

World Series Journal



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Game 5: Big first inning propels Nebraska

While his team was still undefeated in pool play at The American Legion World Series, Nebraska coach Pat Mooney's thoughts were with his opponents Friday night. Michigan pitching coach Deron Gross' father had passed away the night before Nebraska's 6-3 win. "We said a nice prayer for him after the game. All our hearts are with the Midland families right now," Mooney said. "He's a good friend," Michigan coach Steve Cronkright said, noting how close the coaching staff is. "We're praying with him. ... It always still hurts (when you lose a parent)."

Nebraska and Michigan had to wait Friday to get on the field as heavy rain delayed the start of the second day of action at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. The scheduled 4 p.m. start was moved to 7 p.m. But once Nebraska took the field, they wasted little time in jumping out on their opponents and becoming the fifth straight designated away team to win at Shelby. "Six (runs) in a seven-inning game, that was huge, monstrous, and you could see it was, because that's all we got," Mooney said, referring to the decision to shorten games to seven innings due to weather concerns. Nebraska sent 10 hitters to the plate in a six-run, three-hit first inning. But they mustered just one more hit over the final six innings.

"I think he finally settled down and he was getting ahead of everybody," Mooney said of Michigan starter Garrett Willis, who threw six innings. "He was throwing all his pitches in for strikes after that and he was just kind of dominating the game." The four-hit performance by Nebraska (56-5 overall, 2-0 in the ALWS) came a day after they came one hit short of tying the most hits in a single game in ALWS history.

Saturday, August 12

Military Appreciation Day sponsored by USAA

Game 7 NJ vs. AR 11:30

Game 8 ID vs. NC 3:30

Game 9 MA vs. NE 7:30

Stars:

Lewiston (ID) 1-0

Randolph Co (NC) 1-0

Hopewell (NJ) 0-1

Bryant (AR) 0-1

Stripes:

Omaha (NE) 2-0

Shrewsbury (MA) 1-1

Henderson (NV) 1-1

Midland (MI) 0-2

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Game 6: Nevada walks off for first ALWS win

All it takes is one. In a pitchers' duel between Nevada's Shane Spencer and Massachusetts' Kevin Hummer, it was Spencer picking up the 1-0 win on Friday night at The American Legion World Series. A day after giving up 21 hits to Nebraska, Nevada (55-8, 1-1 in ALWS pool play) took advantage of being the designated home team to notch this year's first walkoff win.

Ryne Nelson doubled to lead off the bottom of the seventh. J.T. Wold was intentionally walked and Jesse Fonteboa singled to load the bases with no outs. Garrett Giles' sacrifice fly then scored Nelson. It was a hard-luck loss for Massachusetts (35-7, 1-1) and Hummer, who allowed just four hits over seven innings. ALWS officials shortened games to seven innings starting with Friday's matchups because of rain. There weren't many opportunities for either team to score thanks to the pitchers. Spencer allowed just one hit, the first one-hitter in ALWS play since Tucson's Chris Moon in 2005 vs. Bryant, Ark. David Hudleson's bunt down the third-base line in the third inning was the game's first hit, but John Howard Bobo grounded into a double play to end the inning for Nevada.

Massachusetts' Thomas Cue smacked a single for his team's first and only hit to lead off the top of the sixth. But Spencer induced three straight outs. With two outs in the bottom of the sixth, Bobo singled up the middle. Bobo advanced to second on a balk by Kevin Hummer, but another groundout ended the inning. A win by Massachusetts would have secured semifinal spots for them and Nebraska, which improved to 2-0 in pool play earlier Friday with a 6-3 win over Michigan. Massachusetts faces Nebraska in Game 9 Saturday night. Nevada faces Michigan in Game 10 on Sunday with a chance to advance to Monday's semifinals.

