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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In re Application Serial No. 76/288,971  
Filed: July 23, 2001  
For Mark: BABY BOMBERS  
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| Name of Publication   | Date              | Starting Page No. |
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| Copley News Service   | August 20, 2001   |                   |
| The Record            | August 25, 2001   | s02               |
| Washington Times      | August 25, 2001   | C1                |
| Los Angeles Times     | August 27, 2001   | 7                 |
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| Sacramento Observer   | August 29, 2001   | 7                 |
| The Clarion-Leader    | August 31, 2001   | 1E                |
| San Jose Mercury News | September 1, 2001 | 1A                |
| Financial Times       | September 1, 2001 | 6                 |
| Newsday               | September 2, 2001 | C02               |
| Bay State Banner      | September 6, 2001 | 15                |

Dated: New York, New York  
August 27, 2004

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Copyright 2001 Copley News Service  
Copley News Service

August 20, 2001 Monday

**SECTION:** WASHINGTON WIRE; TO BE EQUAL**LENGTH:** 892 words**HEADLINE:** A tale of two  
all-American communities**BYLINE:** Hugh B. Price Copley News Service**BODY:**

At first glance, one might think that the Long Island, N.Y., community of Farmingville, and the South Bronx, the well-known neighborhood in New York City, would have little in common. It's the names - or rather, the starkly contrasting images evoked by the names.

On the one hand, Farmingville: a name resonant with many of the most cherished images and myths of old-fashioned Americana - of self-reliance, decency, piety and neighborliness. One can almost envision the white clapboard farmhouse set amidst a grove of elm trees and smell the hot-out-of-the-oven apple pie cooling on the windowsill.

On the other hand, the South Bronx: a name that conjures up - still, and unfairly - the worst ills of modern-day urban America. But there are two stories playing out now in these two communities, and both of them offer lessons as timeless as American history itself and as urgent as America's new day a-coming. What connects the two stories is that Latino Americans are at the center of both.

From the South Bronx, the story is one of those small miracles of achievement that, in this instance, bring to life some of the most cherished myths of that most American of games: baseball. For the Rolando Paulino team from the South Bronx, named to honor a local civic leader, has advanced to the final round of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Penn.

The team, comprised largely of boys from Dominican-American and Puerto Rican-American families, has done it in smashing fashion, too: With two consecutive no-hitters from a 12-year-old pitching phenomenon, backed by crisp fielding and power hitting.

All this from a team - they're called the "Baby Bombers" in reference to their big-league South Bronx neighbors in Yankee Stadium - which until early this month played its games in a rundown city park and didn't even have a full complement of equipment.

What they did have, however, was desire, determination, discipline, and skill. Where'd they get it from? For those of us here in the New York area who've seen the television interviews of their coaches and their parents, the answer is obvious. These adults put it into their children's minds that those qualities can overcome obstacles. They, and other residents of the community of the South Bronx, have inspired their youngsters to try to do their best because they understand that achievement matters.

The story in Farmingville, the community with the pretty name, is more complex. Something very ugly happened there last September. Two Mexican day laborers were lured by two white men, who said they had jobs for them to an abandoned factory. Once there, they attacked and nearly killed the immigrants with a shovel, a post-hole digger and a knife.

As is always the case in such incidents, it's the attackers, not their targets, who are close to being worthless. Both attackers, reportedly members of local white-supremacist gangs, were chronically unemployed. They preferred to spend their time drinking beer and talking about how Latino-American immigrants were stealing work that belonged



to them and other white Americans.

The attackers acted alone. But the background to the story is that that section of eastern Long Island has been in turmoil during the last year and a half over the significant influx of immigrant day laborers, primarily from Mexico, who've come looking for work.

Following the ageless pattern of immigrant labor, the men congregate at particular locations, to be hired by developers and others for day labor, usually at very low wages. The social consequences, it must be said, would be upsetting to any well-established residential area: a host of men, poorly paid and crowded into substandard housing.

But those anti-immigrant forces, both local and national, who decry their presence, ignore the crucial fact: The immigrants wouldn't be there if the local economy didn't have jobs that needed to be filled in some fashion.

This is the crux of the dilemma about immigration everywhere, in this country and abroad. The immigrants - yes, often, undocumented - fill a community's crucial economic need, even as they themselves are cheated out of their rightful wages and often subjected to verbal and physical abuse from those who take refuge in the claim of acting to "preserve a way of life."

The fact is, however, that for most Americans, that ethnically exclusive, middle-class "way of life" is no more than two generations old. One need only read the history of early-1900s America to find there's nothing new to most, if not all, of today's anti-immigration arguments: Only the names of the targets of the abuse are different.

Some residents of Farmingville and eastern Long Island recognize the true problem here. First, the rule of law must be upheld: Last week the first attacker to go on trial was convicted of assault and attempted murder and faces up to 50 years in prison. Secondly, some in the community, white and Latino, are trying to find solutions to the problems caused by the influx of workers drawn to the area by their - and its - employment needs.

