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It's GAME ON at the 2023 DICK Sporting Goods PONY League World Series!

WASHINGTON, PA – World Series Tournaments, Inc. and PONY Baseball and Softball today announced eight of the ten berths in the 2023 DICK'S Sporting Goods PONY League World Series have been clinched. PONY's 71st World Championship is set for August 11-16 at Lew Hays PONY Field in Washington Park.

The field will be comprised of the Caribbean, European, Mexico and Asia-Pacific champions, four US Zone winners, the Host Area champion and the host team.

European Zone: Paderborn, Germany

Paderborn won the Zone tournament in late April to earn its fourth trip to Washington, PA. Germany went 6-0 in the European Zone tournament, defeating teams from Israel, Netherlands, Lithuania, London, Spain, and Italy. In the Zone, Germany outscored its opponents 78-4. This will be the fourth time a team from Germany, has made the trip to Washington for the World Series. Germany's last appearance was in 2016, going 1-2 in the tournament.

Mexico Zone: Monterrey, Mexico

Monterrey won the Zone tournament in late May for the second consecutive year. The Mexico Zone tournament featured 16 teams, in which Monterrey went 7-0 and outscored its opponents 54-7. This year will mark Monterrey's fourth overall berth. The 2022 Monterrey squad finished as the World Series runner-up, and Monterrey's only World Series title came in 1972. Monterrey's 1959 squad was the first-ever international team to play in the PONY World Series, going 2-2 with wins over Springfield, IL, and Levittown, PR, losing twice to eventual champion Long Beach, CA.

Asia-Pacific Zone: Edogawa, Japan

Edogawa won the Zone tournament in early July, capturing the country's seventh World Series berth. This year will mark the first time Japan will be represented since 2013. Japan won its only World Series title that year when Okinawa went 4-1 to capture the championship.

Caribbean Zone: Managua, Nicaragua

Managua won the Zone championship in late June, claiming Nicaragua's first-ever berth in the World Series. Managua seeks to claim the Caribbean Zone's eighth World Series title, all of which have been won by teams from Puerto Rico.

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US Zone Qualifying Process

The four United States Zone brackets - North, South, East and West - worked their way through regional qualifying tournaments concluding with Zone championships.

North Zone: Bay County, Michigan

Winning the Zone championship last weekend, Bay County captured an 11th consecutive PONY World Series berth, the 14th in 17 years. Bay County's first-ever appearance in the World Series was in 1983 in Kennewick, WA, the last year the tournament was held somewhere other than Washington PA. The Michigan squad reached the finals in 2019, losing to Chinese Taipei, 9-1.

The North Zone's last PONY championship was in 1993, won by St. Joseph's / Joliet, IL, beating Bayamon, PR, 4-2. Hamtramck (1961) owns Michigan's only PONY title.

South Zone: Palmview, Texas

Palmview survived PONY's largest Zone tournament, going unbeaten through the 16-team field in five days, topping NASA (Houston), 6-5, in Sunday's final. Palmview will make its second straight World Series appearance after compiling a 1-2 record in 2022.

Palmview's next-door neighbor, Brownsville, TX, won the 2021 PONY title. It marked the Lone Star State's fifth championship, the first since Laredo won the 2011 title.

Host Area: Youngstown, OH

Youngstown emerged from a 12-team Host-Area tournament played last weekend in Mt. Lebanon, PA. Youngstown went 4-0 in the tournament, outscoring its opponents 43-2 and defeating Johnstown, PA, in the championship by a score of 11-1

The Host Area tournament is open to all PONY-registered programs within approximately 90 miles of Washington, exclusive of programs in the Founders League (Washington County).

Six different programs won Host Area titles in the first seven years at the turn of the century. Youngstown claimed four straight World Series berths from 2017-2021. Johnstown dominated before that, winning nine of the previous 12 Host Area titles. Mon-Yough (2009, 2013) and Cranberry (2011) have the other three championships over that stretch.

Host: Washington County, PA

The Host team includes players from the Founders League, formed following the 2015 World Series as an effort to re-ignite youth baseball throughout Washington County. The league started with Washington Youth Baseball and Canon-Mac Youth Baseball, two of the original PONY programs. Chartiers-Houston Youth Baseball came on board two years ago with Fort Cherry entering play last year. Burgettstown joined the Founders league last year. Efforts continue to include all PONY-registered programs in Washington County.

The Washington County team for this year's World Series includes players from Washington, Canon-McMillan, Fort Cherry, Burgettstown, and Trinity School Districts.

Monongahela (1954) and Washington (1955) own Pennsylvania's two PONY titles.

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Two remaining berths:

East Zone: hosted by High Point, NC

Six teams will begin play on Tuesday, Aug. 1, with the double-elimination tournament set to conclude on Saturday. The field includes teams from Manchester, NH, New York, Cleveland, OH, High Point, NC, Chatham County, NC, and Southampton-Sussex, VA.

West Zone: hosted by West Covina, CA

The final spot in this year's World Series will go to the winner of the West Zone eight-team double elimination bracket, set to wrap up Sunday, August 6.

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