

Little League® magazine 2015

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EYES ON THE PRIZE

INSIDE TWO
WORLD-CLASS
STADIUMS

FULL LLWS
COVERAGE

TIPS FROM
MLB STARS



LITTLE LEAGUE® WORLD

SERIES CHAMPION

TODD FRAZIER

**HE'S BROUGHT HIS GAME,
AND HIS INTENSITY,
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**



INTRODUCING THE UA®
DECEPTION MID RIM





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Little League® magazine 2015



AROUND THE HORN

News from Little League to the Major Leagues.

INSIDE THE PARK

Compare two world-class stadiums.

LIVING THE DREAM

Todd Frazier always wanted to be a Major League All-Star. Now, the Little League champ from New Jersey has it all.
By Mark Sheldon

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

All of the teams in the Little League World Series tournaments are worthy, but only a few earn banners.

TROUT/KERSHAW POSTER

Sponsored by Subway

RISING STARS

Major League Baseball is filled with young phenoms who contended for, and won, awards in 2014.

PLAYING THE GAME:

Alex Avila

Tips on being the best backstop.

IN THEIR CLEATS

Olympic softball stars Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza never stopped going for gold.

GOOFING AROUND

Baseball mascots are the butts of countless jokes, but they have many tricks of their own up their sleeves.

PLAYING THE GAME:

Clay Buchholz

Tips on pitching like a pro.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

Super Bowl champion Russell Wilson wows on the gridiron, but it was Little League that sparked his love of sports.

BOYS OF SUMMER

Big Leaguers remember their playing days as kids.

PLAYING THE GAME:

Heather Tarr

Tips on the proper batting stance.

FUN & GAMES

Test your baseball knowledge with these puzzles featuring Major League stars and Little League rules.

FIELD OF DREAMS

Don't miss the excitement of the 2015 Little League World Series tournament season!

COVER PHOTO BY MARK LIPCZYNSKI FOR MLB PHOTOS; CHRIS FAYTOK/THE STAR-LEDGER (FRAZIER INSET)

Around the Horn

PITCH, HIT & RUN



Leagues are scheduling their MLB Pitch, Hit & Run competitions now, so go online to get more information and to register your league to host. Upon your sign-up, you will be forwarded a Local Administrator Kit containing materials needed to conduct the local competition. Those who want to participate can also go online to find a competition in their area. Get involved today by visiting PitchHitRun.com.

IN 2014, EIGHT PHR NATIONAL FINALISTS PLAYED LITTLE LEAGUE; WILL ONE OF YOUR PLAYERS BE NEXT?

GEAR UP

Little League programs in the Philippines recently received \$55,000 worth of baseball and softball equipment. Earlier this year, Wrigley Little League in Los Angeles also benefitted from a \$10,000 equipment donation. And thanks to the 2014 Little League Big Legacy Project, five other leagues will receive donations from Pitch In For Baseball, a not-for-profit that collects and redistributes new and gently-used youth baseball/softball equipment to communities in need across the world.

Last year, Little League announced that, in celebration of its 75th anniversary, American Honda Motor Corp., the Official Vehicle of Little League Baseball and Softball, provided an additional grant of \$50,000. The total \$100,000 donation, along with generous equipment donations from Easton Sports, will support seven gifts to local Little League programs.

If you have some gently-used equipment that you would like to donate to Pitch In For Baseball, visit PIFB.org for more information.

SARA RUBINSTEIN/MLB PHOTOS (PITCH, HIT & RUN); ROB FOLDY/GETTY IMAGES (HARVEY)

PITCH SMART



In an effort to curb arm injuries, Major League Baseball and USA BASEBALL unveiled the "Pitch Smart" arm safety program in November. The program attempts to stop bad habits before they begin, ultimately preventing kids and teenagers from overusing their arms. Much like Little League's arm-safety program, it provides age-specific guidelines and pitch counts for players up to 18 years old. "We believe this is a long-term step toward keeping pitchers healthy as they progress through all levels of baseball," says Joe Torre, MLB's Chief Baseball Officer.

The initiative came on the heels of injuries to some of the game's best pitchers, including Jose Fernandez, Jarrod Parker, Matt Moore and Matt Harvey. The program's guidelines can be found on PitchSmart.org. The site also includes statistics, risk factors, awareness tips, and published research and videos.

PLAYER MODE

Don't miss your chance to get in the game with R.B.I. Baseball 15, which boasts a suite of new features and hi-res graphics. Cubs All-Star Anthony Rizzo graces the game's cover, and is the first Cubs player to be featured on any baseball video game in more than a decade.

"Being on the cover of R.B.I. Baseball 15 is so awesome," says Rizzo. "You think about all these things as a kid: [being on] the cover of a game, the cover of a magazine. It's surreal."

Gamers of all ages can appreciate the updated features, including:

Full Roster Play with complete 25-man Major League rosters for all 30 teams, modifying your batting order or pitching rotation at any point. Set the active 25-man roster from each franchise's 40-man roster. Choose from more than 1,000 active Big Leaguers.

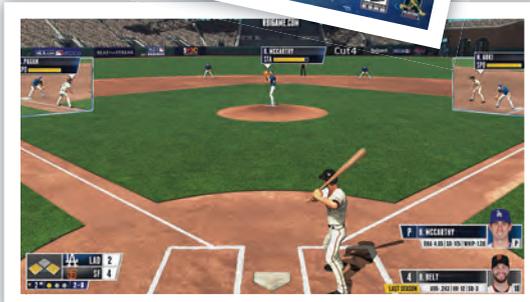
Stat Tracking For the first time ever, track batting and pitching statistics in season mode, including viewable team, player and season league leaderboards.

Online Play Choose to play in online multiplayer mode in friendly and ranked games.

Gameplay Settings Pick your competition level from three options: easy, medium or hard.

In addition to its new features, the game also *looks* great. Every ballpark has been completely redesigned to feel authentic and incorporate famous details.

R.B.I. Baseball 15 is available for purchase as a digital download for the PlayStation 4, Xbox One, iPhone, iPad,



iPod touch and supported Android smartphones and tablets. Also, get ready for PC and Mac availability on the Steam platform. Visit RBIgame.com and follow @RBIgame on Twitter for more info.

SURPRISE!

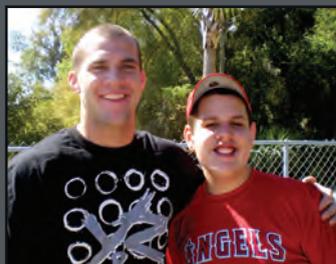
The players who get the opportunity to compete in any of the nine Little League World Series events come away with a lifetime of memories, but some special visitors made those experiences even better in 2014, thanks to the support of two Official Sponsors of Little League Baseball and Softball.

On Aug. 12, Olympic softball legend Jennie Finch surprised players at the Little League Softball World Series in Portland, Ore. Dudley brought Finch to Alpenrose Stadium to speak with all the participants and throw out a ceremonial first pitch. At the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Subway

Famous Fan Ryan Howard visited with the players on Aug. 21 and gave them some pointers during their practice sessions. While there was plenty of excitement on the field for the players, getting to meet these two standout athletes was another highlight of their tournament experiences.



FAMOUS "BUDDY"



The Jacksonville Jaguars chose quarterback Blake Bortles with the third overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft, but the Oviedo, Fla., native's heart belongs to baseball — specifically his hometown's Little League Challenger

Division. Bortles, who supports the group financially, has also assisted players on the field as a "buddy" since high school.

