

Sports

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Louisiana’s magic run ends with state’s first LLWS title

■ 8-0 win over Curacao gives the U.S. its first back-to-back champions since 2009

By Tyler King
Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — For the second straight day, a line drive found the glove of Louisiana shortstop Stan Wiltz and a dogpile ensued in the infield at Lamade Stadium. Stan was fine with all that.

Nothing seemed to go wrong for the boys from River Ridge over the last week at the Little League World Series, and Stan’s catch ended the game and the tournament Sunday, with Louisiana shutting out Curacao 8-0 to win the state’s first LLWS title.

“It felt like my glove was a magnet,” said Stan, who got his team into the championship on Saturday with a game-ending unassisted double play against Hawaii.

The team from suburban New Orleans fought its way back through the losers’ bracket after dropping its opening game of the tournament to Hawaii. Louisiana

“This tournament started with approximately 7,700 teams, and here we are with the best out of everybody.”

—Louisiana manager **Scott Frazier**

won six games in eight days, becoming the first team to win the LLWS after dropping its first game since the tournament expanded in 2001.

“People from New Orleans and Louisiana in general are very resilient type of people,” manager Scott Frazier said. “And this team exemplifies the resiliency that we have from the area that we come from.”

Frazier said he felt the momentum shift for his team when it won its first game of the tournament against Oregon. That win set the club up for victories over some of the tournament’s best teams — New Jersey, Virginia, Hawaii and Curacao.

“Once we won that game

(against Oregon), it was just a matter of getting on a roll,” Frazier said.

Pitcher Egan Prather tossed a two-hit shutout Sunday, throwing 88 pitches over six innings. His performance in the championship caps off a solid tournament on the mound in which he picked up two victories and struck out 19 batters in 14 1/3 innings.

“It makes my job really easy to mix it up pitches when they can execute the pitches,” Frazier said. “Everything worked for him today.”

The offensive breakthrough came in the fifth inning for Louisiana as the club representing the Southwest region scored four runs on four hits to seize control. Reece Roussel smacked an RBI double that was followed by Marshall Louque’s RBI single, his third hit of the day.

“We were going to get those guys, it was just a matter of time,” Frazier said. “We’ve been so locked in this whole time.”

Curacao, representing the Caribbean region, threatened in the top of the third.

The team from Willemstad loaded the bases with one out. But a sharp ground ball to Marshall at third base resulted in a force-out at the plate and a few pitches later, Jurdrick Profar, the youngest brother of Oakland A’s infielder Jurickson Profar, was thrown out trying to score on a wild pitch.

“Once I got that out, I knew I was settled in,” Egan said.

With Louisiana’s victory, U.S. teams have won back-to-back Little League crowns for the first time since 2009, when a team from Chula Vista, California, capped off a streak of five straight championships for the United States.

“I can’t process it,” Frazier said. “This tournament started with approximately 7,700 teams, and here we are with the best out of everybody. It’s just surreal.”

FLORIDA

Continued from Page 6A

Miami converted a fourth-and-34 play with 1:30 remaining when Marco Wilson was flagged for pass interference. The Hurricanes moved the chains again thanks to

another pass interference call against Trey Dean. One official threw one more flag in the end zone with 20 seconds to play, but it was picked up following a discussion.

The Hurricanes failed to score, and they needed a touchdown after Bubba Baxa

missed a 27-yard field goal attempt wide right early in the fourth.

“We don’t have the maturity level to see a victory through,” first-year Canes coach Manny Diaz said. “That’s a maturing process we have to go through.”

Franks took a knee to run out the clock, celebrated with teammates and then ran toward the tunnel and punted the ball into the stands. At least this one didn’t count as a turnover — or result in a penalty.

The teams combined for five turnovers — Florida had four — and 225 yards in penalties.

Miami got to break out its revised Turnover Chain after each of Florida’s gaffes and was able to debut its Touchdown Rings following both trips to the end zone.

“We wanted to spice it up,” Diaz said. “The 305 (chain) came out really well. We talked about offense wanting something else, wanting something different. Hopefully we’ll see a lot more of them.”

Miami’s Jarren Williams completed 19 of 29 passes for 214 yards and a touchdown in his first career start. Dee-Jay Dallas ran for 95 yards, including a 50-yard scamper that put the Canes up 20-17 early in the fourth.

RETIRE

Continued from Page 7A

Team owner Jim Irsay called it a “no-brainer” because his aging team needed to rebuild.

“I never felt that he (Luck) owed me to play until he’s 40 or until he’s 36 or whatever,” Irsay said. “I mean, this is an unusual situation.”

Luck delivered quickly on his promise.

He led the Colts to the playoffs in each of his first three seasons and to the AFC championship game after the 2014 season — without missing a start. But a subpar offensive line struggled to keep Luck upright and in 2015, the shoulder and kidney injuries forced him to miss nine games. The Colts finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

In 2016, after Luck opted not to have shoulder surgery, then coach Chuck Pagano gave Luck extra days off to try and keep him healthy. Luck made 15 starts that season though the Colts again finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

While Luck had surgery for a partially torn labrum in January 2017, he never felt right and after throwing for two weeks in the fall was shut down for the rest of the season.