Seeking that kind of accommodation is the best way to preserve a way of life we can all pledge allegiance to - the American way of life.

Hugh B. Price is president of the National Urban League.

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**LOAD-DATE:** August 21, 2001

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Copyright 2001 Bergen Record Corporation  
The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

August 25, 2001 Saturday All Editions

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. s02

**LENGTH:** 408 words

**HEADLINE:** A HOME AWAY FROM HOME;  
LEGION OF FANS GIVES BABYBOMBERS A BIG ADVANTAGE

**SOURCE:** Wire services

**BYLINE:** Scripps Howard News Service

**DATELINE:** WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.

**BODY:**

As the Bronx's Rolando Paulino Little League team took the field for its first Little League World Series game this week, a wave of Dominican Republic and Puerto Rican flags fluttered skyward in celebration.

"Must be the new state flag of New York," grumbled one onlooker.

The team's response: Get a life, pal.

"It feels good representing one country and right here we are representing three," said 12-year-old outfielder Carlos Garcia. "I feel proud that a lot of people are counting on us to win. " It is a lot of people — the Bronx, New York city, New York state, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, various corporate sponsors and the hometown fans in Williamsport who have adopted the team are all lining up behind a group of boys that has shown moxie beyond its years.

Today at 4 o'clock, the Bronx plays Apopka, Fla., in the national championship game (ABC). The winner advances to play the international champion Sunday.

"This is about 12 kids working hard, 12 kids from the Bronx," said manager Alberto Gonzalez, a waiter when he's not coaching New York City's favorite youth baseball team.

Some of the boys do not speak English, and Gonzalez rarely does when conversing with players.

Many are the children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves.

So long as they have a parent or guardian in the Bronx they may play for its Little League team.

Many parents cannot attend every game. While family members of more affluent teams are able to take a month off from their often white-collar jobs, the Bronx fans have had to bus back and forth between Williamsport and New York City so they won't lose their factory, store, or bodega jobs.

When friends and family members are in attendance, it provides the Bronx team with a clear home-away-from-home field advantage.

"When they were chanting my name, they were giving me energy," said pitcher Rolando Torres, who threw a four-hit shutout against Bainbridge Island, Wash., on Tuesday.

Much of the attention surrounding this team has centered on southpaw ace Danny Almonte, who threw back-to-back no-hitters last week, and became the first player to throw a perfect game in the World Series since 1957.

Almonte has not given up a run all season and would likely start on Sunday in the world championship game should



the Bronx advance.

Much like their Bronx Bomber brethren in Yankee Stadium, the Baby Bombers are built around pitching and defense.

And confidence.

**GRAPHIC: PHOTO - ASSOCIATED PRESS -** Bronx pitcher Danny Almonte, left, yawning as he and teammate Carlos Garcia go through a morning workout at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 27, 2001

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The Washington Times

August 25, 2001, Saturday, Final Edition

**SECTION:** PART C; SPORTS; Pg. C1

**LENGTH:** 786 words

**HEADLINE:** Rumors don't deter Baby Bronx Bombers

**BYLINE:** Joe Donatelli; SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

**DATELINE:** WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.

**BODY:**

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - As the Bronx's Rolando Paulino Little League team took the field for its first Little League World Series game this week, a wave of Dominican Republic and Puerto Rican flags fluttered skyward in celebration.

"Must be the new state flag of New York," grumbled one onlooker.

The team's response: Get a life, pal.

"It feels good representing one country, and right here we are representing three," said 12-year-old outfielder Carlos Garcia. "I feel proud that a lot of people are counting on us to win."

Those people come from the Bronx and elsewhere in New York City, New York State, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, various corporate sponsors and fans in Williamsport who have adopted the team. They're all lining up behind a group of boys who have shown moxie beyond their years.

And that is just the problem.

As the Bronx prepares to play Apopka, Fla., today on ABC in the U.S. championship game of the Little League World Series - the winner advances to play the international champion tomorrow - rumors about the team continue to grow.

It has been accused - by parents and coaches of the teams that have lost to the Bronx - of using players who are too old to compete in the tournament. Players cannot have turned 13 before Aug. 1.

"What can I do? You think I don't get tired of this?" exasperated manager Alberto Gonzalez said yesterday.

Pitcher Danny Almonte, the focus of many of the rumors, won't be on the mound today. He pitched his team to a 1-0 victory Thursday night against Oceanside, Calif., and Little League rules prohibit pitchers from throwing consecutive games.

The rumors started last year, when the Bronx team reached the regional championship game for the second year in a row and intensified this year with its continued success.

The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., reported yesterday that a Staten Island, N.Y., group of parents, coaches and residents spent more than \$10,000 on private investigators trying to prove that the Bronx team used ineligible players. That investigation, and another by Pequannock, N.J., Little League manager Doug Bencsko, turned up nothing.

Bencsko said the problem is that Little League makes accusers prove a player is breaking the rules instead of making the player prove his eligibility.

