



EAST BOYNTON BEACH 9, SAUGUS, MASS. 2 ■ SPECIAL COVERAGE, PAGES 10-12B



Michael Broad Richie DeJesus Cody Emerson Jordan Irene Patrick Mullen R.J. Neal Matt Overton Ricky Sabatino Benny Townend Devon Travis Andrew Weaver

East Boynton Beach is U.S. champ

POWER SURGE

Four home runs overwhelm Saugus, Mass., and send East Boynton into the world championship game against Japan.

Travis quick with the star quality

Not to rush to judgment about Boynton's slugger, but this kid's going places.

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Can't believe I'm writing this, but then East Boynton is on the verge of a Little League world championship, so why not shoot the moon?

Devon Travis, leadoff batter of a team that never stops hitting, is bound to be a leading man in life, too.



Dave George

Surely you see it, too, watching this pocket-sized spectacle of a baseball season at home and on television. The kid's golden, from the Dave Justice good looks to the Barry Bonds cool to the Rickey Henderson rowdiness on the base paths.

To be 12 years old and so sure of yourself is a gift that generally keeps on giving through the teen years and beyond.

Take this one snapshot, though, of East Boynton vs. Japan in tonight's heavyweight championship of the featherweight world, and one thing is unmistakable. That yellow-shirted blur running right through the middle of the picture is none other than devilish Devon, who gave his team the only spark it needed in Saturday night's 9-2 U.S. championship win over Saugus, Mass., by driving the second pitch of the game into left field for a base hit.

There was so much more to come, including home runs by Richie DeJesus, Michael Broad, R. J. Neal, and Travis himself, plus a complete game pitching performance by Cody Emerson, but it was

See GEORGE, 12B ►



By GREG A. BEDARD
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Their park on Woolbright Road is so unspectacular that there have been long-standing plans to build a public cemetery over it.

It has two Little League diamonds, but only one is regulation size. The turf isn't exactly like Pro Player Stadium's.

But it's home to them, the place where they played for teams such as Benny's Ice House and Bud's Chicken.

All of that seems like a lifetime ago. In some ways, it is.

The East Boynton Beach All-Stars became the best Little League team in the United States on Saturday night by beating Saugus, Mass., 9-2 before 36,500 fans at the Little League World Series.

East Boynton will try to become the best team in the world at 6:30 p.m. today when it takes on Japan in the world championship game.

"It's hard to remember that, that we came this far," second baseman Devon Travis said. "When we started the season, we were like, 'We don't care if we lose in Williamsport, we just want to make it there.' But now it feels a whole bunch better to be a winner."

East Boynton won the national championship because its bats came alive in a big way. The top five spots in the order combined to go 8-for-14 with four home runs, knocking in and scoring all nine runs.

"They don't amaze me because

See EAST BOYNTON, 12B ►

World championship

East Boynton vs. Tokyo, Japan

When: 6:30 p.m. TV: ABC

PalmBeachPost.com

Click on sports for live updates

Consolation game

Saugus, Mass. vs. Netherlands Antilles

When: 1 p.m. TV: ESPN

VICTORY LAP: Richie DeJesus, who had a home run and four RBI, leads his jubilant teammates around Lamade Stadium.

ALLEN EYESTONE
Staff Photographer

When: Monday-Sept. 7 **U.S. Open** Monday's TV: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., USA

Roddick believes his time has come

You can't hurry biology. Or destiny. Andy Roddick never has been one to try. He has managed to go very far in a short time by not rushing things.



Karen Crouse

When he stayed small while his peers grew tall, Roddick didn't hoard protein powder as if it were hummus to allow him to grow faster.

He didn't pull on his body to try to stretch it like taffy. The Boca Raton resident bided his time. He took his nickname of "Little Roddick" in stride. He trusted the day

would come when he'd be big.

Sure enough, during his 16th year, Roddick would grow 9 inches. He developed deltoids and a rocket serve and his game took off.

Roddick's renown grew so fast, people expected him any day to overtake Pete

Sampras and Andre Agassi. In 2001 he was 18 years old and appearing in the main draw of the U.S. Open for the second time and people were calling him a big factor in the tournament. A year later he was widely hailed as a title contender.

Both times Roddick advanced as far as the quarterfinals, losing to the eventual champion (Lleyton Hewitt and then Sampras). Some people worried openly about his development. They wondered if it might be stunted.

See CROUSE, 8B ►

NL wild-card race

	W	L	GB
Philadelphia	70	58	—
Florida	69	60	1½
Los Angeles*	67	60	2½
Arizona	68	61	2½
St. Louis	67	62	3½
Chicago	66	62	4
Montreal*	66	63	4½

* played late Saturday

Marlins at Giants

When: 4:05 p.m. TV: FSN

■ Willis falling behind, 7B

Bobby Bonds dies

The father of Barry Bonds is recalled as being a player who was ahead of his time, 7B

GIANTS 3, MARLINS 2

Marlins fall again to mourning Giants

By JOE CAPOZZI
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — About two hours after Bobby Bonds died Saturday morning, Giants manager Felipe Alou gathered his players at Pacific Bell Park to remind them what they already figured about their biggest star, slugger Barry Bonds.

"I told them that Barry might be away for a while longer and that we have to

go ahead and find other ways to win," Alou said.

The Giants got some help from the struggling Florida Marlins, whose anemic offense came up short again in a 3-2 defeat before a sellout crowd of 42,189.

A glance at the National League wild-card standings would suggest the Marlins are a better team than the one that has opened a criti-

See MARLINS, 7B ►

