

# Back on top: Japan beats Lufkin, Texas, 12-2 for LLWS title

By Matt Martell and Jack Dougherty  
The Associated Press

**S**OUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The crack of the bat, the gasp from the crowd, a fist pump on the trip around the bases and then a happy hop to waiting teammates at home plate.

Japan went through the routine three times in the fourth inning of the Little League World Series (LLWS) championship game as Daisuke Hashimoto, Keitaro Miyahara, and Natsuki Yajima homered, turning a tight game with Lufkin, Texas, into a 12-2 rout.

Tsubasa Tomii buckled down after allowing two first-inning home runs, finishing with nine strikeouts in a game that was stopped in the bottom of the fifth inning after Japan went ahead by 10 on Yajima's single to right field to score Seiya Arai.

"We were thrilled after we won the Japanese region before we came here," Miyahara said through an interpreter. "But now getting to this level and becoming the Little League World Series champions this year, it can't get any better than this."

The title marks the 11th time a team from Japan has won the Little League World Series, five of which have come in the last eight years. Tokyo Kitasuna, the club representing Japan this season, has won three of the last six.



**TOKYO TOPS TEXAS.** Japan's Keitaro Miyahara (#10) is greeted by teammates after hitting a solo home run off Lufkin, Texas pitcher Chip Buchanan in the fourth inning of the Little League World Series Championship baseball game in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

"Just like I told them, I'll take full credit for that," Maddux said. "We didn't make some adjustments that we should have. You can't hang your head because (Japan) beat you. They're a great baseball team, but we are, too."

But it was Japan's day. After Arai slid across the plate with the 12th run, his teammates leaped out of the dugout to hug him near home plate, jumping up and down in celebration.

Miyahara's home run in the fourth came after he fouled a ball off his left leg and was evaluated by the trainer before stepping back into the batter's box.

"I was in pain," Miyahara said. "But going through all that tough practice in Tokyo, I learned how to focus and forget about that pain and just focus on hitting the ball."

Japan manager Junnji Hidaka also led the Tokyo team that won the Little League World Series in 2015. When asked to compare the two clubs, he gave the nod to this year's group of players.

"This team is a little more of a tight-knit group," Hidaka said through an interpreter. "A lot more happier team."

Lufkin had a six-run comeback victory over Greenville, North Carolina, in the U.S. championship game to reach the final. And early on, it looked as though the team's momentum would carry through the championship.

Japan had allowed only one run in the tournament heading into the final game, but that changed when Chandler Spencer crushed the first pitch over the left-center field fence.

Hunter Ditsworth cracked an opposite-

field homer down the right-field line to put Lufkin up 2-0 with one out in the first. But Miyahara laced a two-run triple with two outs in the second to tie it at 2-2, and Ryusei Fujiwara fisted a single to right to bring Miyahara home.

Lufkin manager Bud Maddux, who has coached youth baseball for 41 years and won 10 total championships, came just short of the most coveted title in Little League. He blamed himself for the loss.

## Civilian drills grow lax among South Koreans used to threats

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Kim Dae Young, a military expert at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said the drills are failing to equip people with even basic information, such as how and where to evacuate and how to secure drinking water and other supplies during times of crisis.

Noh Sang-yeol also was among those who did not know the shelter closest to his home. The 65-year-old said there's a need to strengthen training programs because the current drills are doing "nothing at all" to prepare people.

"I read from the newspapers that people in Japan, Guam, or Taiwan are preparing well and even stacking up on food in case of emergency, and that made me think whether I should begin buying water or battery supplies," he said.

An official from Seoul's Ministry of Interior and Safety said that although South Korea is considering whether its civil-defense programs should be strengthened, it would be impossible to bring quick changes.

"These drills are intended for the entire nation and changes can't be made overnight by one or two people sitting on a desk," said the official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. "There should be close and comprehensive studies on people's willingness to participate and their awareness of national security issues before we could specifically determine what kind of training would be possible."

