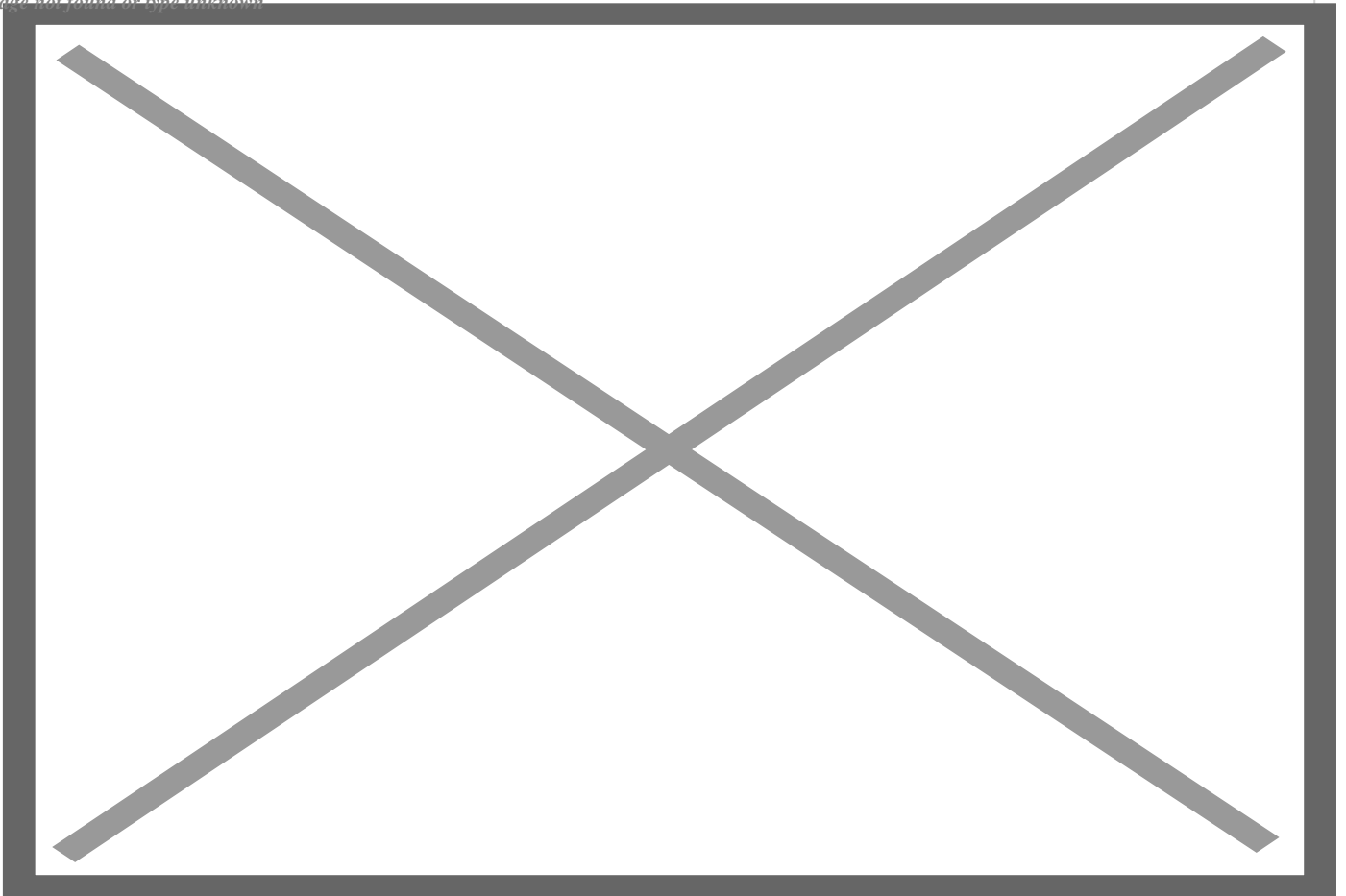


Villa Clara holds the lead in the U23 baseball key B in Cuba

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Havana, August 8 (RHC)-- The Villa Clara team continues to lead in the B key of the VII National Baseball Championship under 23 category, after defeating Mayabeque on Sunday.

The match, played at the Augusto César Sandino Stadium in the central Cuban province, ended with a hard-fought score of three runs to two between teams that had been in a close group, with three wins and one loss.

Sunday's challenge was decided in the bottom of the seventh inning by a throwing error by the visiting catcher at third base that opened the door to the local victory.

Villa Clara, which now accumulates four wins and one loss, had in its starter and closer Dario Sarduy and Jan Edwing Cabrera, respectively, its most outstanding players when the former in five chapters allowed only one hit, and the latter closed with mastery, which made possible his first victory in the under 23 baseball category.

In declarations to Prensa Latina, the closer Cabrera said that he based his repertoire on the control of the pitches to make the opposing batters connect through the box and diminish their long-range offensive potentials.

Manager Julio César Álvarez, for the first time in charge of the team after several years as coach, emphasized that the team bases its greatest strength on the pitching staff, where Oscar Hernández and Randy Cueto, members of the national team of the category, stand out.

Cristian Rodríguez, Yury Marcos Fernández and Ariel Díaz, also members of the national team that recently won the silver medal in the Pan-American Under 23, held in Aguas Calientes, Mexico, also stand out.

The Under 23 baseball tournament was left without undefeated teams after Pinar del Río lost 1-3 to Artemisa for the first time, although the Pinar del Río team remains the leader of group A, while in group C Camagüey and Las Tunas are tied, and Guantánamo leads group D with three wins and one loss.

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