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Maverick Hamilton (Yr 7)

Firebirds fire up worldwide support

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Perth's Maverick Hamilton pitches during a game in Puerto Rico. Picture: Matt Stocum/AP

They might not have any runs on the board, but a group of young Perth baseballers will return from their debut on a worldwide stage as winners.

A group of 14 Perth boys, known as the Perth Central Firebirds, have gained a passionate following as they were watched by a global television audience of millions in the Little League World Series in Williams-port, Pennsylvania.

Many US fans have thrown their support behind the Firebirds who have been the tournament's underdogs after losing their first games against teams from Mexico and Puerto Rico, 12-0 and 4-0.

Head coach Glen Tovey told US media the boys had been lapping up the support.

"I couldn't be more proud of the way they carried themselves and the effort they put in," he said. "The kids stop whenever they're asked to, take a photograph if they're asked, sign an autograph when they're asked to and give

the young ladies a hug if they're asked for it."

The coach said he had been inundated with support from Australian fans and hoped to give them something to shout about in their final game against Texas team Corpus Christi last night.

"We'd love to break through and score the first runs and get our first win. No matter what happens, 15 teams will leave this place as winners," he said.