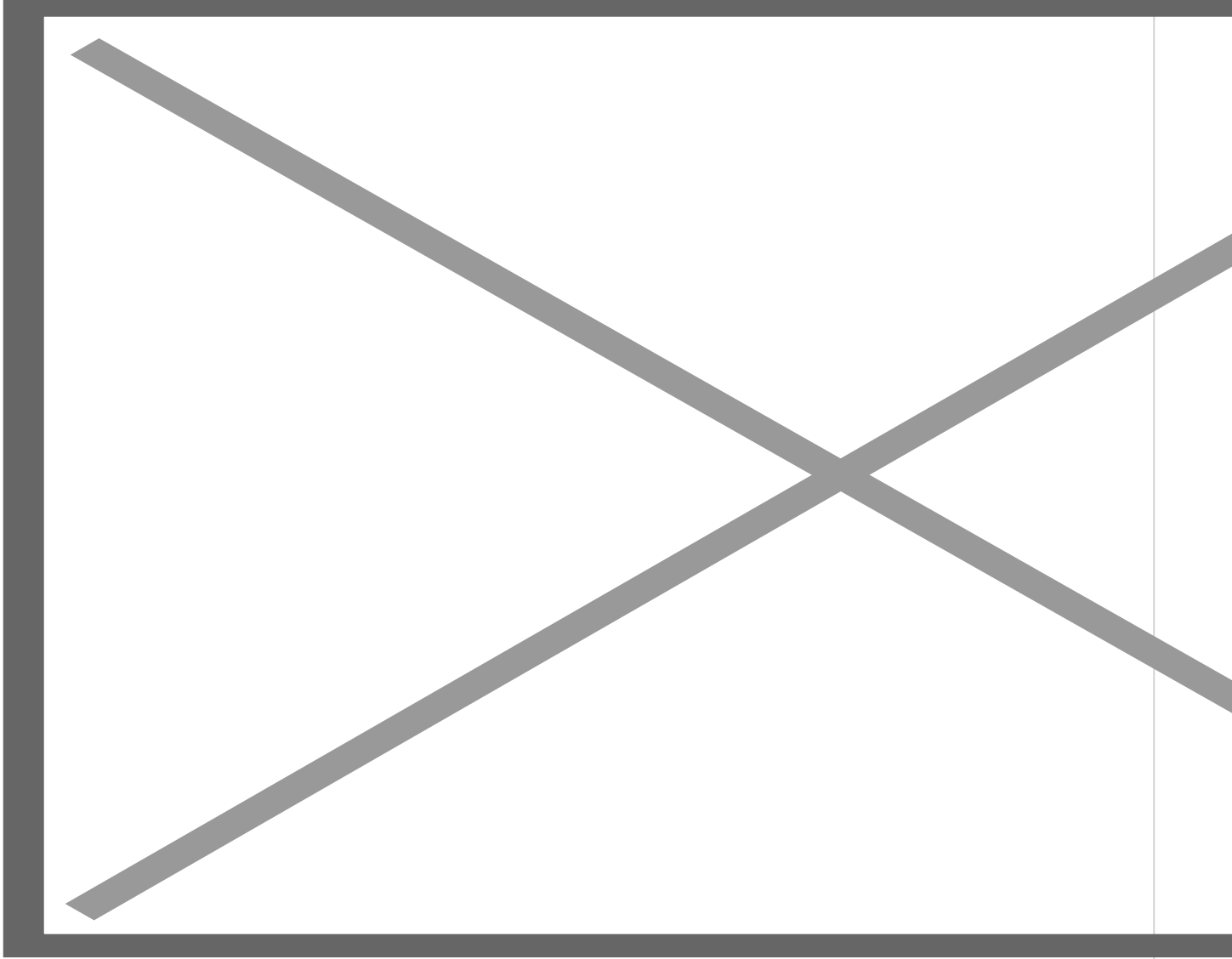


Gallos come from behind against Vegueros to reach Cuban baseball semifinals

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Havana, June 4 (ACN)-- The Sancti Spíritus Gallos made a spectacular comeback in the decisive seventh game, defeated the Vegueros from Pinar del Río 5-3 at their José Antonio Huelga stadium and became the third team with a ticket to the semifinals of the 61st National Baseball Series.

The Yayabo team led by Eriel Sánchez took revenge for last season when the pativerdes of Alexander Urquiola had swept them 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

The vueltabajeros scored two runs in the first inning on a home run by slugger William Saavedra with one on base and scored another run in the third inning to go ahead 3-0 and provoke the ejection of starter José Eduardo Santos.

But right there came reliever Yankiel Mauri, who sent him in and pitched 6.1 innings at a rate of four hits and an equal number of strikeouts, without allowing any runs, to get the win.

Meanwhile, Pinar del Río right-hander Eriys Casanova held the hosts' offense in a fist until the fourth inning without allowing any singles. But in the fifth, the comeback began to take shape when Dismani Ortiz homered with a runner on base.

And the three remaining runs for the Gallos came in the bottom of the eighth inning, to close the scoreboard at 5-3 and provoke the jubilation of the partisans, who saw how their team came into its own and won the two consecutive games.

With this triumph, Sancti Spíritus will be the rival in the semifinals of the national runner-up Matanzas, while the champion Granma is waiting for the result of the sixth game between Mayabeque and Ciego de Avila, which is 3-2 in favor of the Tigers of mentor Yorelvis Charles and which is being held up due to inclement weather.

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