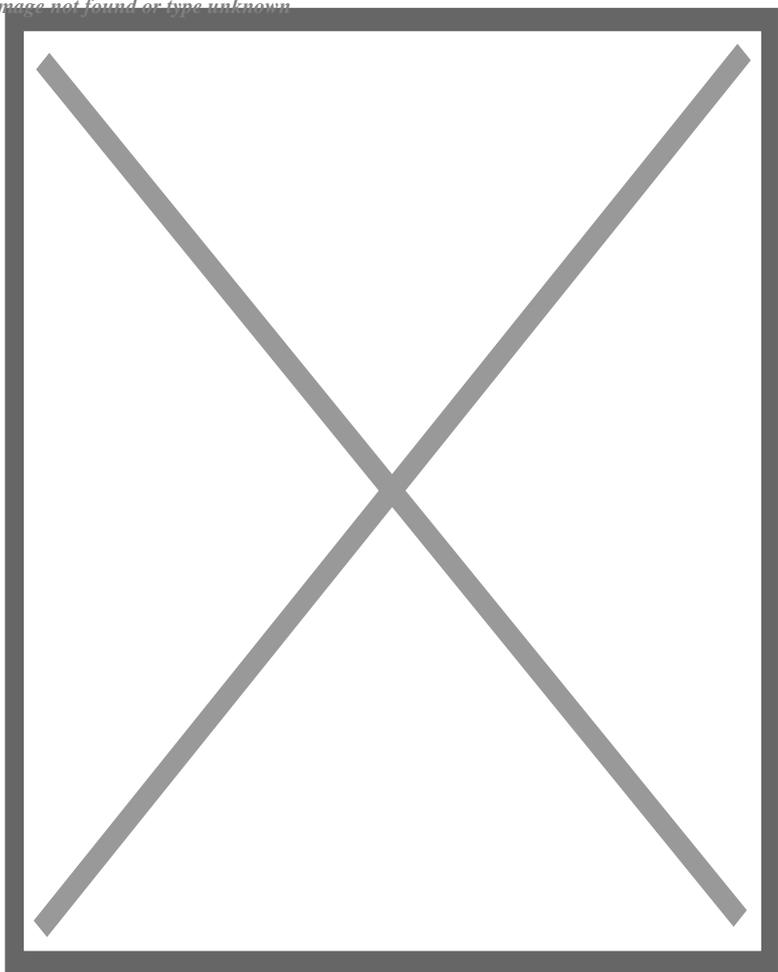


Informative collage illustrates the immediate future of Cuban baseball

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The calendar of the playoffs of the 61st National Series, the pre-selection of the under-23 category and details of the so-called Elite Tournament shed new light on the immediate future of Cuban baseball.

Havana, May 24 (PL) - The calendar of the playoffs of the 61st National Series, the pre-selection of the under-23 category and details of the so-called Elite Tournament shed new light on the immediate future of

Cuban baseball.

At a press conference at the Latin American Stadium in Havana, Cuban baseball authorities confirmed that the post-season will start on Wednesday, May 25, with the Las Tunas-Matanzas and Sancti Spiritus-Pinar del Río games.

A day later, the eight qualified teams will be under the spotlight, as Las Tunas-Matanzas and Sancti Spiritus-Pinar del Río will have their second games and the Granma-Industriales and Mayabeque-Ciego de Avila duels will begin.

According to the organizing committee, the quarterfinals will be best of seven games and will grant four tickets to the antechamber of the crown discussion, currently held by Granma's Alazanes.

Likewise, the Cuban Baseball Federation (FCB) released the list of 31 players with possibilities of attending the Pan American Under 23 Championship, scheduled for June 10-19 in the Mexican city of Aguascalientes.

The list includes rising stars such as first baseman Pedro Pablo Revilla, home run leader in the regular season, catcher Alfredo Fadruga, and pitchers Naykel Cruz and Marlon Vega, the latter a strong contender for the Most Valuable Player award of the current national championship.

The president of the FCB, Juan Reynaldo Pérez, also explained that a popular vote will be held to select one of the three variants for the Elite Tournament, whose purpose will be to bring together the best exponents of Cuba in only six teams.

The meeting also served to ratify that Granma, the nation's reigning champion, will compete in the Haarlem Tournament (or Haarlem Baseball Week), in the Netherlands, from July 8 to 15.

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