"Not only has my involvement provided me with memories and experiences that will last a lifetime, but it has also provided me with best friends, including C.J. Williams," Bortles says of the 18-year-old player (pictured), who is diagnosed with autism.

During the past 26 years, many dedicated individuals and leagues have made a difference in the lives of more than 100,000 Challenger Division participants. This year, Little League launched the Senior League Challenger Division, which gives individuals with physical or intellectual challenges the opportunity to participate regardless of their age. For more information, visit LittleLeagueChallenger.org.

BACK TO HIS ROOTS



Last August, MLB owners unanimously elected Robert D. Manfred as Commissioner Bud Selig's successor, and baseball's new leader wasted no time getting back on the field when

he visited Williamsport for the 2014 Little League World Series. A native of Rome, N.Y., Manfred played for his town's Little League in the late 1960s and early '70s, not long after the LLWS was first broadcast live on television by ABC.

"I was not that good," Manfred said during his visit. The Commissioner neglected to mention that he played shortstop and caught the final out of a perfect game thrown by teammate Carl Weaver. Last summer, Manfred tossed the ceremonial first pitch — a tradition that began with Commissioner Bowie Kuhn at the 1983 LLWS — before Little League sensation Mo'ne Davis took the mound.

"We congratulate Mr. Manfred," said Stephen D. Keener, Little League President and CEO, "and we're proud to call him a Little League graduate."

DECKED OUT

Teams at the 2014 Little League Baseball World Series wore new, state-of-the-art sublimated uniforms, and this year, Russell Athletic will unveil brand new uniforms at all nine LLWS Tournaments. The uniforms will feature a lightweight, breathable stretch fabric that is used by many NCAA Division 1 Universities and Minor League Baseball teams. In addition, there will be new color combinations for each region.



The final uniforms will be released this summer and, for the first time, the Little League Store will offer sublimated jerseys similar to the ones players are wearing. Check out LittleLeagueStore.net to get your own LLWS Jersey.

ROAD TO WILLIAMSPORT



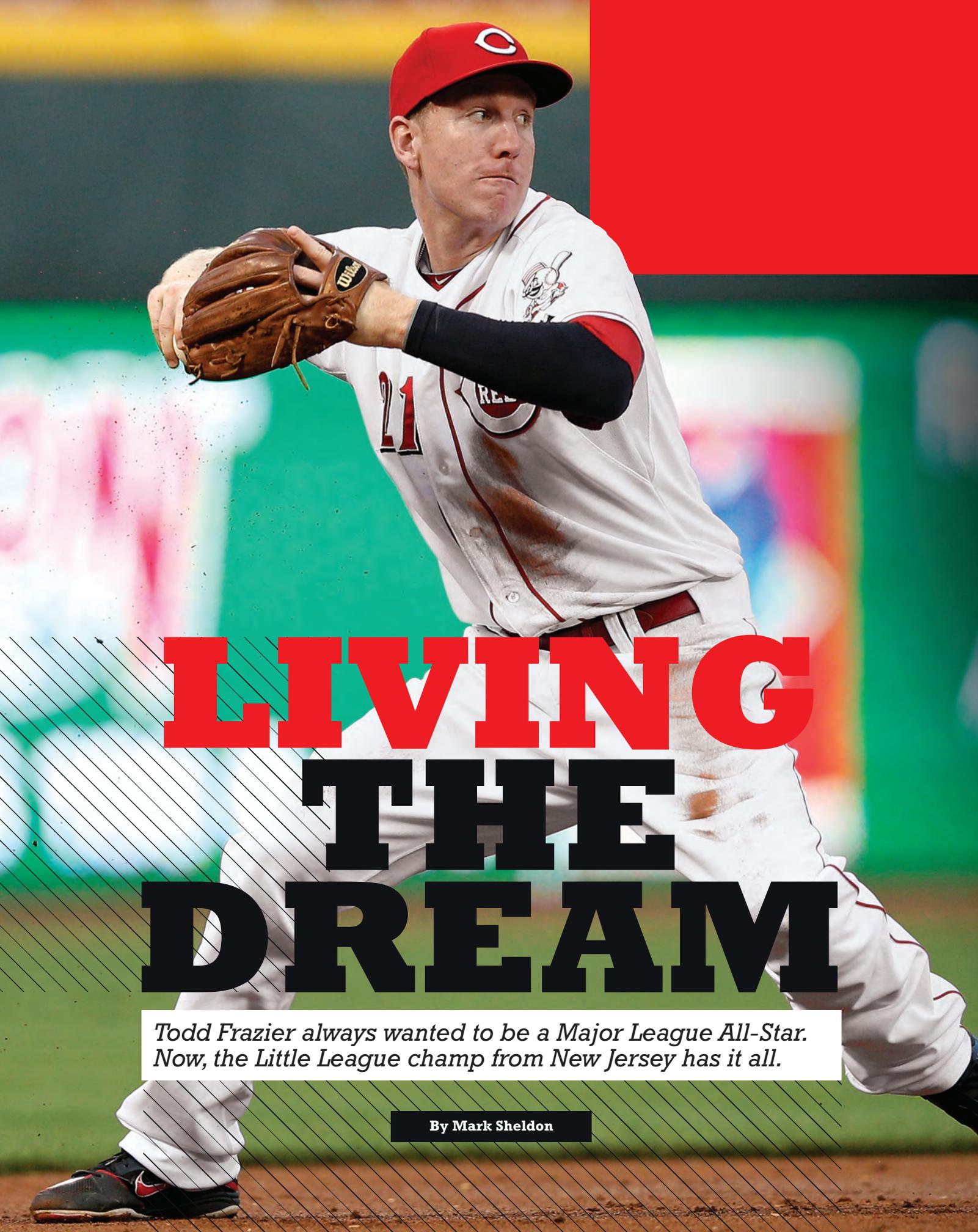
Winning your district tournament affords you bragging rights among your hometown rivals. Going to sectionals gives you the chance to show

your skills against other leagues in your area. Advancing to states proves you're one of the best Little League teams in the nation. Making it to the regionals puts you on the road to the LLWS.

This year, Little League has released a new Rocker Patch with the words "Road to Williamsport" (or the location of the tournament at various other levels) embroidered on. Each division of tournament play, from Little League to Big League, will have its own unique patch for teams to place on their uniforms above their Little League patches. When you're getting your new tournament jerseys designed for this year, think of the road you're taking. Strive to win, but win or lose, always do your best. Visit LittleLeagueStore.net to get your new Tournament Rocker Patch.

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (BORTLES); DREW HALLOWELL/MLB PHOTOS

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (FINCH, HOWARD); DREW HALLOWELL/MLB PHOTOS



JOE ROBINSON/GETTY IMAGES

Even before he reached the Major Leagues, the spotlight was nothing new for Reds third baseman Todd Frazier. That's because he had already played big, and won big, as a 12-year-old for the 1998 Little League World Series (LLWS) champions from Toms River, N.J.

In that year's championship game against Japan, Frazier led off with a home run and finished the day 4 for 4. He also pitched the final two innings and recorded a strikeout to end the game.

Now 29, Frazier broke into the Majors with the Reds in 2011 and has since become a lineup fixture. In 2014, he was selected to the National League All-Star team for the first time, and he ended the season with 29 homers and 80 RBI, both career highs.

Once again, Frazier has welcomed the spotlight as Cincinnati prepares to host the 2015 All-Star Game. In anticipation of the event, he spoke with *Little League Magazine* about his LLWS experience, life as a professional ballplayer and his expectations for the season.

