



June 11, 2009

Pairings, Schedule Set for 2009 Little League Baseball World Series

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (June 11, 2009) – The schedule of games and pool assignments for the 63rd Little League Baseball World Series were announced today by Stephen D. Keener, President and Chief Executive Officer of Little League Baseball and Softball.

Williamsport has been the home of Little League since it was founded there in 1939, and the final game of the tournament is traditionally on the weekend before Labor Day weekend. Labor Day in 2009 is Sept. 7. During the 2009 season, Little League is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the program's founding.

The 2009 World Series will be the third televised under an eight-year television contract with ESPN/ABC that provides for coverage of all 32 games in the Little League Baseball World Series and the championship games of Little League's seven other divisions.

Five games, including the Little League Baseball World Series championship, will be televised on ABC. Since the tournament expanded from eight to 16 games in 2001, every team has had games on national television as ABC, ESPN and ESPN2 continue to team up to bring Little League Baseball into millions of homes. All games will again be televised in high definition.

“The Little League World Series resonates with people, whether they're involved with Little League or not,” Mr. Keener said. “Each summer, our partners at ESPN and ABC, afford Little League the opportunity to present our program on a grand stage. To showcase the talent and ability of the players is wonderful, but equally significant is the opportunity to inform and educate TV viewers on what Little League has to offer local communities throughout the world.

“The Little League World Series has had a presence on television since the 1950s, and beginning in 1963, every world championship game has been aired,” Mr. Keener said. “Little League has grown and evolved, but it too has remained true in its commitment that a community-based program, supported by children and adults together, can become a cornerstone for neighborhoods, families and friends the world over.”

The world championship game of the Little League Baseball World Series (for 11-12-year-olds) can be seen live on ABC at 3:30 p.m., on Sunday, Aug. 30. Preceding the final game beginning at 2 p.m., ESPN will be televising its popular Little League Baseball World Series “Webgems” show, followed by a pre-game show. ABC also will televise the International Championship Game on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 12:00 p.m., followed by the United States Championship Game at 3 p.m.

Fifteen World Series games will be televised on ESPN and 11 will be televised on ESPN2. ESPN360.com also is scheduled to provide simulcast coverage via the Internet.

In addition, the ESPN family of networks will carry all eight of the U.S. Regional Championship finals in the Little League Baseball division. The U.S. regional finals have been televised by ESPN and ESPN2 every year since 1997.

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For a second consecutive year, New England Sports Network (NESN) and Madison Square Garden Network (MSG), will televise early-round games in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Region Tournaments, respectfully. Both NESN and MSG are expected to televise four games each, including all four semifinal games.

Each of the divisions that culminate with a World Series will again have their respective championship games televised on ESPN or ESPN2. Televising the world championship games of the Big League Baseball World Series in Easley, S.C.; Senior League Baseball World Series in Bangor, Maine; and Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor, Mich.; as well as the Big League Softball World Series in Kalamazoo, Mich.; Senior League Softball World Series in Lower Sussex, Del.; the Junior League Softball World Series in Kirkland, Wash.; and Little League Softball semifinals and world championship game from Portland, Ore., brings the total number of Little League games televised nationally this August to 49.

With the inclusion of coverage provided by NESN and MSG, a total of 57 Little League International Tournament games are scheduled to be televised during the summer of 2009.

The other seven World Series dates are: Junior League Baseball (13-14-year-olds), Aug. 16-22; Senior League Baseball (14-16-year-olds), Aug. 16-22; Big League Baseball (16-18-year-olds), July 29-Aug. 5; Little League Softball (11-12-year-old girls), Aug. 13-19; Junior League Softball (13-14-year-old girls), Aug. 16-22; Senior League Softball (14-16-year-old-girls), Aug. 9-15; and Big League Softball (16-18-year-old-girls), Aug. 7-12.

In the Little League Baseball World Series, a modified Olympic pool play format will be used for the 18th year to determine the champion. Each team in the two U.S. and International Pools will play the other three teams once in the tournament's first five days. At that point, single-elimination begins and pool-play records are disregarded.

The two most successful teams in each of the four pools cross over to play the second-place teams in the other pools on Wednesday and Thursday (Aug. 26-27) in the quarterfinal round. The winners of those games meet Saturday (Aug. 29) for the U.S. and International Championships. The winners of Saturday's semifinal games play for the World Championship on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Most of the games of the 2009 Little League Baseball World Series will be broadcast on radio station 1200 and 1400 WRAK-AM in Williamsport. WRAK is the flagship station for the English-speaking radio broadcasts of the Little League World Series.