NJ's Allyson Coryell makes history as ALWS's first female coach

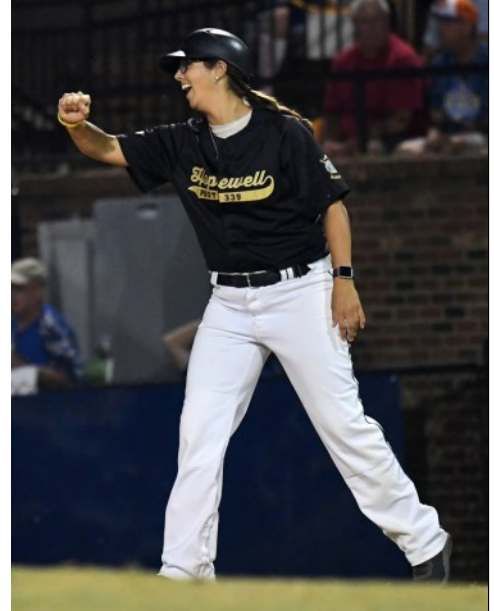
Allyson Coryell admitted Thursday that she was feeling the pressure. "I know everyone is watching. But I'm really confident in myself, I know what I'm doing, I know I'm good at what I do," she said. What Coryell does is coach first base for Hopewell (N.J.) Post 339, making her the first female coach ever at the American Legion World Series. She welcomes the pressure.

"I'm also really excited. I think once I get the first game out of the way, everyone will be reassured that I can be here with the guys," Allyson said. "I think it's important for (girls) to know that there's no reason they can't be doing what I'm doing in 10 years, that there's no reason they can't do whatever they want to just because they're female. If they're qualified, they're qualified."

Baseball is a family thing for the Coryells. Allyson's dad, Mike, is the New Jersey team's head coach and she watched her brother play growing up. "I've been around baseball about 22 of the 25 years I've been alive," Allyson said. She played baseball with boys until she was 12 before switching to softball, where she began coaching when she was 17. A couple years later, she began coaching Babe Ruth Baseball with her dad, and three years ago, when her dad began coaching the Legion team and asked her if she wanted to coach, she said "Absolutely."

"Baseball's my favorite thing, I would say, in the entire world. There's nothing I like more than watching a baseball game, even if I don't know any person playing. I just think there's so much complexity within the game that it's a lot of fun to watch and nitpick everything that players do wrong, coaches do wrong. It's one of the things that makes me the most happy, and coaching with my dad makes it even better. We are extremely close and have a great relationship because of it," Allyson said.

She doesn't have to go back too far to recall her favorite baseball memory. "When we won the (Legion Mid-Atlantic) regional, (my dad and I) just looked at each other and hugged," Allyson said. "Three years ago, this team was nothing, and now here we are going to the World Series."



2017 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, Inc.

During The American Legion World Series in Shelby, the annual All-Academic Team was announced. The team is sponsored by Diamond Sports, a leading manufacturer in baseball merchandise and the official baseball used during Legion national tournaments. In order for a player to be eligible, he or she must be nominated by his or her post-affiliated team manager or head coach to the department baseball committee. Each department's baseball committee has reviewed submitted applications and selected an overall state winner to receive a \$500 scholarship.

The state winners have been reviewed by the World Series Scholarship Committee comprised of Legionnaires and academic representatives. Each player on the team receives a \$2,500 scholarship. An overall top academic player is named the team captain and awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.



The winners are:

Team Captain: Trace Henry - Tupelo, Miss. - Post 43
Luke Johnson - East Hampton, Conn. - Post 156
Antonio Balducci - Mechanicsville, Va. - Post 175
Jackson Graham - Wilmington, N.C. - Post 10
Anthony Ebensperger - Plum City, Wisc. - Post 365

Chase Konert - Alma, Neb. - Post 118
Jarett Hamby, Rock Springs, Wyo. - Post 24
Marcus Alexander - Warick, R.I. - Post 43
Austin Dill - Cape Girardeau, Mo. - Post 63