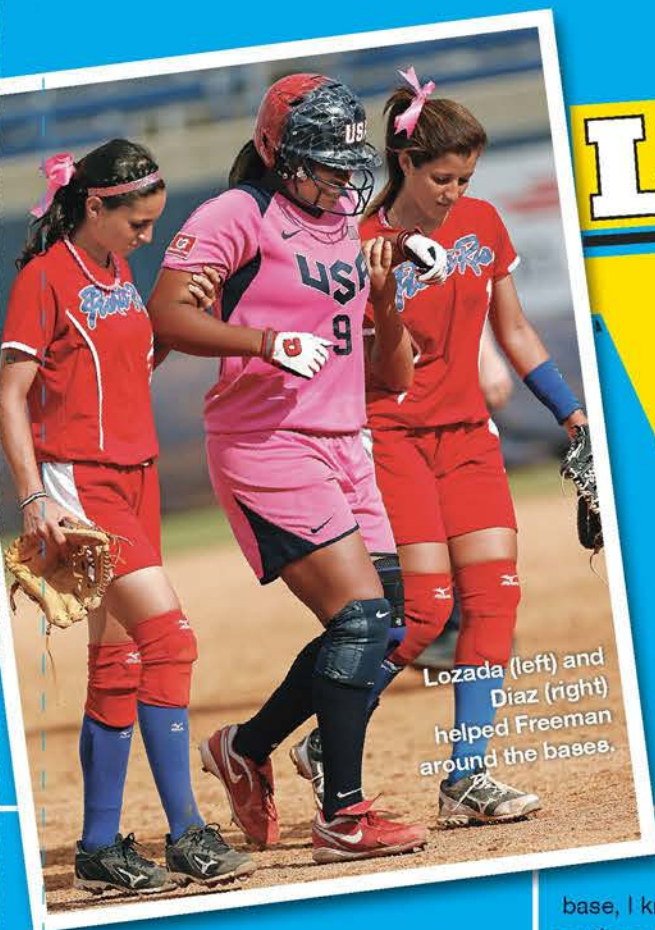
WHAT DO YOU TELL PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR TIME AS A LITTLE LEAGUER IN JAPAN?

Bessie: Playing Little League in Japan makes for a nasty farmer's tan. But in our minds, the mid-arm tan line is a symbol of our sacrifice and loyalty to the great game of baseball.

At first it was nerve-racking, but it drove me to get better. It made me the player I am today.

Theo: Even if I don't get to play on a team that goes to Williamsport, I will still be proud and connected with the Musashi Fuchu teams that represent Japan. ♦





Lozada (left) and Diaz (right) helped Freeman around the bases.

LEAD THE WAY

The sportsmanship learned in Little League has taken two Puerto Rican softball players far.

By Chris Downs

DURING LAST SUMMER'S WORLD

Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City, Okla., Team USA's Amber Freeman belted two home runs to send her team to the championship game. But after the second blast, just a short jog around the bases away from the hugs and fist bumps waiting at home plate, Freeman twisted her ankle, and her victory trot became a struggle.

After limping into second base, Freeman stopped to collect herself. As she began to hobble toward third, opposing third baseman Dayanira Diaz and shortstop Galis Lozada of the Puerto Rico National Softball Team approached to help her the rest of the way home.

"We wanted to help her because it was a home run and she deserved it," said Diaz.

The selfless act drew rousing applause from the capacity crowd. Despite Puerto Rico's eventual lopsided loss to Team USA, Little League graduates Diaz and Lozada were a reminder that sportsmanship extends beyond that country on the front or the name on the back of a uniform.

"When I saw that she had stopped at second base, I knew we had to help her continue. Everyone was clapping and saying, 'Thank you!' Lozada said. "I did not think that all the public and my teammates would respond that way. It was a very exciting moment."

Diaz and Lozada are members of the Female Softball Association of Maunabo (ASOFEM), and throughout

"It was an emotional experience since my parents were unable to accompany me for games in different nations, but I learned about many different cultures."

