

Alazanes put Leones in check in Cuban baseball playoffs



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Havana, May 28 (ACN) - The monarch exponent Granma came from behind and defeated Industriales 5x3 at its home stadium Mártires de Barbados, to put itself in check in the quarterfinal matchup of the National Baseball Series.

This was the second successive success of Carlos Martí's students against Guillermo Carmona's troop, in a sub-series with palms and celebrations for the team that reaches four wins first. So, the Alazanes are already halfway there and the Leones have yet to start.

Industriales opened the scoreboard early in the first episode, when after a ticket to Dayron Blanco their third bat Yosvani Peñalver hit a run-scoring double.

In the sixth inning, Yasiel Santoya hit a solo home run to drive in the second run, both against left-handed starter Leandro Martínez.

While this was happening, the lanky right-hander Pavel Hernández kept the Granmenses in a fist, as he had good control of his indecipherable deliveries.

In the seventh act, the Havana blues started a battle with reliever Kelbis Rodríguez. A ball and a sacrifice left the table set for Oscar Valdés' driving single that brought in the third and last run for the westerners.

With the game ahead 3x0, blue starter Pavel Hernández transferred the first batter in the bottom of the seventh inning and Carmona applied the grounder. However, his relievers Erick Cristian González and Andy Vargas, who had an excellent performance in the qualifying phase, were severely punished by the host team.

Gonzalez could not cross with his straights over 90 miles and allowed Osvaldo Abreu's double with two runners on base. He exploded and Vargas came in, and Guillermo Avilés homered and rounded out the decisive four-run rally.

The Alazanes' fifth run came in the eighth act on a solo home run by catcher Iván Prieto against a very comfortable delivery by Vargas.

In addition to the decisive home runs by Avilés and Prieto, the offense of center fielder and ninth baseman Francisco Venecia, who hit 4-3, was also outstanding.

The palms also go to reliever Carlos Santana, who threw two immaculate innings, retiring successively the six men he faced, with three strikeouts included.

The game between Mayabeque and Ciego de Avila was sealed in the eighth inning with a score of 7x0 in favor of the Tigres Avileños, who had started to bat and included in their offensive production three home runs, by Osvaldo Vazquez, Raul Gonzalez and Yuddiel Gonzalez. If possible, this game will be resumed this Saturday at 10 am.

The National Baseball Commission informed JIT that in the next few hours it will release the results of the investigation carried out after the incident that occurred in Thursday's game in Sancti Spíritus and Pinar del Río, corresponding to the 61st SNB playoffs.

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