ESPN Radio affiliate ESPN Radio Williamsport 1050 is expected to broadcast live updates and nightly wrap-ups throughout the tournament.

Pool assignments and schedule for the 2009 Little League Baseball World Series follow.

Pool Assignments – 2009 Little League Baseball World Series

<u>United States Division</u>		<u>International Division</u>	
<u>Pool A</u>	<u>Pool B</u>	<u>Pool C</u>	<u>Pool D</u>
Mid-Atlantic	New England	Caribbean	Europe
Northwest	West	Japan	Mexico
Southeast	Southwest	MEA	Canada
Midwest	Great Lakes	Latin America	Asia-Pacific

MORE

2009 Little League Baseball World Series Schedule

(All times Eastern U.S.)

POOL PLAY ROUND

Friday – August 21, 2009

- (1) Mid-Atlantic vs. Northwest, 1 p.m., ESPN HD (V)
- (2) Asia-Pacific vs. Europe, 3 p.m., ESPN HD (L)
- (3) Midwest vs. Southeast, 5 p.m., ESPN HD (V)
- (4) New England vs. Southwest, 8 p.m., ESPN HD (L)

Saturday – August 22, 2009

- (5) Canada vs. Mexico, 11 a.m., ESPN HD (L)
- (6) Caribbean vs. Latin America, 1 p.m., ESPN HD (V)
- (7) Southeast vs. Mid-Atlantic, 3 p.m., ABC HD (L)
- (8) MEA vs. Japan, 6 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)
- (9) Great Lakes vs. West, 8 p.m., ESPN2 HD (L)

Sunday – August 23, 2009

- (10) Midwest vs. Northwest, Noon, ESPN (V)
- (11) Great Lakes vs. Southwest, 2 p.m., ABC HD (L)
- (12) Asia-Pacific vs. Canada, 3 p.m. ESPN HD (V)

- (13) West vs. New England, 6 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)

- (14) Caribbean vs. Japan, 8 p.m., ESPN2 HD (L)

Monday – August 24, 2009

- (15) Europe vs. Mexico, noon, ESPN2 HD (L)

- (16) Latin America vs. Japan, 2 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)

- (17) Southeast vs. Northwest, 4 p.m., ESPN HD (L)

- (18) Caribbean vs. MEA, 6 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)

- (19) Mid-Atlantic vs. Midwest, 8 p.m., ESPN 2 HD (L)

Tuesday – August 25, 2009

- (20) MEA vs. Latin America, noon, ESPN2 HD (L)

- (21) Europe vs. Canada, 2 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)

- (22) Great Lakes vs. New England, 4 p.m., ESPN HD (L)

- (23) Mexico vs. Asia-Pacific, 6 p.m., ESPN2 HD (V)

- (24) Southwest vs. West, 8 p.m., ESPN2 HD (L)

SINGLE ELIMINATION ROUND

Wednesday – August 26, 2009

- (25) International – Semi-Final (first-place team – Pool D vs. second-place team – Pool C) 4 p.m., ESPN HD (L)
- (26) United States – Semi-Final (first-place team – Pool B vs. second-place team – Pool A), 8 p.m., ESPN HD (L)

Thursday – August 27, 2009

- (27) International – Semi-Final (first-place team – Pool C vs. second-place team – Pool D), 4 p.m., ESPN HD (L)
- (28) United States – Semi-Final (first-place team – Pool A vs. second-place team – Pool B), 8 p.m., ESPN HD (L)

Friday – August 28, 2009

OPEN DATE

Saturday – August 29, 2009

- (29) International Championship, ABC HD, 12 p.m. (L)
- (30) United States Championship, ABC HD, 3 p.m. (L)

Sunday – August 30, 2009

- (31) Consolation Game: United States Runner Up vs. International Runner Up, noon, ESPN HD (V)
- (32) World Series Championship, 3 p.m., ABC HD (L)

NOTE 1: (V) Little League Volunteer Stadium, (L) Howard J. Lamade Stadium

NOTE 2: MEA refers to the Middle East and Africa Region champion (MEA)

NOTE 3: Opening Ceremonies will be on Friday, Aug. 21, tentatively scheduled for noon

This schedule is subject to change. It was prepared for the Little League World Series Luncheon on June 11, 2009.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The 2009 Little League Baseball World Series Logo is available for downloading by media at: <http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/images/media/LLBWS09Logo.jpg>

*For more information contact: Christopher D. Downs, Media Relations Manager
(570) 326-1921 ext. 238; Cell: (570) 337-2511; Media E-mail: cdowns@LittleLeague.org
Web Site: <http://www.LittleLeague.org>*