The air-raid drill followed North Korea's two intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July and its threat to lob missiles toward Guam in August. The government had planned to send military planes over major cities emitting colored smoke to simulate an attack, but the flights were cancelled in Seoul and many other areas due to heavy rain and low clouds, according to the



interior ministry.

Government workers during the drill distributed leaflets instructing people what to do during an attack, which included recommendations to prepare gas masks, raincoats, and soap in case of nuclear, biological, or chemical attacks. It also reminded people to evacuate to the higher floors of buildings, instead of subway stations or parking garages, in case of chemical attacks.

The civil-defense drill coincided with a large-scale joint military exercise between Washington and Seoul that ran through August 31. The annual exercise has predictably drawn a verbal outburst from Pyongyang, which claims the war games are an invasion rehearsal.

The lax civilian drills bother experts, who say stronger training is crucial, especially for the 25 million living in Seoul and its neighboring metropolitan areas. They would only have minutes to respond to incoming North Korean missiles or artillery shells.

The practices of the 1970s and '80s won't return, but experts say the drills should at least focus on giving people practical skills in rescue and evacuation.

Even the South's emergency infrastructure is lacking,

**NO REAL PREPARATION.** A woman passes by Dae Han Moon Gate during a civil-defense drill at City Hall in Seoul, South Korea. Kim Dae Young, a military expert at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said the drills are failing to equip people with even basic information, such as how and where to evacuate and how to secure drinking water and other supplies during a crisis. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

said Kim, the military expert. Aside from a few facilities in small border islands that have occasionally seen military skirmishes between the Koreas, South Korea's civilian shelters are not equipped to handle attacks involving nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, Kim said.

"The government should start building bunkers that could withstand nuclear attacks in Seoul and the neighboring metropolitan area," Kim said. "Civil defense needs to become a more important part of the national defense strategy as North Korean threats grow."

The ministry official, however, said upgrading thousands of shelters to protect against such attacks would be financially implausible.

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			7	5			4
			3			9	
7	1	8		2			
	8					6	
5		1			9		7
	7					2	
			4		8	5	6
	4			2			
6			1	3			

Difficulty level: Medium

#75439

**Instructions:** Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #54837 (Easy)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

5	4	9	1	6	8	3	7	2
1	2	7	9	3	5	6	4	8
6	3	8	7	2	4	5	1	9
7	8	1	6	4	3	9	2	5
4	9	5	8	7	2	1	6	3
2	6	3	5	1	9	4	8	7
8	7	6	3	9	1	2	5	4
9	1	4	2	5	7	8	3	6
3	5	2	4	8	6	7	9	1

### Survivor of Nagasaki bomb dies at age 88

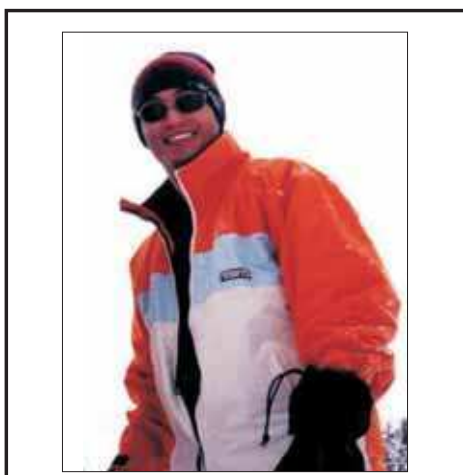
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undershirt off to show his scars, to describe his painful past, and tell the world the tragedy should never be repeated.

He said he wanted no one else to have to suffer the pain of nuclear weapons.

His health declined in the past few years from age and illnesses.

In his video message in July, Taniguchi welcomed the U.N. nuclear weapons prohibition treaty, but expressed concerns about the declining population of the survivors, known in Japan as *hibakusha*. "I wonder what the world will be like when it loses the last atomic bombing survivor."



Arnold A. Lim

December 24, 1972 - September 11, 2001

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