LIVING THE DREAM

Todd Frazier always wanted to be a Major League All-Star. Now, the Little League champ from New Jersey has it all.

By Mark Sheldon



YOU'RE ONE OF A HANDFUL OF LLWS STANDOUTS WHO MADE IT TO THE MAJORS. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR SUCCESS TEACHES CURRENT LITTLE LEAGUERS?

It gives a lot of hope to young kids, who can look at the Jason Varitek or Todd Fraziers of the world who made it. I think that simply making it to the LLWS is a Major League experience in itself. Just 10–15 [LLWS graduates] that I can recall have made it to the Majors, and only one or two have won the World Series. It goes to show you how hard it is to not only get drafted, but also to make it.

HOW DOES YOUR LIFE TODAY COMPARE TO WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOUR FUTURE WOULD HOLD?

When I was 12, I thought, "[Being in the Majors] has to be the best life to live." It has lived up to the hype. The travel is great. At 12, you think the stadiums are meccas, and they are. I want to play until I can't anymore. I'm really lucky.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A MAJOR LEAGUE BALLPLAYER?

Putting on the uniform every day and knowing that it's your

job. I like to be the first one on the field to hear the crowd roar and get the excitement going. On Opening Day, I go out there 40 minutes early, since we always play at home; that's the coolest thing about playing for Cincinnati.

I also think it's the greatest thing when a kid asks for an autograph. I remember being little and doing it all the time and how, if I'd miss an autograph, I'd get really upset.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR KIDS WHO SEE YOU AS A ROLE MODEL ON AND OFF OF THE FIELD?

On the field, watch how much fun I'm having. Hustle, bring a lot of energy and be intense, but not overly intense. Anything that you want to achieve in this world requires energy and enthusiasm. And root for your teammates no matter how well or how badly you're doing.

Off the field, hang out with the right crowd. You can go out and have a good time, but there's a limit to that. Always have a true friend with you to look out for you. Enjoy the time, though, because you're only young once.

AFTER WINNING THE LLWS, WHAT WAS THE COOLEST

THING THAT YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATES GOT TO DO?

We met Vice President Al Gore. We went to Yankee Stadium and met Derek Jeter. One of the best things was the B.A.T. (Baseball Assistance Team) dinner. There were so many Hall-of-Fame ballplayers there, from Cal Ripken Jr. to Reggie Jackson. I brought two dozen baseballs, and by the end of the night they were filled with autographs.

SPEAKING OF JETER, WHO IS ALSO A LITTLE LEAGUE GRAD, YEARS LATER YOU GOT TO MEET HIM AGAIN, THIS TIME AS A FELLOW BIG LEAGUER. CAN YOU COMPARE THOSE EXPERIENCES?

It was surreal. I actually grew up a Red Sox fan, but Paul O'Neill was my favorite player. We met him and Jeter that day and saw them take batting practice. Later I stood next to Derek, not knowing that I'd be at his last All-Star Game. So many things can happen when you play this game.

HOW DID THE ATTENTION THAT CAME FROM THE LLWS PREPARE YOU FOR MLB FAME? YOU APPEARED ON TV, AT PARADES AND AT OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS.



Run Derby. The best part was seeing how excited they got in the final rounds. They were trying to hype me up. We went to a party afterwards and had a really good time.

IN WHICH PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU TAKE THE MOST PRIDE?

My defense. I've gotten better each year. I try to be as focused as I can, even if nothing is hit to me all day. I watch a lot of video of good third basemen, like Nolan Arenado and David Wright. It's about honing your craft. We have a great coaching staff,

WHO IS THE PRANKSTER?

Sean Marshall. He buys crazy things and plays jokes all the time.

NOW THAT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED ONE ALL-STAR GAME, DOES THAT FUEL YOUR DESIRE TO RETURN?

Every single year. I think it's a great opportunity to showcase your skills. To be one of the best in the world in a certain year is pretty cool. Back in the day, I played a video game featuring both MLB All-Star teams. Dave Winfield and Ken Griffey Jr. were in that game. Hopefully, the opportunity comes my way every year. ♦

Mark Sheldon covers the Reds for MLB.com.

3:30 P.M.
8/29/98

1998

Visiting Team: US EAST
TOMS RIVER EAST AMERICAN, TOMS RIVER, NJ

No.	Player	Pos.	No.	Player
14	Todd Frazier	1B	20	Takechi Kato
15	Scott Fisher	3B	15	Tetsuya Furuta
20	Gabe Gardner	2B	18	Tatsuya Sugai
7	Joe Franceschini	P	17	Yutaro Okawa
18	Casey Gaynor	RF	7	Sayaka Tsunoda
19	Eric Campesi	LF	11	Kenita Kono
13	R. J. Johansen	CF	10	Masahiro Teramoto
23	Mike Belostock	C	9	Kazuki Saito
			4	Yoshihiro Nishitani
			8	Shinjiro Suzuki

WHEN I WAS 12, I THOUGHT, '[BEING IN THE MAJORS] HAS TO BE THE BEST LIFE TO LIVE.' IT HAS LIVED UP TO THE HYPE.

It relaxes you. When you get interviewed, you know what to say. Those situations really aren't that pressure-filled anymore, because you've been there before at a young age. Are they a little hectic? Yeah. But you know how to slow everything down and just enjoy the moment.

You're going to fail more than you will do well in this game, especially in key situations. When those times come, you know how to act and keep going.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR LITTLE LEAGUE COACHES THAT STILL APPLIES TODAY?

Always prepare and work hard. When I was younger, we often got to have home run competitions at practice, but only if we took practice seriously would there be a reward at the end.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THIS YEAR'S ALL-STAR GAME, CAN YOU RECALL YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE FROM LAST YEAR?

Having both of my brothers at the Home

and they get on me if I'm not doing things right.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU WORK ON THE MOST?

Hitting. It's a back-and-forth grind. I'm not a video guy in this aspect. I think my swing is ugly, but it gets the job done.

YOU ONCE HOMERED AGAINST COLORADO EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR HANDS ON THE BAT. WAS THAT ONE OF THE ODDER THINGS YOU'VE DONE?

I've hit home runs with one hand, but that one was very fortunate. My high school coach always said, "Throw the bat head to the ball," and that's basically what I did.

LET US IN ON SOME CLUBHOUSE DYNAMICS. WHO IS YOUR MOST CAREFREE TEAMMATE?

Skip Schumaker is hysterical.

WHO IS THE BRAINS?

I'd say Joey Votto.

THE MAKING OF A STAR:

1997 Frazier wins the national NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competition for his age group

1998 Records the final out in the LLWS championship game; visits Yankee Stadium with his team, where he meets Derek Jeter

2007 Named Big East Player of the Year in his final season at Rutgers University; drafted by the Cincinnati Reds

2014 Participates in his first MLB All-Star Game and Home Run Derby

2015 Little League unveils his LLWS OYO figurine the same year that the Reds are set to host the MLB All-Star Game

RICH PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

RISING STARS



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IS FILLED WITH YOUNG PHENOMS. Many got their starts in Little League. By the time he was just 23, Mike Trout had already won the American League Rookie of the Year and MVP Awards. Ace Clayton Kershaw earned an MVP trophy and three Cy Young awards before his 27th birthday. "King" Felix Hernandez vied for his second Cy Young at age 28, while slugger Giancarlo Stanton was an MVP contender before he hit the quarter-century mark. Check out these stars' accolades below.

