

Sports teach life skills

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Junior Giants league traveled to San Francisco recently to participate in Junior Giants Day, an annual event at AT&T Park where thousands of kids are recognized for their participation in the sport of baseball.

The Las Vegas league took part in a pre-game parade around the field before sitting down with their teammates to watch the Giants play the Milwaukee Brewers.

In actuality, the game was secondary, an opportunity for the team to display its skills,

but also a culmination of the hard work the coaches, players, the players' parents and the team's supporters put in.

The Las Vegas Junior Giants is the flagship program of the Giants Community Fund, a free, summer baseball league for youth in inner cities and rural communities throughout California, Nevada and Oregon.

The program is unique in that it is a non-competitive league that places a higher emphasis on character than on wins and losses. The Las Vegas Junior Giants work to instill the values of hard work

and discipline in life, effort and production in class and positive decorum in the community. The goal is to build well-rounded young people to through athletics.

Coach Gene Tate, is seen as an inspiration and role model to many of the young athletes. He works closely with the East Palo Alto Junior Giants, a group he spearheaded before bringing the youth baseball program to Las Vegas.

Earlier this year he received the Grassroots Leadership Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance.



The Las Vegas Jr. Giants with their banner before they headed onto the field for a parade.

African plays, wins gold medal for U.S.

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(GIN) — Bernard Lagat, a U.S. naturalized citizen from Kenya, has become the first man to win two gold medals in the same world championship.

Bernard Kipchirchir Lagat is a middle and long distance champion athlete. He represented the U.S. at the 11th world track and field championships that ended Sunday in Osaka, Japan.

Lagat is a Nandi, sub-tribe of the Kalenjin people, born on Jamhuri Day, Kenyan in-

dependence day. Awarded a running scholarship to Washington State University in 1996, he began competing for his adopted nation after the required three-year waiting period. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2005.

"It means a lot to me," Lagat said of his gold medal. "I'll be setting an example for the younger ones in America. ...There will be other kids born and raised in America that will do what I do."



Amon Simutowe has carved a niche in chess.

African poised to be chess grandmaster

Special to Sentinel-Voice

(GIN) - With a trail of tournament successes, a young man from Zambia has shaken up the world chess community. Amon Simutowe, already an international master, is only steps away from being the first Black grandmaster from sub-Saharan Africa. A decisive match is underway in Namibia.

Born January 6, 1982, in Ndola, Zambia, Amon learned to play chess at 10 from magazines sent to him from England by his brother. By age 14, he won Zambia's national championship. He was an international master by age 16.

As a student at the University of Texas at Dallas, one of the few universities that offer chess scholarships, he helped the school win two collegiate championships.

With his eye on a graduate degree in business, Simutowe says he also wants to promote chess, which is wildly popular in Zambia.

"Sometimes I am the headlines for sport in my country," he said. "Any contribution I can make, I am happy."

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