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All-star baseball teams bring home hardware

By [Rodney Page](#), Times Staff Writer
In print: Sunday, July 27, 2008

Fossil Park's 11-year-old all-star team brought its best stuff to the national tournament in Alabama, outscoring opponents 73-24 to win the Dizzy Dean World Series.



[Special to the Times]

St. Petersburg could very well be the Dizzy Dean baseball capital of the country.

This past week, Fossil Park's 11-year-old all-star team and Northwest's 10-year-old all-star team each won World Series championships in Alabama.

Fossil Park's team limped into the Dizzy Dean World Series after losing three straight games of a best-of-five series against Pensacola in the state tournament two weeks ago (only two teams showed for the state tournament at Fossil Park, and the top two advance to the World Series).

But judging by the dog pile on the mound after a 13-8 win over Northport (Ala.) in the World Series championship, the team feels just fine.

Fossil Park won six straight games at the national tournament in Cullman, Ala., outscoring opponents 73-24 to win the World Series. Fossil Park defeated Northport twice in the winner's bracket to earn the title. The first game was a 12-2 win in four innings thanks to three hits and three RBIs from **Jesse Moeller** and a grand slam from **Mike Ferrandiz**. Ferrandiz was the tournament's MVP.

In the championship game, **Blake Duncan** was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a two-run homer. **Bret Maxwell**, **Drew Vimond** and **Jason Mugavero** had two hits each and pitcher **Colton Tison** earned the win with four innings pitched and five strikeouts.

"We did not take a lot of momentum into the tournament," assistant coach **Phil Mugavero** said. "We didn't think (Pensacola) could beat us three straight, but they did. But we played very well in Alabama."

Vimond, Duncan, Maxwell and **Jake Rek** were named to the all-tournament team. **Kennie Taylor**, **Chase Campbell**, **Zach Snell**, **Tim Murphy**, **Riley Barr** and **Brien Story** also

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contributed for Fossil Park.

Northwest also won five straight games to claim its championship, the first World Series title for a Northwest team. Northwest defeated Northport 10-0 in the final in Moody, Ala. It outscored opponents 75-10. Pitchers **Scott Files**, **Clayton Kwiatkowski** and **Garrett Sullivan** stood out during the tournament, combining for a no-hitter in a 17-0 win over Sandy Plains (Ga.). **Clayton Bonalewicz** hit his first home run in the series and **Tanner Lawrence** hit an inside-the-park home run.

"We'd been playing pretty well coming into the tournament and then our pitching just dominated," said manager **Steve Lawrence**.

Dizzy Dean baseball is played in 13 states, mostly in the South. Locally, there are Dizzy Dean leagues at Fossil Park, Northwest, Pinellas Park, Tierra Verde, Seminole and south St. Petersburg.

More baseball

The St. Pete Stingers, based out of Fossil Park, are competing in the Cooperstown Dreams Park American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament in Cooperstown, N.Y., this week.

The tournament is open to players 12 years and younger and has 96 teams competing weekly. The St. Pete Stingers are **Nick Bodner**, **Christopher Clark**, **Cornelius Copeland**, **Josh Hale**, **Christopher Howd**, **Jensen Keeler**, **Jeremy Kerr**, **Chris Labrie**, **Connor Labrie**, **Antonio Lovett**, **Brett Maxwell**, **John Miller**, **Timmy Murphy**, **Angelo Terrasi**, **Nick Van Nostrand** and **Drew Vimond**.

Tennis

Jerica Coley, 16, a rising junior at St. Petersburg Catholic and the St. Petersburg Tennis Center, won the inaugural First Serve National Student Athlete Competition. Coley was recognized for her achievements in tennis and the classroom and was extended an invitation from the national board of directors to be the first member of its National Honor Society.

"Jerica is a model for all young people and has set high standards for the future," said **Trey Buchholz**, founder and CEO of the First Serve not-for-profit organization.