Lance Van Auken, spokesman for Little League Inc., said similar accusations were made when Toms River, N.J., made consecutive Little League World Series appearances in 1998 and '99, and when Long Beach, Calif., won titles

in '92 and '93.

Van Auken said Bronx team officials have provided documentation every time they have been asked and that the complaints amounted to little more than "accusations and innuendo."

"We have to deal with evidence, and every bit we've seen has satisfied our requirements. We've done everything but cut these kids in half and count the rings," Van Auken said.

The hope is that this controversy won't overshadow what has become the feel-good story of the tournament.

"This is about 12 kids working hard, 12 kids from the Bronx," said Gonzalez, a waiter by profession.

Some of the boys do not speak English, and Gonzalez rarely does when conversing with players. Many are the children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. So long as they have a parent or guardian in the Bronx, they may play for its Little League team.

Many parents cannot attend every game. While family members of more affluent teams are able to take a month off from their often white-collar jobs, the Bronx fans have had to bus back and forth between Williamsport and New York City so they won't lose their jobs.

Much of the attention surrounding this team has centered on southpaw ace Almonte, who threw back-to-back no-hitters last week, and became the first player to throw a perfect game in the World Series since 1957.

This week he was reunited with his father, Felipe, who had been on vacation in the Dominican Republic during the Bronx team's run to the World Series.

Danny's mother, who lives in the Dominican Republic, was reportedly denied a visa during the middle of the week because the birth certificate she needed to prove Danny is her son is in Williamsport, where Little League officials needed it to verify Danny's age.

Much like their Bronx Bombers brethren in Yankee Stadium, the Baby Bombers are built around pitching and defense.

And confidence.

"There's not a team as good as us here right now," said pitcher/outfielder Lully Vinas following a victory over Davenport, Iowa.

\* The Associated Press contributed to this report

\*\*\*\*\* BRONX, N.Y. VS. APOPKA, FLA.

U.S. championship game

Today, 4:30 p.m. Chs. 7, 2

Howard J. Lamade Stadium

South Williamsport, Pa.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2001





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Los Angeles Times

August 27, 2001 Monday  
Home Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Part 4; Sports Desk; Pg. 7

**LENGTH:** 937 words

**HEADLINE:** SOUND AND VISION;  
ABC Finally Realizes That This Is Kids' Stuff

**BYLINE:** Mike Penner

**BODY:**

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Little Leaguers from Florida this day.

They just wanted to play a little baseball, but the grownups wouldn't go away.

Among the life lessons that are supposed to be gained by this annual rite of running 11- and 12-year-old kids through the pressure cooker, one rings loud and true every August: There's nothing wrong with the Little League World Series that locking out the adults couldn't cure.

The kids just want to have some fun and enjoy a postgame Slurpee with their newfound friends from Japan.

The adults want to put this thing on national television, schedule the final for prime time on Sunday, push microphones in the kids' faces, wire their coaches for sound, put a speed gun on their pitches, put a camera on the umpire's mask, splash their statistics across the screen, chide a young pitcher for "losing his release point," compare a 12-year-old left fielder to Carlos Delgado, compare a 12-year-old pitcher to Randy Johnson and generally carry on as if they were watching the Yankees and the Mariners in Game 7 of the American League championship series.

And those were just the adults working for ABC and ESPN at South Williamsport, Pa., during the last week.

That doesn't include the grownups from Staten Island who spent more than \$10,000 on private investigators in an attempt to nail the Little League team from the Bronx for using illegal players.

Or the grownups from Oceanside who wanted nothing short of a volunteer umpire's head on a platter after a blown call in the U.S. semifinal game against the Bronx.

The buildup to Sunday's final between the U.S. champions from Apopka, Fla., and the International champions from Tokyo was a crash course in everything that is wrong with the Little League World Series. Out-of-control parents with too much money and free time on their hands. Overheated announcers who sounded as if they had been demoted to the minors and were auditioning their way back to the big time.

Saturday, as Apopka defeated the Bronx, 8-2, Brent Musburger actually announced that the kids from Apopka—sounds like apoplectic—had "shocked the world!"

This came after Musburger had shocked the world by treating the Bronx Little Leaguers like pint-sized versions of the '27 Yankees ("The Baby Bombers!"), half-jokingly touting Bronx pitcher Danny Almonte for Cooperstown, 30 or 40 years down the road.

Depending, of course, on how he first deals with that ever-pesky puberty.

During the same telecast, Harold Reynolds actually said that Bronx outfielder Carlos Garcia, a big kid who lists Sammy Sosa as his hero and "eating" as his hobby, "reminds me of Carlos Delgado. That's the kind of swing he has."



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During the same telecast, Orel Hershiser actually said that Almonte throws "in the high 70s—that's the equivalent of a 100 mph major league fastball" before noting that another young pitcher was "struggling with his release point" and that the pitching coach "has the ability to go with a very quick hook" if the youngster didn't get his act together with that release point pretty soon.

