



John Howard Bobo of Henderson, Nev., Post 40 carries the team's national championship banner after its 2-1 win over Omaha, Neb., Post 1 during the championship game of the 2017 American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C. Photo by Matt Roth/The American Legion

“The lessons I learned ... were invaluable, not just as a player but as a young man. Honor, integrity, as well as respect for the game, my teammates and myself, are among the most valuable of those things and I’ve tried to carry all of those attributes with me.”

Neil Walker, New York Yankees second/first baseman, who played Legion Baseball for Post 548 in Gibsonia, Pa.

Legion World Series viewership continues to rise

For the fifth consecutive year, ESPN viewership of the American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, N.C., grew. An estimated 605,000 viewers watched the 2017 World Series on ESPNU – an increase of nearly 300,000 from 2016.

This increase in viewership is from ESPNU airing games 7 through 15 – including the semifinals and championship game – live on ESPNU. The first six games of pool play were broadcast on ESPN’s webcasting service.

These ESPNU coverage additions come on the heels of strong viewership numbers and the continued growth in interest regarding American Legion Baseball and its championship event. The 2017 World Series attracted 119,000 people to Cleveland County’s Keeter Stadium for baseball action.

Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has been a part of the fabric of the nation. Seventy-seven Hall of Famers are Legion Baseball alumni. More than 65,000 athletes a year participate on post-sponsored teams in all 50 states. Many of today’s most notable players – including Max Scherzer, Jacob deGrom, Justin Verlander, Bryce Harper, Kris Bryant and Albert Pujols – came of age playing Legion ball in the summer. As a testament to the program’s influence, many of them credit Legion Baseball with showing them the right way to compete and present themselves both on and off the field.

2017 American Legion World Series Champions

- Henderson, Nev., Post 40

2017 George Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year

- Shane Spencer, Henderson, Nev., Post 40

Contact

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Connections

- www.legion.org/baseball
- On Facebook, search for “American Legion Baseball”