DAYANIRA DIAZ

their youth, the sport has given them the opportunity to travel and create many memorable memories. Among their special Little League experiences are a victory in the Latin America Region Championship and a trip to Portland, Ore., for the 2007

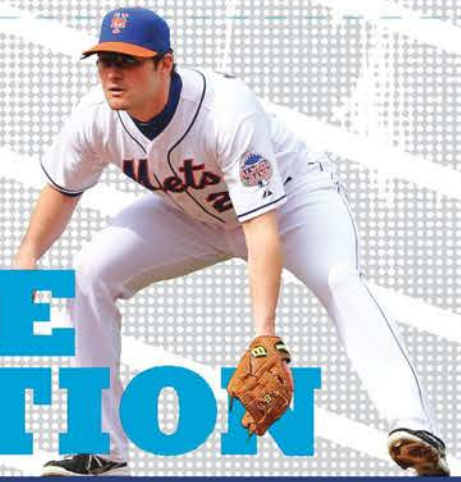
Little League Softball World Series. Diaz has also been a member of Latin America Region championship teams that played in the Junior and Senior Softball World Series, while Lozada has played in the Junior, Senior and Big League Softball World Series.

"Little League was great for me because of the many fun experiences: the games, the team parties and the other league activities," said Diaz, whose father, Orlando, was a baseball coach, and whose mother, Madeline, managed the league's softball team. "It was an emotional experience since my parents were unable to accompany me for games in different nations, but it was good because I learned about many different cultures."

Lozada's father, Jose, was a baseball coach, as well, while her two older brothers — one of whom now plays professional baseball in the Washington Nationals organization — also played Little League.

Although they are still young, Diaz and Lozada already have aspirations of coaching Little League after their playing days are over. When they hang up their gloves for the last time, they'll have a wealth of wonderful stories, as well as incredible skill, to share with future generations. ♦

DANIEL MURPHY ON **DEFENSIVE PREPARATION**



New York Mets infielder Daniel Murphy is a force both at the plate and in the field. He knows that when it comes to defense, being prepared to make the play is as important as anything. Here are a few of Murphy's tips on how to be ready whenever the ball is hit to you:

THE LOW-DOWN

One thing that Mets coaches are big on is always keeping your glove ready. I had a problem with carrying the glove too high earlier in my career, and I had to work on it. My teammate Ruben Tejada does a good job of carrying his glove low and always keeping it ready to make a play.



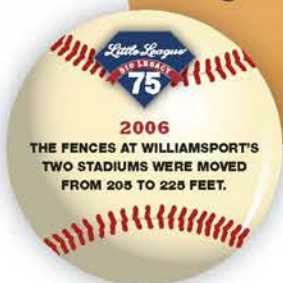
READY, SET, FIELD

Every player should try to "hunt" the ball with his feet whenever it's hit to him: Pursue the baseball instead of reacting to it. You always want to position yourself below the ball. You don't necessarily want to squat, but just set yourself a little bit lower than that athletic "ready position" so that you can see the ball better as it comes into your glove.

If you can square the ball up and field it in the middle of your body, it's always going to help. Once you square the ball up, use your other hand to protect against it getting away from you. As the game goes on, you'll make a lot of plays with one hand — sometimes even backhanded — so it's not a bad idea to get a feel for that, too.

NEVER STOP PRACTICING

The biggest thing for a Little Leaguer to do is practice. Take ground balls. When I was younger, I took ground balls against a wall at home. I practiced fielding a lot because my dad used to make me take ground balls before he would let me hit. Try to be an all-around player. ♦



Who

1 Back in 1971, this future Big League player and manager became something of a legend in the Little League Baseball World Series, when his team from Gary, Ind., made it all the way to the finals. Two memories in particular stick out from that journey: "Setting the record with five home runs, and meeting Mickey Mantle and Boog Powell," he says.

Mantle was the announcer for the championship game of the tournament in which the boy, now the Mariners' skipper, hit five longballs in five consecutive at-bats to set what's still a LLBWS record before his team lost to Taiwan in the title game.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?



Am I

Different backgrounds aside, these Major League stars shared a passion for baseball even as kids. Can you figure out who each former Little Leaguer grew up to be?



2 This lifelong Yankees shortstop wasn't always known as The Captain or Mr. November. Born in New Jersey, he grew up playing baseball and basketball in Michigan and idolizing Hall-of-Fame slugger Dave Winfield. Drafted straight out of high school, he earned four World Series rings within six years of his 1995 Major League debut, and has since added another. In 2011, he became the 28th member of baseball's esteemed 3,000-hit club. "It shows his longevity, his dedication," says new teammate Jacoby Ellsbury. "It's very impressive." In February, he announced that the 2014 season would be his last.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?