Meanwhile, in the bullpen, was there anybody capable of coming in to restore some perspective?

One more time, it was up to the kids to save the day.

President Bush showed up at Sunday's final. That was a very big deal to ABC, which dispatched a reporter to interview the "the first President who ever played Little League!" and ask an Apopka player how it felt to shake Bush's hand.

"Pretty cool," Zach Zwieg replied.

Juxtaposed against press-box amazement over the thought of playing in front of 44,000 spectators amid "adult-sized exposure" and "tension" and "pressure" was this factoid listed in a "Bio Box" for Tokyo pitcher Atsushi Mochizuki: "Best advice: Relax."

Eventually, Musburger and Co. figured it out. Maybe somebody made them watch tapes of Saturday's group hyperventilation.

Whatever the reason, ABC's announcers came back Sunday, treating the Little League final for what it was: a game of baseball played by children. Which was a very good thing, because if they hadn't taken a big step back, things could have gotten ugly.

In the bottom of the sixth and final inning, an Apopka player made two errors that ultimately helped turned a 1-0 Apopka lead into a 2-1 Tokyo victory. Reynolds and Hershiser realized this wasn't Bill Buckner and Mookie Wilson—no, just a nervous youngster slipping and sliding on an infield that has been hosed down between innings.

Tough plays on a wet track, Reynolds noted.

Tougher still with rubber cleats, since Little Leaguers aren't allowed to wear metal spikes, Hershiser added.

While Apopka Coach Bob Brewer could be heard grouching about the unfortunate turn of events during a mound meeting with his pitcher and catcher, Musburger duly observed that "no one feels worse" than the boy who committed the errors. "A painful, painful moment for the young man."

ABC did well to quickly train the camera elsewhere, instead of hovering like a one-eyed vulture drooling for the first sight of tears.

There would be enough of those when Tokyo's Nobuhisa Baba drove in the tying and winning runs with a one-out single off the glove of Apopka's shortstop. Down went the Apopka players onto the ground, one by one, faces buried in the grass or in their caps as they tried to shield their watery eyes from millions watching on television.

That's entertainment?

Children's faces tormented and twisted by despair, signing off a slick package of prime-time Sunday night programming?

The kids from Apopka might have dropped the ball with the championship on the line. But the adults are the ones who need to get a grip.

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 2001

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*The Sun Herald (Biloxi, MS) AUGUST 28, 2001 Tuesday THE SUN HERALD EDITION*

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**THE SUN HERALD**

Found on SunHerald.com

The Sun Herald (Biloxi, MS)

AUGUST 28, 2001 Tuesday THE SUN HERALD EDITION

**SECTION:** SPORTS: BUSINESS; Pg. D1

**LENGTH:** 672 words

**HEADLINE:** PRIORITIES MUST BE EXAMINED;  
WUNDERKIND MAY HAVE BEEN TOO OLD

**BYLINE:** Jim Mashek, The Sun Herald

**BODY:**

It all looked like such intriguing theater, the visitors from Tokyo winning in their last at-bat and the crestfallen kids from Apopka, Fla., dealing with sudden defeat before 44,800 folks on Sunday in South Williamsport, Pa., and millions more watching on television.

The Little League World Series is supposed to be a feel-good moment, when 11- and 12-year-old boys live out a dream. Reality, of course, is a more sobering prospect.

Reality intervened Monday.

Little League is investigating pitcher Danny Almonte, the left-handed ace of the Rolando Paulino team in the Bronx, after a Sports Illustrated writer produced an affidavit that indicates Almonte may be two years older than the rules allow.

Almonte became the media darling of the Little League World Series last week, the overpowering pitcher who seldom allowed the ball to be put in play. Then again, he hails from the media capital of the world, so it all seemed to make sense. Talking heads on the tube called the Rolando Paulino squad the "**Baby Bronx Bombers**," an odd comparison in that some of the New York **Yankees**, such as Roger Clemens, have children of a similar age.

Little League officials insisted the Bronx team provided all the necessary documentation, that Almonte was in fact no older than his teammates, but rumors persisted and whispers became accusations.

Sports Illustrated came up with a document that shows a Danny Almonte was born April 7, 1987, in the Dominican Republic town of Moca, according to Little League spokesman Lance Van Auken. A similar document, however, indicated Almonte was born on that date in 1989. Players born before Aug. 1, 1988, were ineligible for Little League play this year, according to league rules.

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We don't know which side of the argument is right, but that's beside the point.

The culture generated by events such as the Little League World Series is obviously warped, and in dire need of self-reflection.

Wire stories last week detailed how one coach from the Midwest lost his job because he was in Pennsylvania with his son's team. A couple years ago, a coach from Phenix City, Ala., quit his job to spend more time with his Little League team, and wore his decision like a badge of honor.

Worse yet, officials from Little League teams in Staten Island, N.Y., and Pequannock, N.J., spent a reported \$10,000 on private investigators to find proof that Bronx players, specifically Almonte, were older than rules allowed.