CLAYTON KERSHAW
2014 NATIONAL LEAGUE MVP AND CYYOUNG AWARD

Hometown: Dallas, Texas
Team: Los Angeles Dodgers
Position: Pitcher
Major League Debut: May 25, 2008
Career Stats (through 2014): 98-49, 2.48 ERA, 1,445 K

- On Field:**
- 2014 marked the fourth straight season that the ace led MLB in ERA (1.77), a new record.
 - Last season, Kershaw allowed the first ever home run off his curveball in his career, despite the fact that **he's thrown the pitch more than 2,000 times.**
 - On June 18, 2014, the southpaw threw his first career no-hitter. He struck out 15 batters without allowing a walk.

- Off Field:**
- Kershaw grew up playing sports with Detroit Lions QB Matthew Stafford.

MASTER OF DECEPTION

Kershaw keeps hitters off balance with his curveball, which he once threw as slow as 60 mph.

FELIX HERNANDEZ
RUNNER UP, 2014 AL CYYOUNG AWARD

Hometown: Valencia, Venezuela (Flor Amarillo LL)
Team: Seattle Mariners
Position: Pitcher
Major League Debut: Aug. 4, 2005
Career Stats (through 2014): 125-92, 3.07 ERA, 1,951 K

- On Field:**
- King Felix had a 0.915 WHIP (Walks Plus Hits Per Innings Pitched) in '14, the **lowest mark by an AL pitcher since 2000.**
 - Hernandez set an MLB record last summer when he made 16 consecutive seven-plus-inning starts while allowing two runs or fewer.

- Off Field:**
- The Mariners have dedicated a section of the Safeco Field stands, dubbed King's Court, to Hernandez admirers.
 - Felix has an English bulldog named Charlie.

STEP ON THE GAS

A scout in Venezuela discovered Hernandez when he was 14. By then, he was already throwing 90 mph.

MIKE TROUT
2014 AMERICAN LEAGUE MVP

Hometown: Millville, N.J.
Team: Los Angeles Angels
Position: Outfield
Major League Debut: July 8, 2011
Career Stats (through 2014): 572 H, 98 HR, .305 AVG, .549 SLG

- On Field:**
- Trout debuted as a teenager, when he was **19 years old.** He's one of just five players in history to score more than 100 runs in each of his first three full Major League seasons.
 - Last year, Trout became the third player in MLB history to win both the AL MVP and All-Star Game MVP awards in the same season.
 - Trout has led the league in WAR (Wins Above Replacement) in each of the last three seasons.

- Off Field:**
- As a kid, Trout played shortstop and wore No. 2 in honor of his favorite player, Derek Jeter.

NEED FOR SPEED

Trout topped 20 mph when running out a triple during last year's All-Star Game.

GIANCARLO STANTON
RUNNER UP, 2014 NL MVP AWARD

Hometown: Panorama City, Calif. (Tujunga Little League)
Team: Miami Marlins
Position: Outfield
Major League Debut: June 8, 2010
Career Stats (through 2014): 619 H, 154 HR, .271 AVG, .540 SLG

- On Field:**
- Last season, Stanton recorded a .555 slugging percentage and hit 37 homers, both of which were top marks in the National League.
 - On April 4, 2014, Stanton hit the **longest home run ever recorded at Marlins Park**, a 484-foot blast.

- Off Field:**
- The slugger also played football in high school. A wide receiver, he was offered two college football scholarships.

BRUTE STRENGTH

Stanton once hit a home run with such force that it broke the scoreboard at Marlins Park.

PAUL SPINELLI/MLB PHOTOS (TROUT, KERSHAW); RON VESELY/MLB PHOTOS (HERNANDEZ); RHONA WISE/MLB PHOTOS



1. Jae Yeong Hwang (18), Sang Hoon Han (5) and Jun Hyeok Yun (2) of Asia-Pacific gathered to congratulate a teammate after his home run in the Little League Baseball World Series International championship game.

2. Australia's Benjamin Hewett (1) hugged his teammate in celebration of their country's first win in Little League Baseball World Series history.

3. Ruy Martinez of the Mexico Region champions connected for a hit during a Little League Baseball World Series game at Little League Volunteer Stadium in Williamsport, Pa.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

All of the teams in the Little League World Series tournaments are worthy, but only a few earn banners.



4. Members of the Seoul, South Korea Little League team posed with the Little League Baseball World Series championship banner. Patrick W. Wilson, Little League International Tournament Director, and Davie J. Gilmour, Chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, joined in the team's photo.



5. Kasha Ross of the Canada Region champions made a play from her knees during the 2014 Little League Softball World Series in Portland, Ore.



6. A capacity crowd enjoyed a night game at Howard J. Lamade Stadium.



7. The Japan Region champions from Tokyo Kitasuna Little League, the International runners-up, shared their excitement with Dugout the Mascot during the 2014 Little League Baseball World Series.

1. Florida District 12 from Parish, Fla., the Southeast Region representatives, captured the 2014 Big League Baseball World Series championship in Easley, S.C.

2. Nathanael Makaya, first baseman for the Latin America Region champions from Pariba Little League in Curacao, stretched to make a play during the 2014 Senior League Baseball World Series.

3. Shih-Kai Hsu (7) and Kuo-Chin Len (9) of the Taichung Little League team celebrated after the Asia-Pacific Region representatives from Chinese Taipei won the 2014 Junior League Baseball World Series championship.

4. In the second annual Intermediate World Series, Nogales National Little League from Arizona repeated as the United States champion and claimed its first world title. Team members dogpiled following the title game in Livermore, Calif.

5. Rutherfordton Little Leaguer Noah Rios (5) completed a play in the Junior Baseball World Series championship game against Asia-Pacific. The tournament was held in Taylor, Mich.



6. West University Little League from Houston, Texas, clinched the Senior League Baseball World Series title in a 7-4 victory over Latin America.

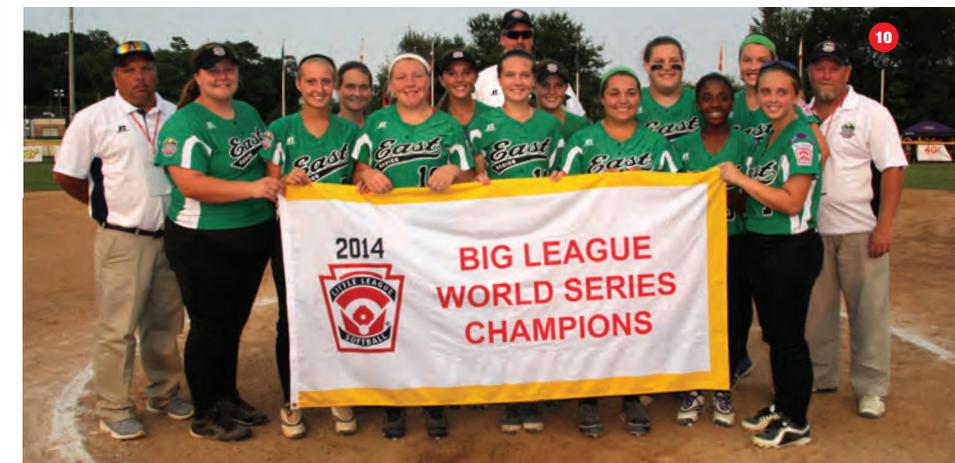
7. After winning the 2014 Senior League Softball World Series, Indiana District 11 from South Bend took its victory lap.