Last year, Luck looked like his old self. He established career highs in attempts (639), completions (430) and completion rate (67.3 percent), throwing for 4,593 yards with 39 touchdowns and 15 interceptions as he led the Colts back to the playoffs, earned his fourth Pro Bowl selection and was the runaway winner of the league’s Comeback Player of the Year award.

Then came the mysterious calf-ankle injury that again never felt quite right.

So after marrying his longtime girlfriend this spring and now awaiting the birth of his first child, Luck called it quits.

“I am going to retire,” he said. “This is not an easy decision. It’s the hardest decision of my life. But it is the right decision for me.”

Players around the league were just as stunned as the Colts.

“It was mind-blowing,” Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson said. “It’s something that of course caught everyone off guard. He can control his own future. He’s a great player. He’s a great quarterback. One of the top five quarterbacks in the league. He’s doing it for the right reasons for himself”

Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the reigning MVP, said: “Knowing Andrew he’s a great football player, of course, but he’s also a great human being — I know that he’s going to make the right decision for himself and his family.”

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, who was in the same draft class as Luck, said he found out from offensive tackle Duane Brown before the Seahawks’ game against the Los Angeles Chargers and was surprised, like everyone else.

“We all expect we’re going to play this game forever. The reality is for most players, it’s not very long,” Wilson said. “I’ve always loved being around him, and the times we’ve gotten to be around each other. I know this has to be really hard on him. Just praying for him to stay encouraged.”

Reich had said he hoped to have an answer about Luck’s availability for the Sept. 8 season opener after the third preseason game. This might not have been the one he wanted — and certainly didn’t expect.

“Teams win, don’t write the end of the story yet,” Colts general manager Chris Ballard said. “I’m telling you the story’s not over yet.”

Luck finishes his seven-year career with 2,000 completions, 3,290 attempts, 23,671 yards, 171 touchdowns and 83 interceptions and those stinging boos as he left the field.

“I’d be lying if I said I didn’t hear the reaction,” he said. “It hurt, I’ll be honest with you, it hurt.”



TREASURE VALLEY STEEL, INC.

Quality Steel Roofing & Siding Products Since 1982

Manufacturing Zee & Cee Purlins In-House Custom Cut Exact Lengths



- 24 Colors
- Custom Trim
- 2 1/2" Corrugated
- Delivery Available
- Full Soffitt Line
- 3 ft. Gulf Coast Panel
- 3 ft. PBR Panel
- 3 ft. Mesa Panel
- 3 ft. Tuff Rib Panel
- Standing Seam
- 2 ft. Delta Rib
- 3 ft. Pro Panel

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

40 Year Full Paint Warranty • WeatherX Paint System



ONTARIO
541-889-4214
1460 N. Verde Dr.
Toll Free **1-866-887-8335**

BOISE
208-336-7505
6619 S. Supply Way
Toll Free **1-888-717-8335**

WWW.TREASUREVALLEYSTEEL.COM



MCILROY

Continued from Page 7A

“There was plenty of excitement today,” Schauffele said. “The heart rate was up for most of the round. I thought the course was set up really fair, and if you were in the fairway, it was gettable. And if you weren’t, it was exactly what you thought it was. It was just a lot of fun.”

Justin Thomas, the No. 1 seed in the FedEx Cup who started with a two-shot lead, lost his way Sunday morning in the conclusion of the third round when he took triple bogey on the 16th hole with a 9-iron from the fairway. He fell four behind and never caught up. Thomas finished with two birdies for a 68 and tied for third with Koepka, who ended another big year with a pedestrian closing round of 72.

They each earned \$3.5 million.

As usual with Koepka, there were no complaints, no excuses.

“He just played better,” said Koepka, who hit only five fairways in the last round. “He was impressive to watch. He put it in the

fairway a lot, hit a lot of greens. And even his short game, the up-and-down he made on 11, that was pretty tasty right there. And then the way he finished it off was very impressive. Hats off to him.”

What looked to be a shoot-out turned into a runaway for McIlroy.

The marathon final day — 31 holes for McIlroy and contenders — began with big promise for a wild chase for the \$15 million prize. Four players took turns atop the leaderboard in the first 35 minutes of golf Sunday morning, which included Schauffele’s first hole-in-one of his career with a 5-iron on the 240-yard ninth hole.

The third round had been suspended Saturday after lightning struck a tree and injured six spectators huddled nearby. Police said they were treated and released from medical attention later that night.

Koepka birdied the 18th for a one-shot lead over McIlroy and Schauffele. It was tight for the first hour of the final round, and then it turned quickly.

Koepka was still up by one shot when he yanked his

tee shot into the trees left of No. 7 and never found it. He made double bogey, and it became a three-shot swing when McIlroy made a 25-foot birdie putt.

The decisive moment was consecutive two-shot swings — McIlroy birdied Nos. 12 and 13, Koepka missed short par putts on both.

Koepka ended the PGA Tour season with three victories, another major at the PGA Championship, a World Golf Championship and the undisputed No. 1 world ranking. He is the favorite to win PGA Tour player of the year again, though McIlroy at least gave players something to contemplate when they vote over the next few weeks.

The FedEx Cup counts as an official win, giving him three for the year. And he had 14 finishes in the top 10 out of 19 starts, the highest percentage of his career. Whether it’s enough — McIlroy doesn’t think so — was of little consequence.

McIlroy ticked off every goal he set at East Lake in a performance that \$15 million can’t measure.

“I’m going to enjoy this one tonight,” he said.