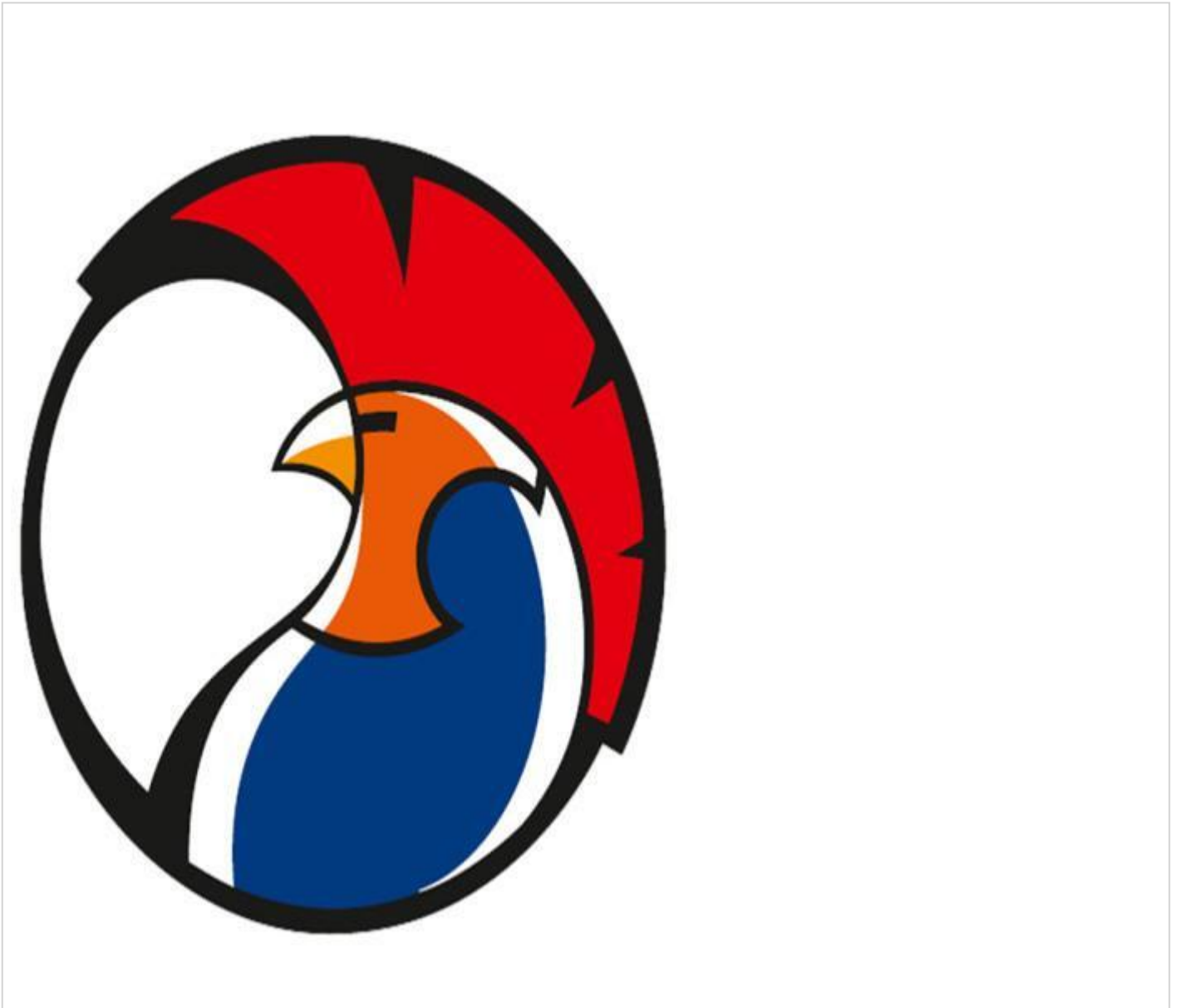


Sancti Spíritus reaches the last ticket to the Cuban baseball playoffs



Havana, June 21 (JIT) - The Sancti Spíritus Gallos beat the Cienfuegos Elefantes twice and secured the eighth ticket to the post-season of the National Baseball Series.

Both wins were by a similar score of 2x1. In the first, reliever Fernando Betanzos, who only allowed one hit in four innings and sealed his sixth win of the season, stood out.

In the second inning, the palms went to José Eduardo Santos, who covered the entire route with two singles and four strikeouts.

Guantánamo, undoubtedly the big surprise of the series, closed its schedule with a 6x3 victory over Santiago de Cuba, thanks to Over Cremet's 18th home run, 4-4 with a pair of doubles and four RBIs in the match.

In other games, Granma defeated 6x3 to the monarch exponent Las Tunas, with the eighth smile of rookie Lismay Ferrales, Mayabeque beat Matanzas 5x2, with the ninth victory of Albert Valladares, valid to equal the leadership in that department of Dachel Duquesne, Industriales beat Isla de la Juventud 1x0, Ciego de Avila 4x2 to Camagüey and Villa Clara divided honors with Holguín. They won the first one 3x1 and lost the other one 0x1.

And the leader Pinar del Río won the double game against Artemisa. It opened with a 6x0 score, thanks to Yaser Julio González's 17th home run, and closed with a 2x1.

After the results of this last date, one of the quarter-final pairings was known: Santiago de Cuba (fourth place) will face Industriales (fifth).

The first three places of the qualifying phase between Pinar del Río, Granma and Las Tunas are still to be defined in order to establish the remaining matches.

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