

ILY 21, 2011

# Irvin squads prepare for Florida travel

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Members of the Monte Irvin Youth Baseball Program in Orange will travel to Florida this weekend to play in a tournament that includes teams from three countries.

The city's baseball program will send three teams — under-12, under-14 and under-16 — to Orlando for the 21st annual Inner City Classic/Black World Series Championship Baseball Tournament.

The event, conducted through the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League, will have about 1,200 players on more than 70 teams from the United States, Bahamas and Dominican Republic, competing.

“All of our teams have really worked hard this year and they are excited about the opportunity to travel to Orlando and be part of this great tournament for the third consecutive year,” said Dianne Szczepanik, commissioner of the Orange program.

In addition to the tournament, participants are scheduled to travel to Universal Studios. Those of high-school age will be offered a tour of the University of Central Florida and will be introduced to students and teachers of the sports business department. Florida A&M University will also offer a tour of its law school, which has a focus on sports law.

The players had several warmup games this week at Metcalf Park and Central Playground. They will meet for a send-off ceremony Friday at 6 p.m. in the Elks lodge, 475 Main St.