3 In line to become the Rangers' starting second baseman this season, the 21-year-old infielder was labeled baseball's top prospect entering the 2013 campaign. But it wasn't too long ago that he was tearing up Little League fields. A Curacao native, this graduate of Pabao Little League competed in back-to-back LLBWS, winning the first and only championship for his island in 2004. That year, the 11-year-old was a pitcher who went 2-0 and also excelled at the plate. Then, in '05, he led his teammates to the title game again, but they fell short in extra innings. He also has a younger brother who signed with the Rangers in 2012.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?



4 The Tidewater region of Virginia has yielded quite a crop of Major Leaguers — from Braves teammates and brothers B.J. and Justin Upton, to Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman, to Rockies All-Star Michael Cuddyer, to this current Mets star — most of whom played baseball together as kids. Nicknamed Captain America for his performance in the 2013 World Baseball Classic, the power-hitting, pizza- and sushi-loving infielder is also the Mets' team leader. As for his favorite part of Citi Field? "Who doesn't love the home run apple?" he asked.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?



5 “I used to go with my dad to the field and play catch every other day,” said the Puerto Rico native, a product of Barrio Boquillas’ Little League teams. Now, he goes to a Major League field every day, one where he’s been distinguished as an eight-time All-Star, three-time Gold Glove winner and two-time Silver Slugger throughout a 15-plus-year career. The switch-hitter, now a member of the New York Yankees, is also the all-time postseason leader in on-base plus slugging percentage.

“He was not very big from ages 7–12,” said retired Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez, who also grew up in Puerto Rico and preceded this player as a winner of MLB’s Roberto Clemente Award. “But he was always very athletic.”

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?



6 This 6-foot-3, 220-pound Reds third baseman was a pint-sized player back when his Toms River (N.J.) East Little League team was making its 1998 LLBWS title run. But he stood out on the field, striking out Japan’s final batter to help his club secure the championship. “When we got home, we had a huge parade,” he recalls. “We met the vice president. We went to New York and talked to Mark McGwire. It was unbelievable all the things that people wanted us to come to.”

Nine years after that taste of glory, he was drafted by Cincinnati and worked his way through the Minors before making his Big League debut in 2011, less than a year after his older brother, Jeff. Today, a field house in Toms River is named in their honor.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM TODAY?

Answers



1

Lloyd McClendon



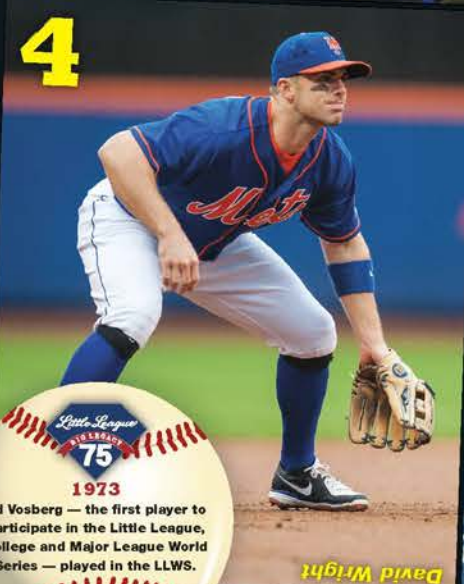
2

Derek Jeter



3

Jurickson Profar



4

David Wright



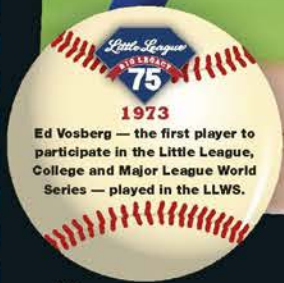
5

Carlos Beltran



6

Todd Frazier



1973

Ed Vosberg — the first player to participate in the Little League, College and Major League World Series — played in the LLWS.



When I was a kid ...

CC SABATHIA

*Pitcher
New York Yankees*

I started playing Tee Ball in Vallejo, Calif., when I was pretty young — about 3 or 4. My uncle was my coach. I played first base and would take ground balls at shortstop sometimes. I was on a team with 5-year-olds, though, and I wasn't very good at all. But by age 6, I was the best on the team — I was a veteran.

When I was older, we would line up and do backflips to celebrate after our games. My most embarrassing baseball moment happened when I got a black eye on a pop up. I was playing center field and I turned my glove the wrong way.