We all have heard Little League horror stories over the years, the lack of sportsmanship, the overzealous parents, etc. In 1992, a team from the Phillipines was stripped of the Little League World Series championship because of the use of over-age and ineligible players.

Sometimes, the invaluable lessons provided by Little League seem dwarfed by the elements that make it a big business, the media included.

It could be downright painful to watch ABC and ESPN reporters interview these boys, but we'd flip on the tube and see it for ourselves. We marveled at Almonte's ability to mow down one batter after another on strikes, and take a step back and try to remember these kids are three or four years away from high school.

The most telling words, however, belong to Tom Hart, the coach of the State College, Pa., team that was beaten by Almonte and the Rolando Paulino squad in the Mid-Atlantic regional championship. Almonte threw a no-hitter in that game.

"Anyone who could do that to our team, to the Florida team, to the California team what he did -- I wanted to believe in my heart that he was 12," Hart told The Associated Press. "Because I was witnessing greatness on the level of a Michael Jordan or a Tiger Woods. In my heart, I felt I was witnessing something illegal, and he robbed my kids of their dream."

There's something more important at stake here.

It's called robbing kids of their childhood.

This is a column of opinion by Jim Mashek, a sportswriter for The Sun Herald. You can reach him at 896-2333 or [jwmashek@sunherald.com](mailto:jwmashek@sunherald.com)

**LOAD-DATE:** November 29, 2001

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Copyright 2001 SOFTLINE INFORMATION, INC.  
Ethnic NewsWatch  
Sacramento Observer

August 29, 2001

**SECTION:** Vol. 38; No. 37; Pg. 7**SLI-ACC-NO:** 1101SODM 064 000056**LENGTH:** 855 words**HEADLINE:** Tales of Two All-American Communities: What Connects Them Is That Latino Americans Are At the Center of Both**BYLINE:** Price, Hugh B.**BODY:**

Tales Of Two All-American Communities: What Connects Them Is That Latino Americans Are At The Center Of Both

At first glance, one might think that the long Island, New York community of Farmingville, and the South Bronx, the well-known neighborhood in New York City, would have little in common.

It's the names — or rather, the starkly contrasting images evoked by the names.

On the other hand, the South Bronx: a name that conjures up — still, and unfairly — the worst ills of modern-day urban America.

But there are two timeless as American history itself and as urgent as America's new day a-coming. What connects the two stories is that Latino Americans are at the center of both.

From the South Bronx, the story in one of those small miracles of achievement that, in this instance, brings to life some of the most cherished myths of that most American of games: baseball.

For the Rolando Paulino team from the South Bronx, named to honor a local civic leader, has advanced to the final round of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The team, comprised largely of boys from Dominican-American and Puerto Rican-American families, has done it in smashing fashion too. With two consecutive no-hitters from a 12-year-old pitching phenomenon, backed by crisp fielding and power hitting.

All this from a team — they're called the "Baby Bombers" in reference to their big-league South Bronx neighbors in Yankee Stadium — which until early this month played its games in a rundown city park and didn't even have a full complement of equipment.

What they did have, however, was desire, determination, discipline and skill. Where'd they get it from? For those of us here in the New York area

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who've seen the television interviews of their coaches and their parents, the answer is obvious.

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The story in Farmingville, the community with the pretty name, is more complex.

Something very ugly happened there last September. Two Mexican day laborers were lured by two White men who said they had jobs for them to an abandoned factory. Once there, they attacked and nearly killed the immigrants with a shovel, a post-hole digger and a knife.

As is always the case in such incidents, it's the attackers, not their targets, who are close to being worthless. Both attackers, reportedly members of local White-supremacist gangs, were chronically unemployed.

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Following the ageless pattern of immigrant labor, the men congregate at particular locations, to be hired by developers and others for day labor, usually at very low wages. The social consequences, it must be said, would be upsetting to any well-established residential area: a host of men, poorly paid and crowded into substandard housing.

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This is the crux of the dilemma about immigration everywhere, in this country and abroad. The immigrants — yes, often, undocumented — fill a community's crucial economic need, even as they themselves are cheated out of their rightful wages and often subjected to verbal and physical abuse from those who take refuge in the claim of acting to "preserve a way of life."

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First, the rule of law must be upheld: Last week the first attacker to go on trial was convicted of assault and attempted murder and faces up to 50 years in prison.

Secondly, some in the community, White and Latino, are trying to find solutions to the problems caused by the influx of workers drawn to the area by

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their — and its — employment needs.

Seeking that kind of accommodation is the best way to preserve a way of life we can all pledge allegiance to — the American way of life.

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*The Clarion-Leader (Jackson, MS) August 31, 2001 Friday*

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The Clarion-Leader (Jackson, MS)

August 31, 2001 Friday

**SECTION:** SOUTHERN STYLE; Pg. 1E

**LENGTH:** 555 words

**HEADLINE:** Orley Hood

**BODY:**

Oh, Danny, please, pal, say it just ain't so

Our Danny really was 12 years old. I know. I grew up with him. He was unhittable, too.

