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Ballplayers from throughout world take to Easley's fields

By Amy Clarke

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As players stream into Easley from around the globe for the Big League World Series, fans are turning out to cheer them on.

Events got under way last week with the Friday Night Fun Fest, which featured a home-run derby and free concert.



Pickens' Logan Thomas follows the flight of the ball belted over the fence to help the S.C. District 1 (Easley) team defeat the East (New Jersey) team July 27.

Fields and stands were dotted with the colorful jerseys representing teams from places like Michigan, California, Puerto Rico, Germany and the Mariana Islands.

"We're just looking forward to seeing all the teams from different areas," said Mark Threlkeld, third baseman for the Southwest team out of Ruston, La. "I'm just looking forward to continuing to play."

"We enjoy just being outside and just watching the games," said Cindy Townsend, a fan from Liberty.

She said she and her family met several players from Germany a few years ago and came back out this year to cheer them, as well as the local boys, on.

"We know some of the people on the Easley team, too, so we're out here supporting them," said fellow Liberty resident Angie Villano.

Easley resident John Pollard said he's also looking forward to attending a few games during the week.

"I'm going to try to make it a couple nights out here," he said. "It was just exciting to see the kids out there."

For the players, it's the thrill of the game that has them giving their all for the title of world champs.

“It’s something you don’t get to do too often in your life, going down with some of your best friends to play baseball,” said Miller Morache, a player with the Canadian team. “It’s enjoyable.”

Games continue throughout the week with the championship game set for Aug. 2.