In Little League, you learn and develop friendships. I made some very close friends, and I still keep in touch with them.



ALEX AVILA

*Catcher
Detroit Tigers*

Baseball has been a part of my entire life. I grew up with Little League. I must have been about 4 or 5 years old when I started playing in my South Florida hometown. I played a lot of third base when I was really young, and I actually caught, too.

When I was a kid, I used to long toss every single day. Every time I went to the baseball field for practice or a game, I would long toss to warm up.

I specifically remember the Saturday morning games from my Little League years. My team would play at 9 a.m., and after that all of the kids would get free soda from the concession stand. Then for lunch we would go to the pizza place that was next to the field. Later on, the entire team would either go to my house or another teammate's house for a pool party in the afternoon. It was a lot of fun.



ADAM JONES
Outfield
Baltimore Orioles

Almost everybody played Tee Ball when they were younger, including me. When I first started playing, the concession stand at the local field would give out nachos or hot dogs and juice after each game. I really started getting into the sport when I was about 12 years old. By the time we were that age, our coaches would take us to McDonald's after games. For a teenager, cheeseburgers are the best.

My most memorable Little League moment is the last game my grandma ever saw me play. I was 14. Ever since then, baseball has been part of my daily routine.



MADISON BUMGARNER
Pitcher
San Francisco Giants

I played Little League in North Carolina. That was back when I was really young and the coach pitched to us. I played shortstop on that team. But what I remember most is my first home run — I tripped running around the bases.



CHARLIE CULBERSON
Outfield
Colorado Rockies

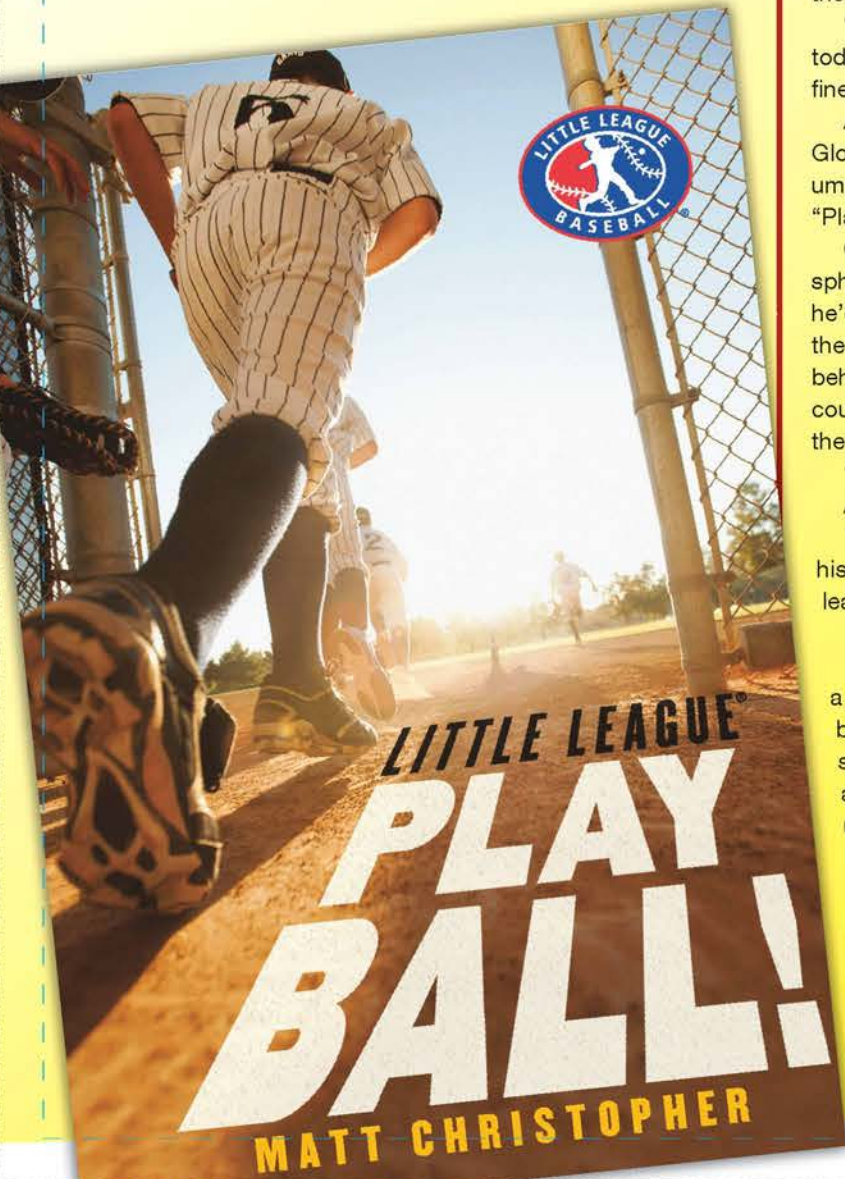
I think Little League is a good place for all kids to start. I played a couple years of Little League in my hometown of Rome, Ga. It was really fun because it's a small town, and I played with some friends there. We even had an all-star team.