During tryouts when we were 10, the coaches ordered wannabe pitchers to the practice mounds. About half of us got up. Then Grogan stood up. Ken was Our Danny, Our Mighty Casey. The rest of us sat down.

By the time he was 12, Our Danny had a 5 o'clock shadow and a searing, letter-high fastball.

The Danny, according to ESPN and ABC announcers last week, was humming the pea at better than 70 miles per hour from the Little League pitching distance of 46 feet. They said the required reaction time for The Danny's opponents translated into 101 miles an hour for a major leaguer humming from 60 feet, 6 inches. Batters had less than half a second to make up their minds.

Grogan pitched before Juggs guns, baseball's radar system. So how fast was he? All I know is I couldn't hit him, my teammates couldn't hit him and nobody else in either league in my hometown could hit him.

There were two strategies: 1) Don't swing and hope for a base on balls; 2) start swinging about the time his plant foot hit dirt.

He was magical

What a story! The Danny was like Tiger Woods in rubber cleats. For a week or so, he was bigger than the big leaguers. Announcers were saying things like, "Well, Curt Shilling's on his game, but remember, he's no Danny."

Danny Almonte grew up in the Dominican Republic, where the chief export is Major League shortstops, and moved to the Bronx last year. His team, nicknamed the **Baby Bronx Bombers** after the mighty **Yankees**, made it to the U.S. championship game last weekend before losing to Apopka, Fla. In three games, Danny threw a perfect game, a one-hitter, won all three and struck out 46 batters in 18 innings.

America swooned. It was like Babe Ruth in 1927, Jackie Robinson in 1947, Mickey Mantle in

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1955. Michael Jordan in the '90s. He was Elvis with a fastball, a baby-faced pre-puberty version of Randy Johnson. The Little Unit.

In baseball parlance, The Danny was throwing cheese, gas, heat.

The Danny's 15 minutes of fame stretched across two magical weekends. By Monday, the dark clouds of reality cast a shadow on the summer's best sports story.

Age-old story

Sports Illustrated found a document in the Dominican indicating that The Danny is 14 years old, not 12. Little League officials may fly down to check it out.

There is almost nothing people won't cheat at. The great gambler and golf hustler, Titanic Thompson, once sat on the front porch of a Hot Springs, Ark., hotel, eating walnuts. He got down to the last one. Betcha a grand I can throw this over the hotel across the street. Ha, the sucker replied. A walnut? Too light. Thompson pegged the walnut over the hotel. He'd filled it with lead.

Is The Danny Little League's version of a lead-filled walnut?

A few years ago our indoor soccer team played a tournament final against a team with four over-age players. Their parents were outraged when we complained. "Why didn't anybody say anything before?" they asked, their values and logic obscured by ambition.

We lost the game. What did they win? Nothing. Remember that old saying, "Cheaters never win and winners never cheat"? It's true.

Contact Senior Editor Orley Hood at (601) 961-7213 or e-mail [ohood@jackson.gannett.com](mailto:ohood@jackson.gannett.com).

**LOAD-DATE:** July 12, 2002

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San Jose Mercury News (California)

September 1, 2001 Saturday MORNING FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** FRONT; Pg. 1A

**LENGTH:** 799 words

**HEADLINE:** LITTLE LEAGUE HERO FOUND TO BE OVERAGE DOMINICAN OFFICIALS DECIDE PITCHER IS 14

**BYLINE:** MERCURY NEWS WIRE SERVICES

**DATELINE:** NEW YORK

**BODY:**

Baby Bomber Danny Almonte is 14, not 12.

Officials in the Dominican Republic finally settled that question Friday, making an umpire-like call that drew cheers and jeers from Santo Domingo to the South Bronx to Williamsport, Pa.

The ruling voids the team's storybook season, erasing an achievement that established the all-stars as the first Bronx team to reach the Little League World Series.

Officials in Williamsport also removed Bronx Little League founder Rolando Paulino from the league that bears his name and banned the boy's father, Felipe de Jesus Almonte, from participating in Little League.

"Clearly, adults have used Danny Almonte and his teammates in a most contemptible and despicable way," said Little League President Stephen Keener, who blamed Paulino and Almonte for false documents that indicated the boy was eligible to play. "Their actions are reprehensible.

"We are certainly sad and angry that we were deceived. In fact, millions of Little Leaguers around the world were deceived."

Felipe Almonte will be charged with filing a false statement and could face extradition, the Dominican Republic officials said.

They also said Almonte could be jailed for irregularities in a birth registration form he filed last year at a Dominican government office that showed Danny was born in April 1989, meaning he was 12 and eligible to play Little League this year.

That form contradicted one Almonte had filed in 1994, which showed Danny was born April 7, 1987, and a tattered, handwritten hospital record that showed Danny's mother had given birth to a 6-pound boy on that date.