"Her development on the tennis courts and in the classroom is outstanding," he said. "Her grades included 15 As and one B this year, and in five tennis tournaments, she won eight of 12 matches. It seems when Jerica puts her mind to it, she can do anything."

Buchholz announced a final award in recognition of Coley's achievement: a trip to New York during the U.S. Open Championships for her and her parents.

"This is just a real honor for me to receive this award and I feel very privileged to have gotten it," said Coley. "I was real excited when I knew I was in the lead and, once I got there, I wanted to stay in first."

First Serve combines the teaching of tennis skills with life skills and offers after-school tutoring opportunities. Its mission includes empowering youth with skills, values and experiences needed to be responsible, productive and successful in life.

- Several local players recently competed in the North Florida Designated tournament in Tallahassee, and two made the finals. **Agatha Ambrozy** of Pasadena went to the final in the girls 14 singles before losing to **Brittany Lindl** 6-4, 6-1. Palm Harbor's **Anastasia Nefedova** won the girls 12 singles with a 6-1, 6-1 win over **Ashley Bongart** in the final. There were 361 players registered in the tournament.

Golf

Matt Allwin and **Brittany Gaunt** repeated as champions of the Junior Club Championship at Clearwater Country Club. Allwin, who won the tournament for the fourth straight year, shot a 54-hole total of 218 to defeat **Matt Simpson** by 10 shots. Gaunt shot 281 to win for the third straight year.

Times correspondent Nancy Morgan contributed to this report. Rodney Page can be reached at (727) 893-8810 or page@sptimes.com.

[Last modified: Jul 31, 2008 06:54 PM]

Comments on this article

by Robert

Jul 31, 2008 6:54 PM

Mr Page - I believe you did NW Baseball a disservice. You talked about N.W.@ the end of the article like it was an afterthought. NW outscored their opponents 75 to 10, had 2 games w/no hitters, 2 shutouts, mercy ruled 3 of the 5 teams.We dominated.

by Robert

Jul 31, 2008 6:53 PM

Dear bystander, Thank you for the compliments, but all 13 boys played great. Great team effort.

by baseball rules Jul 31, 2008 3:46 PM

No disrespect to the NW boys. They are a great baseball team. I'm sorry if my comment was taken wrong. NW is a great ball club too. I just felt the FP 10's needed recognition too. 3rd place isn't bad either. Pinellas County represented. :)

by confused Jul 29, 2008 7:23 PM

Rodney, you did a great job on the article. The boys mentioned are the boys who won the games for us. Files is a one man reeking machine.

by a dad Jul 29, 2008 7:23 PM

Our 10's played their hearts out as did Fossil 10's. They are great competitors and we enjoy playing them. Their team and coaches have great sportsmanship. Let's not let a few parents ruin it. Way to go both Fossil and Northwest.

by bystander Jul 29, 2008 1:22 PM

The team name should be Northwest Files. If it wasn't for him NW wouldn't be where they are. Files is a great pitcher, he's the one who dominated. Without Files NW is nothing. "Baseball rules" I like Fossil Park and plan on switching fields this year

by NW Baseball Dad Jul 28, 2008 4:44 PM

Nice job Rodney. The 10's worked their butts off and you couldn't even get all of the kid's names in the article! By the way, the Fossil 10's LOST to NW in districts and beat NW in state's by ONE run. I wouldn't call it dominating "baseball rules"

by Kara Jul 26, 2008 2:45 PM

Way to Go 11 year olds from Fossil Park. And go get them next time Fossil Park 10's

by Gene Jul 26, 2008 2:44 PM

Wow, teams from right here. That is awesome. I also heard that the Fossil Park 10 and under got 3rd. That is great too. Especially after they dominated in State and took 1st place. Way to go to the 11 year olds!! Fossil Park produces some players!

by baseball rules Jul 26, 2008 2:44 PM

That is awesome and I also heard that the Fossil Park 10 and under boys team came in 3rd place. After dominating in State and taking 1st. . Every team from Fossil park should be proud. Way to go 11 year olds!!! And you'll get them next year 10'

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