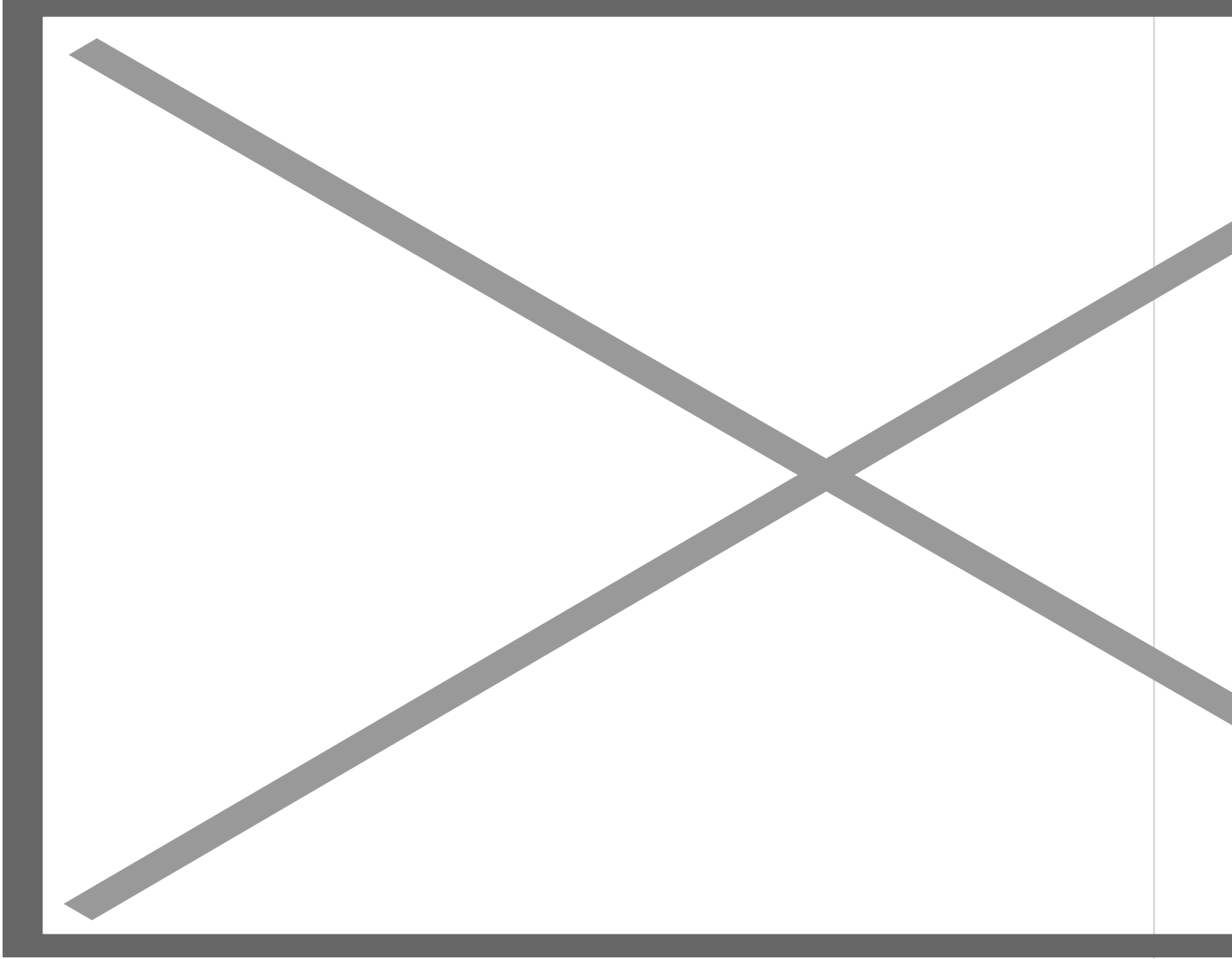


Portuarios begins with unexpected sweep in Cuban baseball finals

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Portuarios vs Agricultores

Bayamo, January 16 (PL) - Portuarios unexpectedly won the first two games of the final of the First Elite League of Cuban baseball against Agricultores, the first sealed 13x11, and the second 4x3.

The scoreboard of the second game was opened in the first inning, with two scores caused by Yosvany Alarcón's single to center field combined with Roberto Acevedo's error in center field, and another by Rafael Viñales' single that brought in Alarcón.

The visitors then scored on Rangel Ramos' single to score Jorge Alomá, and a fielder's choice that allowed Roberto Acevedo to step on the plate.

The equalizer came in the fifth in Oscar Valdés' legs, by Alomá's two-out single when there were two outs and it seemed that starter Leandro Martínez had the situation under control.

The left-hander then received Acevedo's shot up the middle and with that fourth run (by Yasiel Santoya) ended his performance, but there was no more because reliever Yoel Mojena completed the inning.

On the other side, Yadián Martínez had a bad start with the three runs in the first inning, but then he got himself together and did not tolerate any more liberties for the hosts until the seventh inning.

Neither could the Easterners' bullpen against the closer Andy Vargas, who got the save that leaves the series with two wins for the Blues.

Earlier, Portuarios gave the first surprise in the final, after defeating Agricultores 13 runs by 11, supported by the excellent relief of Pedro Álvarez, who pitched three legendary innings, including one in the eighth with bases loaded.

On Saturday, that game had to be postponed due to darkness, after both teams engaged in a give-and-take duel and sealed the series at 11.

After this second game, the series will move to San José de las Lajas, where games 3, 4 and 5 will take place, the latter if necessary, from Tuesday to Thursday.

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