8. An East Region player rounded the bases to help bring her team to victory in the 2014 Little League Softball World Series.

9. Jake Hesselink of the Canada Region champions was tagged out by a player from host team Maine in Senior League Baseball World Series action.

10. Delaware District I from Milford, Del., defeated the defending Big League Softball World Series champion, Delaware District III, to claim the 2014 title.

11. West Point Little League took a victory lap after winning the 2014 Junior League Softball World Series in Kirkland, Wash.



LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (11)

**WE ARE
THE CHAMPIONS**

A PLAYER FOR ALL SEASONS

These Little Leaguers take their roles as multi-sport athletes seriously all year round.

Many talented baseball and softball players dominate during the Little League World Series tournaments, but despite their skills, they don't always have a bat or glove in their hands. Check out a few standouts from the 2014 Little League Baseball and Little League Softball World Series excelling at some of the sports they play when they're *not* on the diamond.



MO'NE DAVIS 2014 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Taney Little League,
Philadelphia

World Series Success:

One of two girls to compete in Williamsport last year (along with Emma March of Canada), Mo'ne made headlines from the mound. She pitched 8.1 innings, struck out 14 batters and allowed just three earned runs.

Off the Diamond: Before she even played baseball, Mo'ne caught the attention of her future coaches — when she threw a football. Also a member of her school's varsity girls' basketball team, she had the chance to play on the hardcourt at the NBA All-Star Game (pictured) and with the Harlem Globetrotters. A three-sport star, Mo'ne is a standout soccer player, as well.

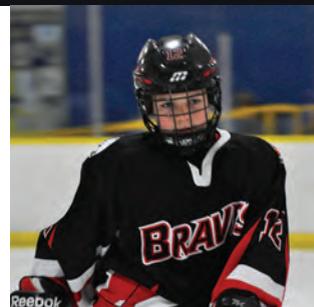
RUY MARTINEZ 2014 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Guadalupe Linda Vista
Little League, Mexico

World Series Success:

Ruy was one of the smallest players on the field at just 4 feet, 8 inches tall, but that didn't stop him from having a huge series. He batted .462 and slugged .769 with a homer and four RBI.

Off the Diamond: Ruy was a member of his school's track and field program, participating in the long jump (pictured). He also has spent time on the basketball court.



HALLIE HOLLAND 2014 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

Hampton Little League,
Victoria, British Columbia

World Series Success:

Hallie's World Series success spans not just one trip to Portland, but two, as she's been on back-to-back Canada Region teams that competed in the Little League Softball World Series. At the 2014 tournament, she batted .308 and played flawless defense as the team's starting catcher, with 21 putouts and a 1.000 fielding percentage.

Off the Diamond: Canada is associated with hockey, and so is Hallie (pictured). Often playing with the boys, she has been a high-scoring asset to many championship teams, and even won the Howard Noble Award, which is given to a female hockey player who exemplifies sportsmanship, enthusiasm and respect. When she's not on the ice or the diamond, the Straight-A student is also competing in rugby, volleyball and basketball.



TREY MAEKER 2014 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Pearland East Little League,
Texas

World Series Success:

Walter Maeker III, better known as Trey, was a pitcher and first baseman for the Southwest Region champions. The starting pitcher in his team's final game, he struck out six opponents. Trey also drenched Dugout the Mascot as part of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

Off the Diamond: Trey is looking forward to playing football in the coming years, but before he made it to Williamsport, he competed on the BMX racing circuit (pictured). He was a Texas state champion in his age group six times, and a United States Association of Cycling titlist at ages 7 and 9.

JIM MCSAIG/GETTY IMAGES (DAVIS); LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (MARTINEZ, HOLLAND); MIKE CARRUTHER/MLB NEWS

PREP WORK

Every Little Leaguer dreams of playing on a pristine, green diamond, just like the Big Leaguers. The players at the Little League Baseball World Series get that chance, thanks to the grounds crew. The 2014 LLWS crew featured a volunteer who has some Major League experience: Evan Fowler, a Little League grad who now works as a Kansas City Royals groundskeeper. *Little League Magazine* spoke with Evan about getting both Lamade Stadium and Kauffman Stadium ready for World Series play.



HOW MUCH TIME IS USUALLY SPENT GETTING A FIELD READY FOR A GAME?

During baseball season, the grass never stops growing. In Kansas City, we staff a crew of five to 10 guys, who work seven days a week from March to November. A game day starts around 7 a.m. and is over after our postgame routine, usually around 11 p.m.

From start time until around noon, we are getting things repaired from the night before. After lunch, we set up for batting practice and teams' early workouts. Just before game time, we put the finishing touches on the field.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF THE ENTIRE PROCESS?

We no longer live in a time when fields are used for just the intended sport, and the transition between extra on-field events and games can be stressful.

WHICH FIELD IS MORE DIFFICULT TO GET READY: KAUFFMAN OR LAMADE?

Given that Kauffman has almost three times the square footage of Lamade, it is a bit tougher to handle. But since Lamade is so much smaller, the amount of wear and tear it

gets during the World Series is more noticeable and more difficult to manage.

HOW DO THE TWO FIELDS COMPARE?

Both Lamade and Volunteer Stadiums can be considered miniature replicas of Big League ballparks. We use the same tools and techniques as in the Majors, just on a bit smaller playing surface.

HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE LLWS HELP IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE WITH THE ROYALS?

If it wasn't for my family's tie to Little League and my involvement with preparing the fields for the LLWS every year, I probably never would have gotten into groundskeeping, let alone be doing it in the Major Leagues.

HOW COOL WAS IT TO BE A PART OF THE ROYALS' WORLD SERIES RUN LAST YEAR?

The energy and excitement during October wasn't comparable to anything I had ever experienced before. Trying to make the field look and play as good as it did so late in the year was stressful at times, but the 2014 season will go down as the best time I've ever had. ♦

AMY STROTZWALB PHOTOS (KAUFFMAN STADIUM); DREW HALL/LOWELL/MLB PHOTOS

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Playing the Game

ALEX AVILA ON BEING THE BEST BACKSTOP



As a backstop for the Detroit Tigers for five full seasons, Alex Avila has caught a pitching staff that includes the likes of Justin Verlander and David Price. He's endured his share of bumps and bruises behind the plate, but along the way has mastered the techniques of calling pitches and throwing out potential base stealers, all while making it look easy. Here are some of his tips for learning the tools of the trade:

CATCH AND THROW

The question that I am asked most frequently by kids is how to build up arm strength. Being a catcher, you've got to have a good arm to throw runners out. When I was a kid, I used to long toss every single day. Every time I went to the field for practice or a game, I would long toss.

FORM A BLOCKADE

You want to be in the most athletic position possible when you're squatting. When you go down to block a pitch, make sure both knees touch the ground. You've got to anticipate where the ball will go and how you'll react. Your hands and glove should go right between your legs to cover up that hole. If you can get your chest in front of the ball, that's the best approach — unless the ball is so far to the side that you have to backhand it. Use your body as an extension of your glove.

