



AP PHOTO

Venezuela celebrates after defeating the United States in the championship game of the World Baseball Classic Tuesday in Miami.

USA falls in WBC final

Reds' Suarez lifts Venezuela with game-winning double

MIAMI (AP) Eugenio Suárez and his Venezuelan teammates stood on the stage behind second base with shiny medals draped over their proud chests, belting out their national anthem accompanied by tens of thousands of fans who remained in the ballpark a half-hour after the final out.

Back home, people were singing their praises, too.

Venezuela won the World Baseball Classic for the first time Tuesday night, beating the United States 3-2 in the championship game on Suárez's tiebreaking double in the top of the ninth inning.

"They were with us here in our hearts," Venezuela captain Salvador Perez said of his countrymen. "The World Series, as you all know, is one of the most important championships in the major leagues, but when you fight for your country, that goes beyond. That feeling, the country where you were born and raised, the sacrifices made by our parents, those people that helped us, that's why this means a lot to me and to Venezuela."

Bryce Harper's two-run homer with two outs in the eighth tied the score for the U.S., but Suárez hit a go-ahead double in the ninth and Daniel Palencia pitched a perfect bottom half.

"Baseball wanted us to fail, to fall down," Venezuela manager Omar López said. "You put aside your individuality and you are going to achieve those results."

Venezuela acting President Delcy Rodríguez declared Wednesday a National Day of Joy and made it a non-working holiday except for essential workers.

"My country needs that championship," star outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. said, wiping tears from his eyes. "I just want to make my people proud. That's what I did today."

In the capital of Caracas, thousands also sang the anthem as they gathered in the Plaza de la Juventud (Plaza of Youth) to the racket of honking horns from cars and motorcycles.

"I'm overjoyed. It's too much for me!" high school student Yorleiny Mestra said. "The

United States is a superpower, and the fact that we beat them makes me very proud of Venezuela."

Maikel Garcia's third-inning sacrifice fly and Wilyer Abreu's fifth-inning homer off rookie Nolan McLean built a 2-0 lead before a roaring, pro-Latin America sellout crowd of 36,190 at loanDepot park. Left-hander Eduardo Rodríguez and a string of lights-out relievers limited the Americans to two hits through the seventh.

"We were feeling at home. There were more Venezuelan fans than American fans," Garcia said.

Bobby Witt Jr. walked with two outs in the eighth and Harper drove the second straight changeup from Andrés Machado over the center-field fence.

Boston's Garrett Whitlock started the ninth instead of San Diego's Mason Miller, perhaps baseball's best reliever, because U.S. manager Mark DeRosa promised the Padres he would use Miller only in a save situation.

POPE

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"I thought it was really important that we just did this with just us; we don't do anything that way, but just this one time," he said. "I thought it was a big deal. We actually had a great night. It was a very meaningful night for our guys. I think it set the tone for us to give ourselves the best possible chance to make a magical run here. That's what our goal is, and we're going to see if we can do it."

During the gathering, Pope had his players share their favorite memory of watching the NCAA Tournament as a kid, which revealed some interesting responses, even though it wasn't "largely choreographed."

"It was really awesome to see the wide variety of responses that I got back," he said. "All of us can tie moments of our life to some, some great play, some incredible moments, some last-second shot, some huge upset, some incredible run to the NCAA tournament and remember how those memories tie us so it's pretty cool."



AP PHOTO

Kentucky coach Mark Pope speaks to an official during the SEC Tournament quarterfinals against Florida Friday.

As for Pope, his best memory was the 1992 Kentucky-Duke game, considered one of the greatest games ever played in the Big Dance.

"I was sitting in my family room in Seattle with no real connection, at the time, to Kentucky," Pope said. "When Christian Laettner hit that shot, I can remember it clear as day. I can remember Sean Woods's shot right before. I can remember my reaction literally as he went to take this 15-foot runner. I was like, 'No,' and then I was like, 'Yes, is it winning off the

glass?"

"I remember that, and I remember the epic play by Bryce Drew in the Valpo game was pretty, pretty amazing. There are so many, there are so many great moments, and of course, the things that we got to experience in that championship game (in 1996) were really special."

Pope and the Wildcats will begin what they hope is a magical run against Santa Clara. The Broncos are led by Herb Sendek, who served on Rick Pitino's staff at Kentucky from 1989-93 before taking over the

program at Miami of Ohio. Sendek has also coached at North Carolina State and Arizona State.

"He was the first assistant to reach out to me here when Kentucky started recruiting me," Pope recalled. "He had an interesting path to coaching, as people know, he was a prestigious, I think, a summa cum laude graduate at Carnegie Mellon, and somehow lost his mind and decided to coach, and man, he's had an incredible career. He's one of the best people you'll ever meet in your life."

SNYDER

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their hands full in the paint against Santa Clara. Why not try Dioubate a few extra minutes — more than his average of 21 a game — to combat the Broncos' interior production?

Pope may even try a combination of Dioubate, Jelavic and Moreno/Garrison at times to adequately battle with Elijah Mahi (6-7, 220), Allen Graves (6-9, 225) and Bukky Oboye (7-1, 220).

Mahi and Graves average a combined 25.5 points per contest.

Dioubate has scored in double figures in four of the last seven games. He was in single digits in the previous nine. It seems "Mo" has found some "mojo" at the right time.

Maybe he should be in the game out of the gate in the "Gateway to the West."

AARON SNYDER is the editor at The Daily Independent. Reach him at asnyder@dailyindependent.com.



AP PHOTO

Kentucky's Mouhamed Dioubate works against Florida guard Boogie Fland during the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament Friday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of permitting decisions made by the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Boyd County.

GREENBRIER MINERALS LLC
8108037 MI 4 2/3/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BOYD, KENTUCKY, TERMINATING THE KYOVA DEVELOPMENT AREA AND THE LOCAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, DATED JANUARY 1, 2022, BY AND AMONG BOYD COUNTY, THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY OF BOYD, KENTUCKY, AND CAMP INVERSTMENTS LLC, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.

/s/ ERIC CHANEY
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

/s/ SARA TUSSEY
BOYD COUNTY FISCAL COURT CLERK

ADOPTED ON February 10, 2026
READOPTED on March 10, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the title of Ordinance No.2026-02 accurately and truthfully summarizes the contents contained therein.

/s/ CURTIS E. DOTSON
BOYD COUNTY ATTORNEY
Published: March 19, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE¹

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Greenbrier Minerals, LLC, 100 Bill Baker Way, Beckley, WV 25801 has applied for Phase I, II and III Bond Release on Increment No. 1 of Permit Number 810-8037, which was last issued on July 15, 2024. Increment No. 1 covers an area of approximately 7.38 acres located in Boyd County.

The proposed area is approximately 0.21 miles south of Old U.S. 60's junction with U.S. 60 and located Big Sandy River. The Latitude is 38 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds. The Longitude is 82 degrees 35 minutes 56 seconds.

The bond now in effect for Increment NO. 1 is a Surety Bond for two hundred twenty-two thousand dollars (\$222,000.00). The remaining bond of two hundred twenty-two thousand (\$222,000.00) is included in the application for release.

Reclamation work performed on Increment No. 1 includes backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching completed in January 2026.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, by May 2, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for May 4, 2026 at 10:00 at the Department for Natural Resources' Pikeville Regional Office located at 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, KY 41501. The hearing will be canceled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by May 2, 2026.

Published: March 12, 19 & 26, 2026