I was fortunate enough to travel around to play, too. When I was 12, we were able to go to Puerto Rico, and that was one of my best memories. We played seven or eight games down there, and faced a team from Puerto Rico twice. Their fans get into the game a lot — they're up there playing their bongos, and it's different. It was pretty neat for us to experience their side of baseball. ♦



A TRUE CLASSIC

The following is an excerpt from *Play Ball!*, the first volume in Matt Christopher's five-book series published by Little, Brown and Company. It highlights a coach's role in Little League, the relationship between two players, Carter and Liam, and the significance of the boys' first U.S. championship game.



COACH HARRISON CALLED THE TEAM TOGETHER for a pregame pep talk. "This is it, boys," he said, bouncing on his toes. "Win today and you'll be in the World Series Championship. That's something no other team from the Mid-Atlantic Region has accomplished in years."

He pointed at them. "Can you do it? Yeah, you can, because you've got the talent, the drive, and something else besides." He waited a beat and then slapped his chest and grinned broadly. "You've got me!"

As Carter joined in the laughter, he felt his tension ease.

The coach offered a few more words of encouragement. Then the loudspeakers whined, and the voice of the game announcer boomed forth.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the United States Championship Game of the Little League Baseball World Series between the Mid-Atlantic Region Champions and West Region Champions!"

He paused while the spectators applauded. "There's a lot on the line today, folks, for the winner of the game goes on to face the International Champion for the World Series title! Here's today's lineup for the team from Southern California." He rattled off the roster and, again, waited for the applause to die down before introducing Carter's team.

"Mid-Atlantic won the coin toss and is the home team today. That's appropriate, for the squad itself is from this fine state, Pennsylvania."

As the home team, Mid-Atlantic was in the field first. Gloves in hand, they spread out on the diamond. Then the umpire bellowed the two words baseball fans love best: "Play ball!"

Carter received the game ball. The gleaming white sphere fit into his left hand so perfectly, it was as though he'd been born with it there. He rotated it until he felt the seams beneath his fingers. Then he looked at Liam behind home plate. Even though he couldn't see his cousin's eyes clearly through his catcher's mask, he knew they were delivering him a silent message.

"You can do this."

And in that moment, Carter believed he could.

The first batter stepped into the box. Carter squared his shoulders, placed his left foot on the rubber, and leaned in for the sign: Fastball, high and inside.

He nodded.

Even from 46 feet away, Liam's mitt looked as big as a barn to Carter. With his glove shielding his grip on the ball — no point advertising that he was throwing a two-seam fastball — he went through his wind-up, then took a powerful lunging step forward, and whipped the ball up and over his shoulder. A sharp snap of his wrist sent the ball whizzing toward Liam's glove.

Zip! Swish! Thud!

"Strike one!"

Liam had barely moved to catch the pitch. But he didn't smile when he stood up to throw the ball back to Carter. Carter didn't smile, either. It was a good, clean strike, but it was only one. If Mid-Atlantic was going to win, he had to deliver more — a lot more. ♦

Two players, one dream...

To win the
Little League Baseball®
World Series.



Don't miss the exciting
conclusion in the final book in
Matt Christopher's series!

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Playing the Game

KAYLA BONSTROM ON

PERFECT PLATE APPROACH

Little League graduate Kayla Bonstrom began playing softball as a kid in Arizona. Today, she's tearing up bigger fields as a designated hitter/first baseman for Stanford University in California. The right-handed batter certainly knows what she's doing when it comes to hitting, earning Pac-12 Freshman of the Year honors for her performance last season, when she boasted a .404 average. Here are some of her tips for how to go about your at-bats:

KEEP CALM

My approach to hitting is to keep things simple and trust that all the work I've done in practice up to this point is going to pay off in the game. The games are when you want things to flow naturally without thinking too much.