TRUST YOUR TOOLS

Catching can hurt every once in a while, but you need to trust that your gear will protect you. The only way to get over that fear is to psych yourself up. When the pitch is coming in, your initial reaction is likely to get out of the way. But if you think about how the team needs you to get in front of that ball or block that pitch in the dirt, it can motivate you. All the bumps and bruises you get from catching are worth it because you're directly involved in the game for every single pitch. ♦



ILLUSTRATION BY YUTA ONODA, PAUL SPINELLI/MLB PHOTOS

Playing the Game

CLAY BUCHHOLZ ON PITCHING LIKE A PRO



Since making his Major League debut in 2007, Red Sox starter Clay Buchholz has been a force on the mound. In just his second career start, the rookie right-hander threw a no-hitter against the Orioles. He then went on to pitch seven complete games in his first seven full seasons. The two-time All-Star and 2013 World Series champion shared with us his tips for maintaining a healthy arm at a young age:

KEEP IT SIMPLE

The biggest things for a Little League pitcher to work on are learning to throw a change-up and locating fastballs. Don't throw a curveball or slider yet. Wait until you're 16 or 17 years old, and let everything develop with your arm. Growing up, that was the one piece of advice that I took to heart. Fortunately, I was able to avoid problems for a long time as a result.

BUILD STAMINA

Long toss is the best technique you can use to build arm strength. Don't do it every day, though; go outside and long toss about three times a week. Just being active is great, too. As a kid, you have to go out and get some exercise. It's really basic, but it will help you in the long run.

KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

In Little League, baseball is just a game. It's fun. Obviously you'll get better as you go along, but don't let yourself play only one sport. A lot of kids do that, and they regret not getting to play football or basketball, too. ♦



“DON'T LET YOURSELF PLAY ONLY ONE SPORT. A LOT OF KIDS DO THAT, AND THEY REGRET NOT GETTING TO PLAY FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL, TOO.”

ILLUSTRATION BY YUTA ONODA, WINSLOW TOWNSON/MLB PHOTOS

HEATHER TARR ON PROPER BATTING STANCE



Heather Tarr, the head coach for the University of Washington (UW) softball team, has quite the impressive resume on the field. A Little League grad, she was on the Kirkland Little League team that won the 1993 Big League Softball World Series, and later went on to play for UW and professionally. In 2009, Coach Tarr guided the Huskies to the Women's College World Series title. She recently took the time to discuss batting stances for young softball stars:



GET A FEEL FOR IT

As a batter, you want to make sure that you know where the plate and the hitting zone are located. The pitcher's job is to throw the ball near the plate, and the hitter's job is to hit the strikes. Before you step into the batter's box, make sure that you're comfortable with your position in relation to the plate.

ADJUST WITH THE ZONE

Sometimes, at the younger levels, the umpire's strike zone expands, so batters have a tendency to stand far up in the box and close to the plate. The older you get, the farther back off the plate and, possibly, the farther back in the box you can stand.

STACK YOUR BLOCKS

Make sure that your toes are in line. That doesn't mean that they need to be on the chalk line, but rather that they're straight in line. They shouldn't be open or closed. Your weight should be on the balls of your feet. Bend your waist slightly and relax your elbows.

Ballplayers talk about having their bodies built in three blocks: There's the "C Block" at the bottom, the "B Block" in the middle and, the most important one, the "A Block," at the top. Stack your blocks in your stance from the top-down, and you'll be strong from the ground up. Stack your shoulders on top of your hips, your hips on top of your knees and your knees on top of your feet. ♦

ILLUSTRATION BY YUTA ONODA; SCOTT EKLUND/RED BOX PICTURES



IN THEIR CLEATS

Olympic softball stars Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza never stopped going for gold.



In the softball world, Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza are about as big-time as they come. The pitcher and outfielder starred for Team USA in the mid-2000s, and both own a gold and a silver medal from the 2004 and '08 Olympic Games, respectively. Since then, they've taken their skills into the broadcast booth for ESPN, covering baseball and softball. The pair reunited to talk sports with *Little League Magazine*.

were a tomboy. Now, we are consistently seeing successful female athletes from all sports in the limelight. It's really cool to be a female athlete now.

DO SOFTBALL PLAYERS HAVE ANY SKILLS THAT BASEBALL PLAYERS COULD LEARN FROM?

JF: I grew up playing baseball with my brothers. There are more similarities than differences. Glove and body positioning, throwing mechanics — the basic fundamentals are the same.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK TO YOUTH SOFTBALL PLAYERS TODAY?

JF: I was once in their cleats. All of the values that you learn while playing softball — discipline,

sacrifice, competition — will transfer beyond the field.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SOFTBALL MEMORY?

JM: Winning gold at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. There's no feeling like passion for the sport you play combined with love for the country that is across your chest.

JF: Traveling at a young age and spending time with my parents will always be my favorite. And there was no greater honor than wearing USA across my chest. The gold medal and national championships are treasured, of course, but so is the long journey it took to get there.

JENNIE, YOU HAVE PLAYED IN THE MLB

ALL-STAR LEGENDS AND CELEBRITY SOFTBALL GAME A FEW TIMES. WHAT'S THAT LIKE?

JF: It's my favorite event of the year. The hoopla, the excitement and the fans just make everything incredible.

Being able to play with Hall of Famers is an amazing experience. Ozzie Smith hasn't lost a step, Rickey Henderson's bat speed is the same as it was when he was playing, and Andre Dawson went deep off me.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG FEMALE ATHLETES?

JM: Stand out! Don't be what you see on TV or what is posted on Instagram; be the real, unique you. Be stronger, smarter and more successful than everyone around you. ♦

VALENTIN RYBON/GARTS/GETTY IMAGES (PITCHING); CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

Mascots have become so popular in sports that all but three of MLB's 30 teams feature them. Sluggerrr, a lion, and Lou Seal are among the popular animal mascots, and they represented the Royals and Giants, respectively, in last year's World Series. Others are quirky creatures, like Cincinnati's Gapper and Tampa Bay's Raymond, who are furry beings of unknown origin. Little League Baseball has its own mascot, too! Discover more about some of the game's most well known characters.

GOOFING Around



DUGOUT

Affiliation Little League

Origin A *Walt Disney* creation, Dugout is celebrating its 30th birthday at the 2015 Little League World Series.

Description Disney Imagineers were inspired by the gopher in *Winnie the Pooh* and the beaver in *Lady in the Tramp*. Dugout dresses in a variety of costumes, but most often wears a blue Little League shirt and white baseball pants.

FUN FACT

During the Little League World Series, Dugout dances on the field with each team. He sometimes gets the umpires to participate, too.



PHILLIE PHANATIC

Affiliation Philadelphia Phillies

Origin The idea for the Phanatic came about in 1977, and the mascot debuted on April 25, 1978, at Philadelphia's old ballpark, Veterans Stadium.

Description Big, furry and green, the Phanatic has a huge nose shaped like a honking horn. He always wears a Phillies jersey, usually with a star on the back in place of a number.

FUN FACT

The Phanatic is known for dancing and shaking his belly. Everyone on the field, from players to umpires, is a target for his pranks.



TONY CLARK STOPPED WEARING NO. 00 TO ACCOMMODATE MR. MET: "MR. MET IS A LOT OF PEOPLE'S HERO."

MR. MET

Affiliation New York Mets

Origin A drawing of Mr. Met was introduced on the cover of Mets programs and scorecards in 1963. He appeared as a mascot the next season.

Description Mr. Met has the body of a human and a huge baseball for a head. He wears a Mets jersey and cap, and dons the uniform No. 00.

FUN FACT

His companion, Mrs. Met, often accompanies him at games and events.



