

SPORTS



ROUSEY A FAST WORKER

Strikeforce champion Ronda Rousey, right, uses her patented armbar to earn a submission from Sarah Kaufman in less than a minute. B3

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Coach
Riley Dent #22
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LONG BEACH 9, CHINESE TAIPEI 7

Long Beach wins Pony League World Series



Long Beach's stars are all smiles shortly after winning the Pony League World Series. Contributed

YOUTH BASEBALL:
Behind Steer's homers and Semonsen's relief, Whaley Park all-stars turn tables on Taipei.

By Dave Werstine Staff Writer

A dejected Scot Chamberlain sat in the stands at the PONY League World Series last year, hoping to get a shot at redemption after Long Beach was beaten in the semifinals by Chinese Taipei.

Not only did Chamberlain and the 14-year-old all-stars

from Whaley Park reach the World Series this season, they made the absolute most of it.

Behind a pair of big homers from Spencer Steer and a fine relief performance from Will Semonsen, Long Beach defeated Chinese Taipei 9-7 in the PLWS title game Saturday in Washington, Pa.

"It was a personal thing that I — we — had unfinished business," said Chamberlain, who managed the team this summer. "We lost to Chinese Taipei 1-0 to get to the championship game last year. ... To beat

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PONY

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them 9-7 is so huge. To beat Chinese Taipei and to take the title home to Long Beach is so huge."

The PLWS championship is the second for Long Beach, which won the title in 2008, finished second in 2007 and third in 2011.

"Our league only has six teams to pull from at Whaley Park," Chamberlain said of the amount of success that the Long Beach Pony League has had despite such small numbers. "It's unbelievable. Phenomenal."

There was nothing small about the Long Beach all-stars this season. They went undefeated (5-0) in the PLWS and finished the summer tournament season with an overall record of 18-2.

"Power hitting, pitching, defense — we were just stacked all the way around," said Chamberlain, who was assisted by Kirk Salaya and Rick Dent. "It was quite a long run and a good finish."

Long Beach took a 5-0 lead in the top of the second, with Semonsen driving in a pair runs and Steer slugging a three-run homer to right field.

"I was just happy to give the team some momentum," Steer said. "When we get momentum, we get more and more runs. When we score runs, they come in bunches. I was glad to start something for the team."

Chinese Taipei rallied for five runs of its own in the bottom half of the inning, however, tying the score and chasing Long Beach ace Jack Williford.

In the third, Bryan Smith socked a two-run homer to give Long Beach back the lead, 7-5.

And Long Beach added to its lead in the fourth as Steer blasted his second homer of the day and third of the World Series, the two-run shot making it 9-5.

Despite a nice cushion, Chamberlain was far from satisfied.

"Hands down, we were nothing but confident we could win the whole thing," he said. "But I wasn't going to be happy till we won it."

Semonsen, the team's No. 3 pitcher, showed nothing less than ace status in relief. After Chinese Taipei scored five times in the second, he came in and doused the uprising. And he continued to pitch well, holding the Chinese to single runs in the fourth and sixth to earn the victory.

Semonsen, who credited center fielder Max Cauble for a big diving catch that saved at least another run from scoring in the fourth, struck out the game's final batter as the Long Beach players, coaches and fans celebrated.

"I just wanted to stop them from scoring too many runs, because I knew they could score lots of runs," Semonsen said. "I wasn't very nervous."

Chamberlain couldn't say enough good things about Semonsen's gutsy effort.

"His nickname is Bulldog," Chamberlain said. "You couldn't have asked to have a better guy on the mound. He's an absolute stud. He came in fist pumping. ... When he struck out that last guy to win the World Series, it was unbelievable."

The World Series heroes, who have been on the road since the West Zone finals started Aug. 2, will arrive back at Whaley Park late tonight (1 a.m. Monday), complete with the title and all the accolades that go with it.

Other members of the championship team include Riley Dent, Griffin Keller, Tanner Meckes, Brandon Wade, Austin Logan, Trevor Steer, Eddie Cervantes, Monty Petersen, Jacob Hughey and Jay Rohman.

"Our ultimate goal," Chamberlain said, "was to win the title and bring it back home to Long Beach where it belongs."

Mission accomplished.
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Coach
Riley Dent #22
MGR SCOT CHAMBERLAIN #3
Dunk
Williford #19
Tanner Meckes #24
Jacob #44
Hughey
Bryan Smith
Brandon Wade #10
Milly #87
Petersen
Riley Dent #11
Meckes
Tanner #24

#27
Spencer Steer
Coach
Riley Dent #22
MGR SCOT CHAMBERLAIN #3
Jay Rohman #34
Eddie Cervantes
CC Cervantes
#25 Dustin
Logan #14
Will Semonsen #2
Griffin Keller #12