Press-Herald

Rio Hondo Joins Metro Conference

It Rained at Williamsport



World Series Won By Texas

By HENRY BURKE Press-Herald Sports Editor

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The Little League World Champion is Westbury Little League of Houston, Texas. Certainly the team is a most deserving champion.

Westbury climaxed an all-victorious 13-game schedule with an 8-2 win over West New York, New Jersey, last Saturday at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

ABC-TV was there with its color video equipment and has put together next Saturday's "Wide World of Sports" for a local 5 p.m. showing.

Some people object that the game is not presented live', but network television must cope with a rather exacting time schedule. Considering the one-hour and 33-minute interruption of this year's championship game because of a cloud burst in the third inning, the delayed video-tape procedure is a blessing. It also gives those of us who were on hand for the series an opportunity to watch the re-run.

About 20,000 spectators showed up for the championship game, but due to the flash flood that hit Williamsport, less than 12,000 were on hand at the finish.

New Jersey got its only two runs in the first inning. Pitcher Mario Rulz, a Cuban refugee, meanwhile, sailed through Houston's tough batting order for two innings without a sign of threat.

In the top of the third a dark cloud appeared from the northeast. It was not only bad news for game officials, but as Houston got runners on first and second base with one away, the tide turned completely against West New York.

A visitor may have been confused when hundreds of spectators in the scenic outfield terrace suddenly abandoned choice spots and hurried for cover several minutes before the actual precipitation.

Mark Harding, the fourth man up in the inning for Houston, had a 1-0 count when Umpire Frank Ruzzo heard the crack of thunder and lightning and chased both teams to their dugouts.

Home plate and the pitcher's mound were covered by small canvass, but it did little to ward off the downpour that followed.

The sight of people running every which way to find shelter for infants and the elderly was quite a sidellight

swing a bat.

They defeated three of the four toughest teams in the tournament, starting out with a 6-0 shutout of Monterrey, Mexico, and following with a 4-0 conquest of secramento from the West.

In contrast to prior World Series which characterized strong pitching, batting prevailed. Each foreign team was representative. There was at least one home run in each of the 12 championship and consolation games. Never were there so many foul balls.

Mickey McConnell, an expert on the subject, says Houston is the best hitting team he ever saw at Williamsport.

port.

The Little League World Series gets a good "Press" in the East and Midwest. The broadcasting of all games is a tradition in Eastern cities and Chicago.

Mel Allen, the famed voice of the New York Yankees for many years, was used by KRAK in Sacramento to report the play-by-play.

Sacramento Airport Little Ltague took third place by blanking Osaka, Japan. 6-0. Sacramente also beat Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 3-1, before losing to Houston, 4-0.

Sacramento Airport Little League took third place with a 9-4 win over Rosewell, New Mexico, and a 2-1 win over Oceanview of Huntington Beach at San Lorenzo It was Oceanview which knocked off the last local surviving team, Southwood of Torrance, 1-0, in eight

surviving team, Southwood of Forfaire, 10, in eight innings.

The number of games each team played in the tournament were: West New York 15, Houston 13, Sacramento 13, Kankakee, Illinois 13, Rhein-Main, Germany 11, Windsor, Ontario 11, Monterey, Mexico 9, and Asaka, Japan 7.

Win or lose, each of the eight teams who qualified for the trip to Williamsport will cherish this experience.

The seven runners up all felt the best team won.



Football training got under way at the five high schools in Torrance Monday.

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For a week teams will undergo a complete conditioning program without use of football gear. Teams are not allowed to fouch a football for the first few days and some of the coaches hesitate to sound off about their prospects until after initial contact has taken place.

Fred Peterson at West High, however, is pleased with the physical appearance of his Warriors. Ten members of the varsity top the 200-pound bracket.

Allan Coward, one of the best guards in the Southland, weighed in at 215 pounds Monday. His weight a year ago was 207.

"Allan is just the weight

Dave Boyd, a junior at end, is up to 205 from 185.

Others in the 200-plus weight are tackles Steve



DAVE BOYD 205-Pound Junio

Renz, 215; Mike Menth, 210; and Steve Sirridge, 220. John Black, backer upper at center a year ago, will move into the left guard spot and is a healthy 180. He is the quickest lineman on the



JOHN BLACK Quickest Lineman



Three areas Peterson is concerned about are backup men, pass defense and offensive quarterback, but he is quick to point out Gary Swanson mixes well with the squad and may do all right at the helm.

Tony Wachtler, No. 2 quar-

STEVE SIRRIDGE Biggest Man at 220

the backfield. He is 170 pounds now.

Another sophomore who is impressive is Rich Pierce, a 170-pound guard.

Nine West High prospects missed the first days of practice because of vacations. They include Landon Calkins, a guard, and Tom Fischer, an end,

With all divisions inclusive, 160 boys are out for football at West High and they have one thing in common — all are shaved to the scalp! It's part of the school discipline.

