

Play ball! Little League World Series Stars Two Girls

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff August 18, 2014



Philadelphia's Mo'ne Davis delivers in the first inning against Nashville's Robert Hassell III during a baseball game in United States pool play at the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014. Philadelphia won 4-0 with Davis pitching a two-hitter. Photo: AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — More than 60 years ago, Kathryn "Tubby" Johnston Massar cut off her braids, tucked her hair under her cap and disguised herself to become the first girl to play Little League baseball. She's delighted today to see two girls in the Little League World Series.

"It's truly amazing. I'm very happy to see girls playing," said Massar, 78, of Yuba City, California.

On Friday, Philadelphia's Mo'ne Davis and Canada's Emma March became the 17th and 18th girls to ever play in the tournament. It is only the third time in the event's 68-year history that two girls are playing in the same series.

Davis pitched as Philadelphia beat Nashville 4-0. She had eight strikeouts, didn't walk a batter and gave up just two hits.

Davis, who got louder cheers than any other player during introductions, said she noticed plenty of girls younger than her in the audience. Fans applauded even louder when Davis struck out the final batter. The out made her the first girl to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history.

"It's very unreal. I never thought at the age of 13, I would be a role model," Davis said. "Hopefully, more girls play Little League."

MAIN IDEA 1:

Almost A Home Run

March did not fare as well in her game.

She played first base and batted fourth at "cleanup," just ahead of her brother Evan. March went hitless Friday in Canada's 4-3 loss to Mexico.

But March created some excitement when she stepped into the batter's box for the Vancouver, British Columbia, team.

She drove a long fly ball to right field in the fourth inning that the crowd thought might be a home run. However, the hit sailed foul into the stands. Then in the fifth inning, March stepped to the plate with the bases loaded and Canada down by two runs. With a count of two balls and two strikes, she struck out as she watched a pitch go by that went over the outside corner of home plate.

As March trotted back to the dugout, the crowd let the umpire know it didn't agree with the call, as boos rained down from the stands.

MAIN IDEA 2:

No More "No Girls Allowed"

Massar, chosen to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at one of Monday's games, believes more girls will start to play in Little League and beyond. She thinks eventually there will be a woman in Major League Baseball.

Massar played in 1950, leading to a rule barring girls from playing until it was reversed in 1974. She describes herself as a "trailblazer" and said she celebrates her role in history.

"It's something I'm proud of," she said. "Why not play baseball with the boys?"

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett was on hand to watch Davis' dominating performance.

"There's a lot of pressure on her, and she seems to be handling it very, very well for her age," Corbett said during the Philadelphia game, adding that the 13-year-old has a nice pitching delivery. "It goes to show you how sports have moved the last 30 or 40 years, and we wouldn't have thought of this 40 or 50 years ago. And today, she's out there pitching, doing a great job and I'm sitting there thinking, 'Is she going to go into professional baseball?' I don't know."

He added, "She's played as well as any kid out there right now."

MAIN IDEA 3:

Other Tournament Results

Also Friday in U.S. play, Pearland, Texas, beat Cumberland, Rhode Island, 6-4. In the other International game, Japan beat Venezuela 1-0.

The tournament opened with four games Thursday. In the U.S. group, Chicago beat Lynnwood, Washington, 12-2, and Las Vegas topped Rapid City, South Dakota, 12-2. In the International games, Seoul, South Korea, beat Brno, Czech Republic, 10-3, and Humacao, Puerto Rico, trounced Perth, Australia, 16-3.

MAIN IDEA 4:

QUIZ

As you respond to the multiple choice questions, please **highlight appropriate text evidence** to prove that each answer choice is accurate.

1. Read the sentence from the article. "The self-described "trailblazer" said she celebrated her role in history."What is the meaning of the word "trailblazer"?"
 - A. creator
 - B. groundbreaker
 - C. vagabond
 - D. wanderer
2. What can be inferred from the sentence "It goes to show you how sports have moved the last 30 or 40 years and we wouldn't have thought of this 40 or 50 years ago."
 - A. Only boys could play baseball 50 years ago.
 - B. Girls and boys played baseball together 50 years ago.
 - C. Baseball changed significantly within the last 50 years.
 - D. Boys and girls each had their own baseball teams 50 years ago.
3. Read the sentence from the article: "However, the hit sailed foul into the stands."What figure of speech is used in the above sentence?
 - A. hyperbole
 - B. idiom
 - C. metaphor
 - D. personification
4. Select the sentence that contains a word that means "to increase the degree or amount of."
 - A. The applause heightened significantly when Davis struck out the final batter, becoming the first girl to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history.
 - B. Davis, who received a noticeably louder reception than any other player during introductions, said she noticed plenty of girls younger than her in the audience.
 - C. "There's a lot of pressure on her and she seems to be handling it very, very well for her age."
 - D. She drove a long fly ball to right field in the fourth inning that the crowd thought might be a home run.

Please construct an objective summary to string together each main idea. Be sure to include appropriate transitions. Conclude with insight by stating a central idea/ theme.