

# THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY



South Vancouver Little League team wins the Canadian championship.  
Photo courtesy of Connie Mah.

## Why can't girls play baseball? 🗨️

A girl from Vancouver becomes part of history.

Adapted from the [Province](#) by Nancy Carson

South Vancouver's Little League baseball team was in the U.S. for two weeks this summer.

The team won the Canadian championships in Quebec, in early August.

So, they won the chance to go to the Little League World **Series**. The series is always in the U.S.

## Someone unusual

People at the series closely watched one Vancouver player, Emma March. They watched an American girl, too. Why? Emma and Mo'ne Davis, are only the 17th and 18th girls to play in the series in 68 years!

## About Emma

Emma is 12 years old. She is the only girl on her team. She pitches. She plays first base. Emma's twin brother, Evan, is also on the team. He is three minutes younger than his sister.

Is it hard being the only girl? Emma says, "It's no big deal, because the boys don't see me as a girl, they see me as a ball player. They respect me because I am good."



Emma March and her twin brother Evan play on a championship baseball team.  
Photo: Mark van Manen/PROVINCE

## The beginnings

When Emma and Evan were five, their father Derrick March showed them how to play baseball. Now they are playing on a winning team with other 11- and 12-year olds.

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### Practice makes perfect

Their coach Brian Perry says the team is very talented. He says he has coached some kids since they were four years old. Perry says, “A lot of these kids are at the park every night, doing extra practice...” The president of the league said, “They worked very, very hard for a long, long time.”

### A lot of attention

Emma was surprised in the U.S. People asked for her autograph. Mo'ne Davis also got attention. Mo'ne's photo was on the front cover of the magazine Sports Illustrated – the first little league player to ever be on the cover.

### Throw like this girl

Mo'ne, 13, can throw a ball 70 mph (113 kmh)! Many batters cannot hit her pitches. She was the first girl to pitch a 'shutout'. This means she pitched for a whole game and the other team scored no points.

### Lessons in life

Emma's father, Derrick March, says baseball is a lesson in life. He hopes that the players learn to appreciate their team-mates. March says baseball helps the players become better people. “...– not just good baseball players, but good people.”

### Girls can play baseball

Sixty-four years ago in the U.S., a 13 year-old girl cut off her hair and joined a team.

She called herself Tubby, the name of her favourite comic book character. At first, no one knew she was a girl. Her real name was Kay Massar.



Sixty-four years before Mo'Ne Davis captured the nation's attention at the Little League World Series, Kay Massar signed up for Little League tryouts, pretending she was a boy. Photo courtesy of Little League Baseball and Softball.

### Vocabulary:

– **Series:** events or games that happen one after the other

### Links:

1. [Emma and Evan March](#)
2. [First woman to play Little League](#) talks about Emma and Mo'ne.
3. Children can begin Little League Baseball at four years of age up to 12 years. [Look for a Little League team near you.](#)
4. PLAY FAIR! Little League players learn to “play fair” and their parents are expected to follow that example themselves. Read the **Parents' Pledge** at the bottom of [this page](#).
5. Read the WCR story, “[Throw like a girl!](#)”