

SPORTS



Members of the Jackie Robinson West Little League baseball team in Chicago celebrate the team's U.S. Little League Championship last summer.

Lawyer Helps Team Stripped of Title

(AP)—A day after Little League International stripped Chicago's Jackie Robinson West of its national championship, team officials announced they've hired a high-profile attorney to conduct an investigation they hope will end with the return of their title.

The sport's governing body announced last Wednesday that team officials had violated regulations by including players who didn't qualify because they lived outside the team's boundaries, then scrambled to get adjacent leagues

to go along with the scheme. But attorney Victor Henderson said he will try to determine not only whether the team broke any rules but whether — as supporters in Chicago have suggested — Little League International unfairly singled them out.

"I want to make sure that whatever rules and regulations are being applied to Jackie Robinson West are being applied to any other team," Henderson said during a news conference, flanked by members of the family that runs the league on the city's South Side and the team's

manager, who has been suspended.

The announcement that the title the team won at last summer's Little League World Series triggered an emotional response from parents and supporters in Chicago and around the country, some of whom suggested that the race of the all-black team may have been a factor in the stunning decision to remove the title.

On Wednesday, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel called the organization to ask that the title be given back to the team because the boys did nothing wrong.

Roosevelt Gym's Last Hurrah Friday

The community is invited cheer Roosevelt High School Friday, Feb. 20 as it plays its last four basketball games in its nearly 100-year-old gymnasium. The storied gym will be demolished soon thereafter as the north Portland school undergoes a dramatic \$92 million remodel over the next two years.

RHS Athletic Director Stuart Smith has asked the community to "fill the gym" and help Roosevelt look back at the past and look forward to the future.

The games will begin at 3:30 p.m. The celebration will continue well into the evening with a student, alumni and community dance after the boys' varsity game.

March Madness in Portland

Oregon Sports Authority once again joins the University of Oregon, Rose Quarter and Travel Portland to host the preliminary rounds of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship in Portland on March 19 and 21.

While we don't yet know which teams are coming to Portland, we do know from past experience that fans can expect to see dramatic finishes, legendary coaches and a frenzied collegiate atmosphere unlike any other, Oregon Sports Authority officials said.

Single session tickets went on sale at the Moda Center last week. Tickets can be bought and sold directly with other fans through the official NCAA Ticket Exchange on primesport.com. The NCAA Ticket Exchange allows fans to buy and sell official tickets online in an NCAA approved, safe and guaranteed environment.

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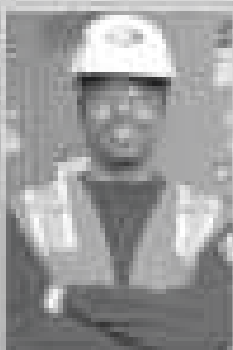
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