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- Archives
- News
- Obituaries
- Judicial
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Opinion
- Living
- Business
- Agriculture
- Weather
- Make Kids Count
- Announcements
- Classifieds
- Special Sections
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- Blogs
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- Canine Corner
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Story last updated at 5:52 a.m. Monday, August 27, 2007

**From start to finish: All-Stars wrap up season as winners**

A Texas Hat Tip

**JEFF WALKER**

**AVALANCHE-JOURNAL**

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - The Lubbock Western All-Stars ended the season the way they began it - with a victory.

What started with a shutout in the area tournament, ended with the team's 15th shutout this season, a 1-0 victory over Curaçao in the consolation game of the Little League World Series.

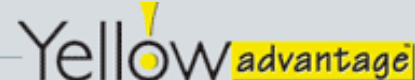
Many of the players and coaches said they were looking forward to getting back to Lubbock, which is preparing a warm reception for the first team from the South Plains to earn a trip to the Little League World Series.

Nearly all the Western All-Stars will trade in their bats and gloves for helmets and shoulder pads.

"We're ready to go back to Lubbock and all of our family and friends and people of Lubbock and just say thank you," Western first baseman Tyler Thorne said.

"We've all got to start football season now, except for Zane (Ancell). He got lucky

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and broke his leg so he doesn't have to play football. Hopefully, we'll be ready. We might be a little out of shape, but not too much."

Pin trading has become as much a tradition as any at the Little League World Series, and Western outfielder Max Randolph is returning to Lubbock with plenty of hardware.

Players receive pins upon arriving at Williamsport, and many of them spend the week trading with other players, fans and vendors. Randolph said he has around 200 pins he's bringing home.

When asked what he liked most about the experience, Randolph said, "Just meeting new players and playing new teams and just having fun playing baseball."

The players quickly bonded with each other. Thorne and Venezuela's Reinaldo Amaro even made up a special handshake where they slap hands back and forth rapidly before embracing.

The Western players quickly developed a close relationship with the Venezuelan team. Western coach Gerald Arredondo said his son Bryndan, after spending time with the international players, expressed a desire to learn to speak Spanish.

Western manager Ed Thorne said on Saturday that the players have given him the best summer of his life.

Ace pitcher Garrett Williams, who received plenty of attention from fans, coaches and media for his performance



**Jodi Miller / Staff**

The Lubbock Western All-Stars tip their hats to the fans one last time after beating Curacao in the Little League World Series consolation game Sunday afternoon.



**Jodi Miller / Staff**

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on the mound, also said he'll cherish the memories of Williamsport.

"I'm going to take a lot of memories, this whole trip, this whole summer has been one of the best summers of my life," Williams said. "Everyone's going to remember the summer of '07 when we went to the Little League World Series."

Gerald Arredondo fought back his emotions when he reflected on the week - and entire summer - that had many of the players' fathers spending time with the team as coaches for a few months. The journey allowed them to travel around Texas and, eventually, to Pennsylvania.

"Just being here with my son," Arredondo said, fighting back tears. "Now, I get to be the dad. That time spent together is priceless."

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*This story first appeared on [LubbockOnline.com](http://LubbockOnline.com) at 5:20 p.m. Sunday.*

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Lubbock Western All-Star Taylor Bridges claps after reaching home on a passed ball to score the teams only run of the game Sunday afternoon in the consolation game at the Little League World Series.

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