No one seemed to blame the boy, a hard-throwing left-hander who pitched a perfect game in the series two weeks ago. But an avalanche of criticism fell on his father and his coach, and expressions of disappointment, anger and frustration came from President Bush, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and others who spoke of the team's pain and of lessons about honesty in sports.

Giuliani, who presented the team with keys to the city Tuesday, spoke of "an unfortunate and serious mistake by adults" to misrepresent Danny's age.

"That decision sadly hurts all the dedicated young boys who played their hearts out throughout the season and postseason play. The city has no intention of asking that the keys to the city be returned. It would only add to the hurt and pain that the innocent children of this team are already experiencing. Hopefully, all those involved will learn a

valuable lesson about the importance of honesty and integrity in sports."

Bush, a member of the Little League Hall of Excellence, said, "I'm disappointed that adults would fudge the boy's age. I wasn't disappointed in his fastball and his slider. The guy is awesome; he's a great pitcher. But I was sorely disappointed that people felt like they could send in a false age."

The controversy has cast a shadow over this group of inner-city children — named the Baby Bombers after their Bronx counterparts, the New York Yankees.

Behind Danny's pitching and a solid defense, the Bronx team went 4-1 at the Little League World Series and finished third.

Danny became a sensation after recording 16 strikeouts in the Mid-Atlantic Regional final against State College, Pa. His World Series perfect game added to his reputation.

But rumors about the youngster's age plagued the Bronx team throughout the tournament.

On Monday, while the city toasted the team, Little League announced it was investigating. Sports Illustrated revealed it had uncovered a document that showed Danny was born in 1987.

Friday, Dominican National Civil Registry Director Victor Romero, who conducted the government's investigation, said the handwritten hospital record had played a key part in his ruling.

"In this situation, nothing was left unchecked," he said.

Keener said third place would be awarded to the squad from Curacao, which lost to the Bronx team.

Records set by the Paulino team, including Danny's perfect game — the first in 44 years in the Little League World Series — would be expunged from the books.

In Moca, Danny's Dominican hometown, his mother, Sonia Margarita Rojas Breton, spent part of the day at a school ceremony honoring her son. An aunt, Jackelin Rojas, said the family sticks by its story that Danny is 12.

"He's still famous here," she added. "And he's going to remain famous — that's not about to change. Danny was born to be a star."

In the Bronx, a frazzled Paulino lashed out at Felipe de Jesus Almonte, blaming him for having presented the phony birth documents.

Paulino said Almonte "kept insisting" at a meeting Tuesday with Keener that Danny was born in 1989.

With a defeated shrug, Paulino said: "What Felipe did, it's done. Nothing can change that."

**GRAPHIC:** Photos (2);

**PHOTO:** VINCENT LAFORET — NEW YORK TIMES

Authorities believe Felipe Almonte, right, forged birth documents for his son, Danny.

**PHOTO:** GENE J. PUSKAR — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reactions from around the nation indicate that Danny Almonte is seen as a victim of manipulative adults.

**LOAD-DATE:** December 2, 2001

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Copyright 2001 The Financial Times Limited  
Financial Times (London, England)

September 1, 2001 Saturday  
London Edition 1

**SECTION:** THE AMERICAS & ASIA-PACIFIC ; Pg. 6

**LENGTH:** 191 words

**HEADLINE:** Baseball's Little League faces age old problem of cheating Americans have long since grown accustomed to cheating and corruption in big time professional sports. But yesterday they were considering the possibility that the taint had spread to Little League Baseball, a game for 12-year-olds that is one of the apple-pie icons of American innocence.

**BYLINE:** By JOSHUA CHAFFIN

**DATELINE:** NEW YORK

**BODY:**

It now appears that the star player on the team from the Bronx borough of New York City that reached the semi-finals of the Little League World Series earlier this month, was two years older than the legal age limit. Officials from the Dominican Republic said yesterday that Danny Almonte, a pitcher for the Bronx team, was 14, according to a birth certificate from the town of Moca where he was born.

Their finding contradicts documents that Mr Almonte's father presented to Little League officials stating that his son was 12, and raises the possibility that the Bronx team will have to surrender its third-place trophy.

It was not clear yesterday which documents would prevail. But the case has already been jarring for New York City, which developed a powerful summertime crush on the team.

The little leaguers had come to be known as the Baby Bombers, a play on the nickname of the world championship New York Yankees, who hail from the same neighbourhood.

The children were fitting mascots for the Bronx and its identity as a neighbourhood of scrappy underdogs.

But Mr Almonte's dominance - not to mention his height - raised suspicions.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 31, 2001

GPP 1818

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

Copyright 2001 Newsday, Inc.  
Newsday (New York)

September 2, 2001 Sunday ALL EDITIONS

**SECTION:** SPORTS, Pg. C02

**LENGTH:** 259 words

**HEADLINE:** TWO-MINUTE DRILL

**BYLINE:** John Jeansonne; Peter Muhr

**BODY:**

**HARDLY A BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

It's not the wide range of personalities, nationalities and idiosyncrasies that hurts the U.S. Open. On the contrary, the off-the-court extras give the event much of its appeal. Tennis is, after all, an individual sport, and tennis players revel in their independence.