"MOOSE ARE FUNNY AND FRIENDLY. IT SHOWS THAT [THE MARINERS] HAVE FUN NO MATTER WHAT." Ammon Spiller, Mariner Moose's creator

ORBIT

Affiliation Houston Astros

Origin This friendly alien was the Astros' mascot from 1990–99 before coming back to Earth on Nov. 2, 2012. He returned in preparation for Houston's switch to the American League.

Description Orbit is a lime green space creature (Houston is a hub for NASA) who wears an Astros jersey and a cap propped up between his two antennae.

FUN FACT

Orbit plays pranks on players from opposing teams. He once tried to reel in Mike Trout with a fishing pole and has played Twister during pregame warmups.



MARINER MOOSE

Affiliation Seattle Mariners

Origin Mariner Moose debuted on April 13, 1990. He was the winning entry, submitted by a fifth grader from Ferndale, Wash., in the team's mascot-choosing contest.

Description Mariner Moose is just what the name suggests: a plush moose that usually wears a Mariners jersey.

FUN FACT

A Seattle Seahawks fan, he lost a bet to the Red Sox's mascot, Wally the Green Monster, when New England won the Super Bowl, and had to be photographed wearing a Patriots jersey.



BERNIE BREWER

Affiliation Milwaukee Brewers

Origin Bernie Brewer is a tribute to Milt Mason, a 69-year-old fan who sat atop the scoreboard at then-Milwaukee County Stadium for 40 days until the team could draw a home crowd of 40,000.

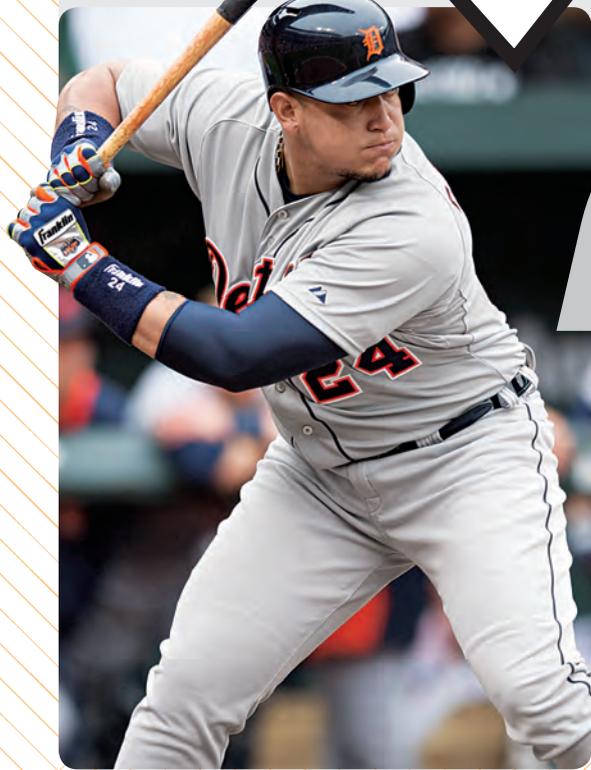
Description Bernie has an oversized yellow mustache. He wears a Brewers hat and a dark blue shirt that bears his name.

FUN FACT

Whenever a Brewers batter hits a home run at Miller Park, Bernie slides down a giant yellow outfield slide onto a platform that's shaped like home plate.

Boys of Summer

When I was a kid ...



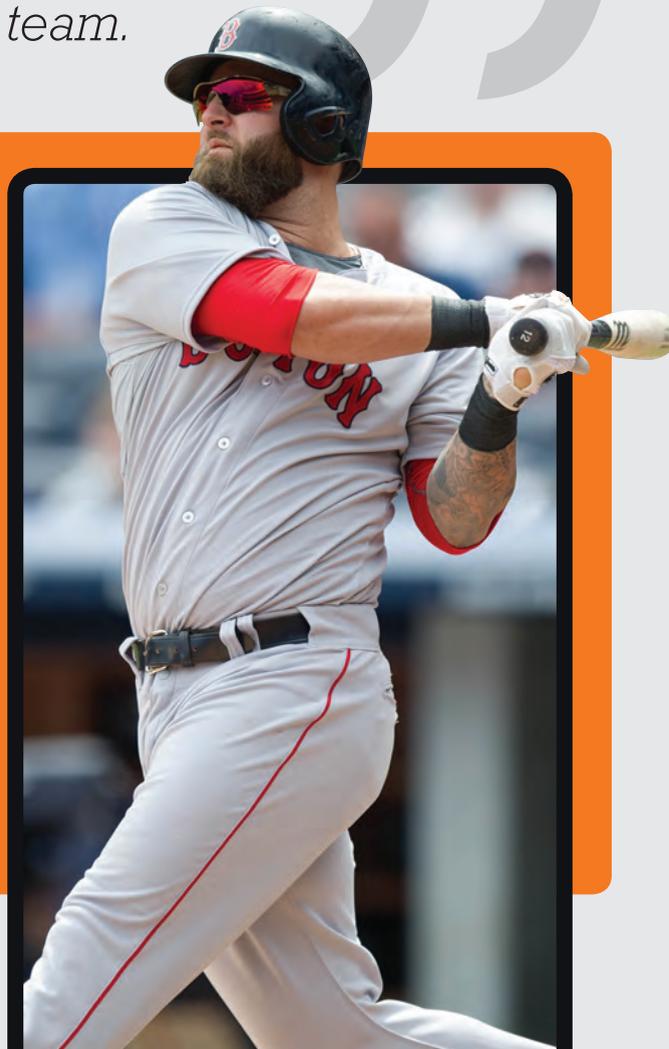
MIGUEL CABRERA
First Base
Detroit Tigers

*I started playing when I was 4 or 5. We practiced three days a week, and we played on Saturdays and Sundays. **It was fun because it was competition.** You always want to beat the other team.*

MIKE NAPOLI
First Base
Boston Red Sox

I've been playing since I was 5. I always used to love going to the park with my friends. We won pretty frequently and played on all-star teams together. After the games, we used to go eat pizza. I still have some friends from Little League.

A few years ago, there was a team from California in the Little League World Series, and I remember one of the players saying that I was his favorite player. I thought it was the best thing ever. I told my team, "Hey, let's send this kid a bat, baseballs, whatever." He got it. It was such a cool thing. I never thought some kid at the LLWS was going to say I was his favorite player.



Boys of Summer

JEFF SAMARDZIJA
Pitcher
Chicago White Sox

I started playing because my brother played; he was four years older than me, and I always wanted to do what he did. I followed him around, and I began playing organized Tee Ball at Valparaiso (Ind.) Americans Little League. When I was about 7, I started to figure out what I was doing on the field.

I played shortstop — that's when I was short and could still pick it — until high school, when I started playing the outfield. I played three sports growing up, though, so baseball wasn't a full-time thing for me. As I got older, I started doing a little traveling for all of them.



"I played three sports growing up. As I got older, I started doing a little traveling for all of them."

JUSTIN MORNEAU
First Base
Colorado Rockies

I started hitting Wiffle Balls with my brother in our backyard when I was about 2 years old. We did it on our own; we were never forced to go out there.

My life consisted of baseball in the summer and hockey in the winter. If it was hockey season, I liked hockey better. But as soon as baseball came around, I liked baseball better. At home, we'd have mock home run derbies and pretend to be Ken Griffey Jr. robbing homers over the wall.

Being from British Columbia, I especially loved the Toronto Blue Jays. But my family lived closer to Seattle, so we would travel to watch games there. It was always fun.