WORK ON MECHANICS

My favorite thing to do to prepare for a game is any type of tee drill. I like to get a feel for my swing before I go to hit, whether in the batting cage or against a live pitcher. The tee helps me to work on getting my hands to the ball cleanly and making sure that my bat plane is straight.

PLAY FOR FUN

Little League taught me to have a love for the game. You can only play softball for so long, so don't focus too much on the technical aspects of the game when you're young. My team played a lot of Wiffle Ball during practice, and little things like that get you excited to show up and play. ♦



STANFORDPHOTO.COM

WORD SEARCH

Many countries and states were represented at the 2013 Little League Baseball World Series, including Australia, which sent a team for the first time in history. Some participating teams are listed below. They can be found in all directions: up, down, forward, backward and diagonally. See how many you can find!

AUSTRALIA

(Perth Metro Central LL)

DELAWARE

(Newark National LL)

IOWA (Urbandale LL)

JAPAN (Musashi Fuchu LL)

ONTARIO (East Nepean LL)

PANAMA

(Aguadulce Cabezera LL)

PUERTO RICO

(Samaritana LL)

TENNESSEE

(South Nashville LL)

TIJUANA

(Municipal De Tijuana LL)

WASHINGTON (Eastlake LL)

M	A	L	B	H	O	I	R	A	T	N	O
E	K	T	G	T	I	J	U	A	N	A	B
Q	D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E	O	P	F
U	P	N	D	C	N	F	Q	C	T	A	C
P	A	N	A	M	A	G	I	Z	G	J	N
S	T	E	K	I	L	R	W	L	N	E	I
B	E	S	N	H	O	A	U	B	I	P	A
R	H	S	F	T	P	I	V	D	H	R	D
O	A	E	R	Y	C	X	I	J	S	G	S
V	L	E	U	M	L	E	Q	O	A	F	J
A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	W	P	O
P	W	H	A	S	O	D	R	M	E	A	B

MIX 'N' MATCH

Dugout, Little League's mascot, was first introduced at the 1985 Little League Baseball World Series. A Walt Disney creation, Dugout was inspired by the gopher from *Winnie the Pooh* and the beaver from *Lady and the Tramp*. Today, mascots can be found all over the Major Leagues, as well. Can you match these MLB mascots to their teams?

DUGOUT



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Phillie Phanatic | A. Boston Red Sox |
| 2. Baxter the Bobcat | B. Arizona Diamondbacks |
| 3. Wally the Green Monster | C. Houston Astros |
| 4. Orbit | D. St. Louis Cardinals |
| 5. Fredbird | E. Philadelphia Phillies |



YOU MAKE THE CALL

1. In a Little League game, your team is up with the bases loaded and no outs. You hit a high pop fly to the pitcher. What should the umpire shout before the ball makes it to the pitcher's glove, whether or not he catches it?

- A. "Dead ball, batter is out."
- B. "Fair ball."
- C. "Infield fly, batter is out."

2. You're at bat in a Little League game with a runner on first base. As the pitcher winds up, the runner leaves the base early. The catcher, seeing that the runner has made it to second base, does not bother to make a throw. What's the call?

- A. "Runner is out."
- B. "Runner goes back to first base."
- C. "No call; it's a stolen base."

WORD SEARCH

M A L B H O R I A T N O
E K T G T I J U A N A B
O P F
D E L A W A R E O P F
U P N D C N F G O T A C
P A N A M A G I Z G J N
S T E K I L R W L N E I
B E S N H O A U B I P A
R H S F T P I V D H R D
O A E R Y C X I J S G S
L E U M L E G G A F J
A V S T R A L I A W P O
P W H S A S O D R M E A B

ANSWERS

YOU MAKE THE CALL
1. C; 2. B

MIX 'n' MATCH
1. E; 2. B; 3. A; 4. C; 5. D

Field of Dreams



HUNTER MARTIN/MLB PHOTOS

**Do you want to attend the
2014 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP GAME?**

Tickets to the Little League Baseball World Series, like all Little League games, are free. But even if you don't have a seat in the stands, you can still see the World Series Championship Game in person from the terraced hills at Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, Pa., where tickets are never required. All you need to do is find a place on the hill to park your stuff and watch. You may want to bring a blanket or lawn chair. Come join us!