But the growing authority of the players - over linespersons, chair umpires, tournament officials - continues to chip steadily away at an endeavor formerly considered so genteel that it was dismissed as aloof. Again in the Open's first week, as has become increasingly true, inappropriate language and questionable behavior shouldered aside match results as the big news, and neither agents nor coaches seem willing to rein in their charges.

As an excuse, players repeatedly point to the "heat of battle." But if real soldiers in real battles came apart so easily under fire as, say, rising Australian star Leyton Hewitt, you wouldn't want to be in a fox hole with them. Which is why the sport doesn't want to let go of the few gracious players aging on the tour, beginning with Patrick Rafter and Pete Sampras.

- John Jeansonne

**RANT OF THE WEEK**

"Let's see, lying, cheating, arrogance, an 'anything-to-win' mentality, a sense of entitlement, a pitcher who lies about his age - no need to call them the Baby Bombers; these kids are ready to play for the real Yankees!"

Peter Muhr, West Babylon

Send your rant by fax to 631-454-6892, or by e-mail to rant@newsday.com. Please include your name, hometown and telephone number.

**GRAPHIC:** Newsday Photo / John Keating - There's a lot of love between Andre Agassi and the crowd yesterday at the U.S. Open.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 2, 2001

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*Bay State Banner September 6, 2001*

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Bay State Banner

September 6, 2001

**SECTION:** Vol. 36; No. 49; Pg. 15

**SLI-ACC-NO:** 1001B2LS 077 000007

**LENGTH:** 593 words

**HEADLINE:** Baseball swindle has timely lesson

**BYLINE:** Hamilton, Robert

**BODY:**

Baseball swindle has timely lesson

By now most of you are aware of the tragic story surrounding Danny Almonte, the little league pitcher from the Dominican Republic who became the darling of New York because of his outstanding performance in the Little League World Series tournament.

Danny's story has become tragic because he was the centerpiece in an Adults' web of deception that caused Danny and his team to forfeit everything they accomplished throughout a sensational baseball season. We now know that Danny is a 14 year old teenager who illegally played in a league restricted to youngsters between ages 10-12.

Danny captured the imagination of sports fans by pitching the first "perfect" game in the Little League World series in 44 years. His Paulino All-Star teammates have experienced one of the most dramatic and emotional roller coaster rides imaginable.

The team was recognized in New York City fashion with a parade down the Grand Concourse. Such a celebration is typically reserved for New York teams that become World Champions. Can anyone say **Yankees?** Mayor Giuliani granted each player a key to the city.

The team had become such a phenomenon that they earned the nick name, the **Baby Bronx Bombers.** That's pretty impressive company.

Ultimately, and unfortunately this is not a story about the Little League kids and the innocence of youth sports. It is rather a sad tale of a parent willing to do whatever it takes to win. Whatever it takes to have his kid shine

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in the bright lights of American sports.

It is the sad story of a father who lied, altered documents and perpetrated a fraud on a national audience who had become enamored with his son's ability to throw a baseball.

In my mind, athletic games are one of the very few areas where there is a sense of fairness, morality and integrity. Particularly, on the amateur level.

Let's dismiss for a moment the behavior away from the games of a relatively few professional athletes. For example, when you see the percentage of African Americans and Hispanic Americans that have attained excellence in sports, that fact speaks to the fairness of sports.

It speaks to the ability of society to reward performance purely on its own merits. Rarely do you see opportunity afforded to minorities in other areas. And rarely do you see the fairness of the games compromised.

We can only hope that lessons are learned from this unfortunate experience. Lessons learned by parents and lessons learned by youngsters. Hopefully parents will realize that games were created to teach their children valuable lessons that can help develop them into well rounded contributors to their communities.

If their children happen to receive special athletic gifts they will eventually shine and receive their just rewards.

I also hope that our young people learn how to say no, how to recognize right from wrong and choose the right path. In this case, young Danny Almonte was placed in a difficult situation. Parental pressures can be overwhelming. Maybe the next Little Leaguer that is asked to lie will learn from the Almonte story.

As for Danny's father, shame on him. He disgraced his son and caused great pain to his son's teammates. The public humiliation he is currently experiencing is well deserved and hopefully, he is learning a valuable lesson about honesty, integrity and the true values that encompass sports.


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**GRAPHIC:** Photo, Boston Celtics players with children

**JOURNAL-CODE:** B2

**LOAD-DATE:** December 3, 2001

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I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Opposer's Sixth Notice of Reliance Pursuant to Trademark Rule 2.122(e) to be served on August 27, 2004 upon Applicant by first class mail, postage prepaid to Applicant's counsel of record at the following address:

Seth Natter, Esq.  
Natter & Natter  
25 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
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Richard S. Mandel