INSIDE *the Park*

Baseball fields come in all shapes and sizes. While each has its own unique features, diamonds across the world share plenty of common characteristics. It's these similarities — pitcher's mound, bases, dugouts, scoreboards — that allow the game to maintain the same structure from Little League to the Bigs. Check out how two world-class stadiums compare.



LAMADE STADIUM

Location Williamsport, Pa.
Opened 1959
Capacity 40,000
 (including lawn seating)
Recently Hosted
 2014 Little League World Series
Cool Features

- The steep outfield hillside is the perfect place to slide on a sheet of cardboard, even during games.
- A 14-foot statue of "The Mighty Casey" next to the outfield scoreboard depicts the fabled slugger from the poem "Casey at the Bat."

Dimensions

- Outfield: 225 feet
- Basepaths: 60 feet
- Mound to Home Plate: 46 feet



KAUFFMAN STADIUM

Location Kansas City, Mo.
Opened 1973. It's the sixth-oldest stadium in MLB.
Capacity 38,177
Recently Hosted
 2014 MLB World Series
Cool Features

- The 322-foot-wide fountain and waterfall display in the outfield is called the Water Spectacular.
- In the Outfield Experience, fans can find a playground, carousel, Sluggerrr's mini golf course, batting cage, pitcher's mound and more.

Dimensions

- Left & Right Fields: 330 feet
- Center Field: 410 feet
- Basepaths: 90 feet
- Mound to Home Plate: 60 feet, 6 inches

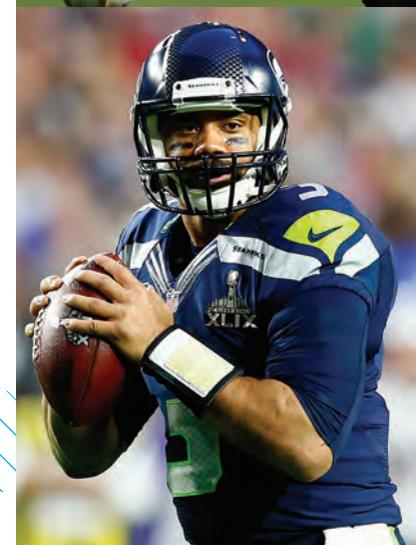
ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES (HILL, LAMADE STADIUM); RICH PILLING/MLB PHOTOS (STATUE); CHRIS VLESIDES/KANSAS CITY ROYALS (CAROUSEL); ROB TRINGALI/MLB PHOTOS (SLUGGER, FOUNTAIN); MEG WILLIAMS/MLB PHOTOS

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME



Super Bowl champion Russell Wilson wows on the gridiron, but it was Little League that sparked his love of sports.

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson is one of the most respected players in the NFL. Long before he led his team to the Super Bowl in back-to-back seasons, though, Wilson played for Tuckahoe Little League in Richmond, Va. He then excelled in baseball and football through college, was drafted by MLB teams multiple times and even spent two summers playing Minor League ball. The 2014 Super Bowl champion recently spoke with *Little League Magazine* about his experiences.



HOW DID LITTLE LEAGUE SHAPE YOUR CAREER?

Little League taught me about competition and how to approach a challenge. You have to sacrifice to be great.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BASEBALL?

It's the first sport that I played and loved. There's just something about the control you feel when you take the mound or make a crazy play at shortstop. It's a timeless sport.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE RANGERS FOR SPRING TRAINING?

It was a blast. It was where everyone went from the time they were 5 to 14 or 15 years old. We were there every weeknight. We had great teams, great players and great coaches. They taught us how to play the game the right way.

I've been drafted three times: by the Orioles, the Rockies and then the Rangers. I figured I would give it a shot. I took some ground balls and had fun. Football is my career focus, but it felt natural to be back on the baseball field.

YOU SUPPORT KIRKLAND (WASH.) NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE. WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The Russell Wilson Passing Academy is one of my passions, and we inspire kids throughout the U.S. I try to make a positive impact and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Our coaches do a great job, and I think it's inspiring for kids to see me out there teaching them to love the game.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE LITTLE LEAGUERS?

My father always told me not to be too up or too down. If you strike out, so what? If you hit a home run, act like you've done it before.

HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED SINCE THE SEAHAWKS WON THE SUPER BOWL IN 2014?

It really hasn't changed at all. My goal is to make every year a championship year. ♦

"[BASEBALL] IS THE FIRST SPORT THAT I PLAYED AND LOVED. THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONTROL YOU FEEL WHEN YOU TAKE THE MOUND OR MAKE A CRAZY PLAY AT SHORTSTOP. IT'S A TIMELESS SPORT."

MIKE JACOBSON/GETTY IMAGES (RANGERS); KEVIN C. COO/GETTY IMAGES

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE FUN FACTS

ABOUT LITTLE LEAGUE® AROUND THE WORLD ?



1. Besides the United States, which country has won the most Little League Baseball® World Series titles?
2. Which state became the first state outside of Pennsylvania to earn a chartered Little League® program in its community?
3. Which State hosted the very first Little League Softball® World Series?
4. What continent is the only continent to never hold a Little League game?
5. What town in Texas has the most Little League Softball® World Series Championships?
6. What Pacific Northwest town has held the Little League Softball World Series for the past 20 years?

7. In what U.S. state did former Vice President Dan Quayle play Little League?
8. What was the first country outside of the United States to win the Little League Softball World Series?
9. What was the first country in South America to win a Little League World Series championship?
10. This country won back to back Little League Baseball World Series titles in 1984 and 1985?
11. Which African country is the only team from that continent to participate in the Little League Baseball World Series?
12. Which New England town hosts the Senior League, Little League Baseball World Series?

13. What was the first country outside of the United States to have a chartered Little League?
14. Which state hosted the very first Challenger Jamboree?
15. This state won its first Little League Baseball World Series Championship in 2005.

16. In 2013, this town hosted the first Intermediate Little League Baseball World Series.
17. The first International team to compete in the Little League Baseball World Series was from what country?
18. In 1960, this European country became the first country from Europe to compete in the Little League Baseball World Series.

ANSWERS

1) Taiwan with 17 titles 2) In 1946, Hammonton New Jersey became the first chartered Little League outside of Pennsylvania. 3) New York 4) Antioch, California 5) Waco, Texas 6) Fortland, Oregon 7) Indiana 8) Philippines 9) Venezuela 10) South Korea 11) Uganda 12) Bangor, Maine 13) Panama. Two leagues, one on each side of the canal, were established in 1950 and aptly named the Pacific and Atlantic Little Leagues of Balboa 14) Norfolk, Virginia 15) Hawaii 16) Livemore, California 17) Montreal, Quebec, Canada 18) Berlin, Germany

LITTLE LEAGUE® REGIONS

CANADA	ASIA - PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA	EAST	SOUTHWEST
EUROPE-AFRICA	JAPAN	MEXICO	WEST	MIDWEST
AUSTRALIA	CARIBBEAN	SOUTHEAST		

Field of Dreams

DON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT OF THE 2015 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT SEASON!

More than 100 games on the ESPN family of networks. Thousands of fans packing the stands and the iconic Lamade hill. Nearly 100 teams from leagues around the world competing for one of nine Little League World Series championship banners. Thousands of Little Leaguers just like you get the chance to participate in Little League World Series events. And the best thing is, the games they're playing in late August are just like the ones that millions of Little Leaguers play on their home fields throughout the year. Don't miss a moment of the 2015 Little League World Series tournament season. Visit LLBWS.org and follow #LLWS on Instagram.

