

Summer Fades, Stars Shine: From Little League Dreams to Big League Schemes

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Welcome to the Spotlight! As hard as it is to believe, summer is winding down, Joro spiders seemingly avoided (wish I could say the same about spotted lantern flies), hot dogs (OG or vegan) consumed, marshmallows roasted, medals awarded and for many, lifelong memories made. That last one came into striking relief last weekend at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. As if it wasn't enough that the kids on these teams get to play in nationally televised baseball games, they also get to spend the day with, and cheer on, their favorite Major League Baseball players as part of annual MLB Little League Classic.

This year featured a game between the Detroit Tigers and New York Yankees, but I am not writing to talk about the game-particularly after the Yankees closing pitcher Clay Holmes blew yet another save to hand the Tigers the victory. Instead, the real standout from this year's event was from a player who did not even play in the game due to a stint on the injured list. The Yankees' recently acquired dynamic All-Star player Jazz Chisholm, Jr. not only played video journalist to document the Yankees' day behind the scenes leading up to the game, capturing compelling, joyful, authentic moments shared amongst Major League and Little League teammates alike, but he also took up the mantle of becoming a "big brother" to an adoring Little Leaguer named Russell McGee, proclaiming in a television interview that he's "gonna make sure he gets to the big leagues one day." What could have been empty words were followed up with a heartwarming gesture as Chisholm exchanged phone numbers with McGee and joined him in the stands to cheer on Chisholm's teammates. A really cool moment of kindness, humility and paying it forward to witness-and one that it sounds like McGee and Chisholm will carry with them for a long time to come. I'll catch you all back on the other side of the Labor Day holiday, but for now here's my payment forward to you.

- At long last, the collaboration between Chicago Sky rookie Angel Reese and Reese's candy has become official, as they roll out some cleverly co-branded apparel. What Reese is getting paid for the collaboration is not yet known, but it's probably more than peanuts.
- Oklahoma State University's football team is leaning into the name, image and likeness (NIL) era in college sports as they will all have QR codes on their helmets, linking people to the program's NIL fund. With this on-field innovation possible, sportsbooks across the country are now wondering whether they can buy a referee if you use a barcode scanner on his or her uniform.
- NASCAR's Hendrick Motorsports sues its former sponsor, restaurant chain Hooters over its failure to pay \$1.7 million in sponsorship fees. What a hoot-I thought owls were supposed to be wise!

Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

Boxing Champ Floyd Mayweather Is About To Make Some Good Money With His Latest Venture

August 21, 2024 via Haute Living

WNBA's Angel Reese to Have 'Reese's Pieces' Collection After Sponsorship Contract

August 21, 2024 via Bleacher Report

Prospect of player pay another wrinkle for HBCU schools, where big NIL deals still taking root

August 21, 2024 via WVTM 13 – Top News

Oklahoma State to wear QR codes on helmets to assist NIL fundraising

August 20, 2024 via ABC News – Money

Paris Was a Marketing Warmup for Los Angeles Olympics and World Cup

August 19, 2024 via AdWeek – Advertising and Branding

WNBA, Delta Expand Partnership With Sponsorship, Charter Flights

August 19, 2024 via Sportico – Business

Shohei Ohtani Hand Guard Puts New Balance in MLB Vanguard

August 16, 2024 via Sportico – Business

MLBPA group sues Pirates, Sheetz over social media posts

August 16, 2024 via Awful Announcing

Sports

NWSL Eliminates Draft, Boosts Pay as New CBA Overhauls League

August 22, 2024 via Sportico – Business

Innovation or Not - Oklahoma State Football Helmets Seek to Revolutionize NIL

August 22, 2024 via Business Strategy Innovation

Jazz Chisholm Had the Time of His Life Watching MLB Game With Little League Players

August 19, 2024 via SI

New York Yankees Star Goes Viral For Heartwarming Story at Little League Classic

August 19, 2024 via Fastball On SI

Music Biz

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August 21, 2024 via Las Vegas Review Journal – Local News (Las Vegas, Nevada)

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Film & TV

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August 19, 2024 via Deadline – Hollywood Breaking News

[Disney, Fox, Warner Bros. Discovery sports streaming venture launch blocked by federal judge in win for Fubo](#)

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Emerging Sports

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