



World Series Journal



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

ALWS Game 1: Delaware triumphant in return to ALWS

Austin Colmery acknowledged there was a little bit of pressure when he came to the plate to lead off the bottom of the first inning Thursday in Game 1 of the 2018 American Legion World Series. The center-fielder for Wilmington (Del.) Post 1 was the first batter from a Delaware team in an ALWS game since 1976. And thanks to his leadoff double, he and his teammates could celebrate the first ALWS victory for a Delaware team since 1967.

Chris Ludman pitched seven shutout innings and Wilmington defeated Dubuque County (Iowa) Post 137, 3-0, as the 92nd edition of the ALWS opened play at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. "I was looking for first-pitch fastball, I got it, didn't like it, was waiting for him to throw it again, he threw it to me again, I gave it a ride," Colmery said. He advanced to third on Michael Cautillo's sacrifice bunt and scored as Nate Thomas grounded out.

Wilmington went up 2-0 in the fourth thanks to another leadoff double, this time by Thomas. Eric Ludman singled to advance Thomas, Ludman stole second and Jack Dubecq's single drove Thomas home. That 2-0 score looked like it would be enough until Dubuque County's first two batters in the top of the sixth, Sam Link and T.J. Deardorff, singled. That brought Wil Courtney to the plate as the potential go-ahead run with no outs. able to get a double play; here, Chris was able to pitch out of it on his own."

Both teams play again Friday as pool play continues, with Wilmington facing Gonzales (La.) Post 81 and Dubuque County meeting Braintree (Mass.) Post 86.

FRIDAY – AUGUST 17

Youth Academic Achievement Day

Game 5 Delaware vs. Louisiana 4:00

Game 6 Iowa vs . Massachusetts 7:00

Standings

Stars:

Midland (MI) 1-0

Las Vegas (NV) 1-0

Randolph Co. (NC) 0-1

Meridian (ID) 0-1

Stripes:

Wilmington (DE) 1-0

Gonzales (LA) 1-0

Braintree (MA) 0-1

Dubuque Co. (IA) 0-1

Special thanks

The UPS Store™ 

1137 E Marion Street Shelby,
NC 704-471-0222

Day one attendance: 34,380

ALWS Game 2: Louisiana edges Massachusetts in 1-0 duel

The decisive play in the pitchers' duel between Gonzales (La.) Post 81 and Braintree (Mass.) Post 86 came, fittingly enough, with a pitcher at the plate.

Gonzales ace Jack Merrifield singled in the only run he and his team would need as he outdueled Braintree's Kyle Gray 1-0 Thursday in Game 2 of The American Legion World Series.

"He pitched great, our defense is great, their defense was great, it was just a fun, good game," Merrifield said after he and reliever Preston Thrash combined to hold Braintree to four hits. Merrifield's heroics at the plate came one batter after Brayden Caskey was tagged out at home on Zane Zeppuhar's flyout in the bottom of the fourth inning.

"In a game like that, you just want to make sure you score first," Gonzales coach Martin Luquet said. "You get the guy thrown out at home and you think the inning is gonna disintegrate. Then Jack comes out with a two-out hit, and he's been fabulous all year with two outs."

Merrifield's two-out single drove in Thrash, who reached on an error after Caskey's leadoff single. It worked out well enough, though, to send Gonzales into Friday's pool play matchup with fellow Thursday winner Wilmington (Del.) Post 1. Braintree (0-1) will face Dubuque County (Iowa) Post 137, which lost to Wilmington 3-0 in Game 1.

The back-to-back shutouts were the first on opening day of the ALWS since 1967, and Gonzales' win came in the 24th 1-0 decision in series history.

ALWS Game 3: Michigan rallies to top North Carolina

It looked for awhile like the streak of shutouts on opening day at The American Legion World Series would continue. While Midland (Mich.) Post 165 was struggling for hits, Randolph County (N.C.) Post 45 took advantage of timely hitting to take a 2-0 lead into the bottom of the fourth inning in Game 3 Thursday.

But with two outs in the bottom of the fourth, Midland scored twice. The Michigan squad scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the fifth and tacked on four more in the sixth to win 7-2. Randolph County, the designated away team in Game 3, didn't get a hit until Braxton Davis singled with one out in the top of the third. But Blake Marsh followed with a single, and after Davis was thrown out at second, Tristan Marsh walked and Dawson Painter doubled to drive in Blake Marsh to make it 1-0. Randolph County added a run in the top of the fourth when Spencer Lanier's double drove in Trevor Marsh.

Meanwhile, Midland had mustered just one hit at that point, a single by Adam Randall in the bottom of the second. But after Midland's first two batters in the fourth struck out and grounded out, Seth Gower reached on an error, Brandon Smith drew a walk and Randall doubled to drive in Gower. Jeff Allen and Logan LaCourse each were hit by pitches, with LaCourse's free base pushing Smith across home plate to tie the game 2-2.

Randolph County's Tristan Marsh doubled and Painter drew a walk in the top of the fifth, but Midland pitcher Garrett Willis forced a groundout and a flyout to end the threat. In the bottom of the fifth, leadoff batter Nick Dardas was hit by a pitch, and after a sacrifice bunt by Tyler David, Martin Money singled to score Dardas for a 3-2 lead. Midland added to their lead in the sixth, as LaCourse scored on a wild pitch, Nelson scored on a single by David, and Dardas and David scored on a single by Smith. Willis allowed five hits and struck out six in 6 1 / 3 innings to earn the victory. Randolph County's Bryce Marsh tied a record with four hit batters in the loss.

ALWS Game 4: Nevada cruises in opening day nightcap

The last team to make it to Shelby, N.C., for the American Legion World Series didn't let their late arrival slow them down. Las Vegas Post 40 didn't get to Shelby until Wednesday because of flight cancellations. In the final game of opening day of the 92nd ALWS, they routed Meridian (Idaho) Post 113, 10-0, on Thursday.

Winning pitcher Jimmy Gamboa got the run going when his two-out double in the bottom of the second inning scored leadoff batter Chaison Miklich. Gamboa scored when the next batter, Colby Smith, reached on an error. That made it 2-0 after two. Las Vegas built the advantage to 6-0 after three when Parker Schmidt scored on a single by Miklich, Zach Czerniawski doubled to score Edarian Williams, and Smith doubled to drive in Miklich and Czerniawski.

Las Vegas added four more in the bottom of the fourth, capped by Gamboa singling in Miklich, to make it 10-0. And when Meridian failed to score in the top of the fifth, the mercy rule kicked in to wrap the game. Gamboa held Meridian to two hits and struck out nine while going 2-for-3 at the plate. Las Vegas tallied 12 hits as a team, with Miklich going 3-for-3 and Schmidt 2-for-3.

"We barreled up a bunch of balls tonight, so it was nice to see us come out," Las Vegas coach Paul Buboltz said. "Travel was a little tough for us getting out here and I didn't know how that would affect us, but we had a nice (batting practice) session coming out. It was good to get a win, but it's just one game. Every game is the biggest game of our season here on out," Buboltz added.

