

# Italy's win puts U.S. in WBC quarterfinals

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vinnie Pasquantino had the World Baseball Classic's first three-homer game, leading Italy over Mexico 9-1 on Wednesday night to win Pool B and advance the United States to the quarterfinals as group's second-place team.

Italy's victory ended a day of uncertainty for the Americans, who needed help to reach the quarterfinals after losing to Italy 8-6 on Tuesday night.

Pasquantino, who opened the tournament 0 for 12, homered leading off the second, sixth and eighth innings to propel Italy to the quarterfinals for a third time and the second tournament in a row. Jon Berti also homered for Italy to help build a big lead early.

The Italians will face Puerto Rico in the quarterfinals in Houston on Saturday, a day after the U.S. plays Canada, which advanced past the first round for the first time.

Mexico's loss eliminated it from qualifying for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, a disappointment for a team that finished third in the 2023 WBC, losing to eventual champion Japan in the semifinals.

Italy went 4-0 in pool play after no other European team had won more than two WBC games in a row.

Pasquantino celebrated with an espresso shot from the dugout machine after each homer, Italy's fitting celebration after home runs.

He tried to bunt on his first pitch, then homered to the first row of the right-field seats off Javier Assad in the second inning. Berti's shot to left doubled the lead in the fourth. Dante Nori's run-scoring

sacrifice bunt extended the lead in a three-run fifth capped by Jakob Marsee's two-run single for a 5-0 lead.

Pasquantino homered starting the sixth against Daniel Duarte and again off Robert Garcia in the eighth.

Winner Aaron Nola allowed four hits and struck out five in five scoreless innings. Assad took the loss, permitting four runs and four hits in 4 1/3 innings.

## CANADA ADVANCES

Canada advanced past the first round of the World Baseball Classic for the first time, beating Cuba 7-2 Wednesday in a winner-take-all game at San Juan, Puerto Rico, behind Abraham Toro's homer and Otto Lopez's two-run single.

Brothers Bo Naylor and Josh Naylor drove in runs, Owen Caissie had two RBIs and reliever James Paxton struck out six over 2 2/3 scoreless innings for Canada (3-1), which eliminated the Cubans (2-2) and won Group A over Puerto Rico (3-1). Cuba was knocked out in the first round for the first time.

Cuba finished with three errors, and left fielder Ariel Martinez allowed Toro's catchable fly starting the seventh to fall for a double. The Canadians broke open the game with a three-run sixth inning that included a dropped popup, a foul pop that fell, a wild pickoff throw and a catcher's interference call on Andrys Perez, whose passed ball led to Canada's first run.

Cuba escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first when Matt Davidson hit an inning-ending popup off loser Livan Moineo, but Canada went

ahead in the third on Caissie's sacrifice fly. Toro homered in the fifth on a splitter from Yariel Rodriguez, a 420-foot drive to right.

Cuba scored in the bottom half on Yoelkis Guibert's run-scoring groundout off winner Cal Quantrill, who allowed an unearned run and two hits over five innings.

Canada opened a 3-1 lead in the sixth on Bo Naylor's RBI double.

Martinez drove in a run in the bottom half with his third hit and Josh Naylor had an RBI single in the seventh on a soft fly to left that popped up of the glove of Martinez, who tried for a sliding catch.

Cuba went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position. Adam Macko escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth when Yiddi Cappe swung over a curveball and James Paxton struck out Moncada in the seventh to leave runners at the corners.

## DOMINICANS UNBEATEN

Fernando Tatis Jr., Ketel Marte, Juan Soto and Vladimir

Guerrero Jr. — the top four hitters in the order — all homered, and the Dominican Republic finished off an unbeaten run through Pool D with a 7-5 win over Venezuela.

Both teams entered the game — played before a sellout crowd of 36,230 in Miami — knowing they were headed to the quarterfinals.

Tatis, Marte, Soto and Guerrero were a combined 9 for 18 for the winners, driving in all seven runs and scoring five of them.

The Dominican Republic (4-0) takes on South Korea in a quarterfinal on Friday, while Venezuela (3-1) will face Shohei Ohtani and Japan on Saturday. Ranger Suarez starts for Venezuela and World

Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto for the Samurai Warriors.

Maikel Garcia was 4 for 4, scored two runs and had an RBI for Venezuela, while Luis Arraez drove in a pair of runs — including a sacrifice

fly in the ninth. Venezuela loaded the bases, down by four, with no outs, and Arraez made it 7-4 with a liner to left.



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Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, located at 212 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Adoption of the Downtown Master Plan as an amendment to the Elizabethtown Comprehensive Plan.  
Hearing No. 2026-PC-06

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Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for the Veterans Way/Towne Drive Roundabout project at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3rd floor, 200 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, until 10:00 am on Friday, April 3rd, 2026 at which time each bid will be opened and read aloud. An electronic copy of plans, specifications, and bid documents may be obtained upon request from the City's Design Engineer: Palmer Engineering, 400 Shoppers Drive, Winchester, Ky 859.744.1218.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on March 25th, 2026 at 9am EST at City Council Chambers at 212 W Dixie Ave Elizabethtown Ky 42701.

Bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total bid are required. Performance and payment bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract amount are required upon the execution of the contract. Contractors and subcontractors will be required to comply with all Kentucky workers compensation and insurance requirements.

The City of Elizabethtown intends to award the contract on the best evaluated bid. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to let the project as a whole or in part, and to waive any formalities or irregularities in the bids received where the best interest of the City may be served.

Any questions regarding the project should be addressed by email to sswell@palmernet.com or vcambrown@palmernet.com

Honorable Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor  
Jessica Graham, City Clerk



## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, located at 212 West Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearing will be held to consider the following:

Proposed expansion of the Historic Preservation District to include the following properties:  
125 North Mulberry Street, 117 North Mulberry Street, 115 North Mulberry Street, 112 West Poplar Street, 110 West Poplar Street, 128 North Main Street, 122 North Main Street, 113 West Dixie Avenue, 117/119 North Main Street, 127 North Main Street, 201 North Main Street, 202 North Main Street, 106 East Poplar Street and 108 East Poplar Street.

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