

*Industriales and Las Tunas
sharpen their weapons ahead of
battle for the crown*

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By Orlando González Cruz.

Havana, August 5 (RHC) The Leones de Industriales and the Leñadores de Las Tunas finalized details in their eastern preparation before the baseball battle that will take place today at Julio Antonio Mella Park, in the eastern Cuban province.

The 62nd National Baseball Series (SNB) will live an unprecedented final in the discussion of the title between the local team, leader of the qualifying stage, and the capital, maximum winners in the history of the SNB, who return after more than a decade to the conclusive stage of the championship.

Speaking to Radio Habana Cuba, Industriales' mentor, Guillermo Carmona, said: "Las Tunas is a big team with very good hitters, but the previous rivals were also big. We have to do our job and create our strategy, and the boys have to face the games in the most serious way; the important thing is concentration. In this same field we won the sub-series in the qualifying stage, we will go out to do our job to achieve the victory."

One of the most mediatic players of the blue team, former Major League Baseball player Yasmani Tomás, is facing health problems due to a food poisoning, but the athlete does not abandon his Leones and remains with the team under a strong medical and technical follow-up, and his presence in the first game of the grand final is unknown.

For his part, the helmsman of the Leñadores, Abeysi Pantoja, told us: "All the teams are well prepared and have important players; on that basis we prepare ourselves, we analyze with the IT team how they have behaved in the most recent games to have a perspective of how to work against them. We cannot be confident, nor think that it will be over in four games. To the people of Las Tunas, tell them to keep supporting us".

In this play off, those from the east of the island swept, first, the Tigres de Ciego de Avila and, later, overcame the Cocodrilos de Matanzas 4-2.

For their part, the Havana-based team has reached the decisive stage of the championship, after defeating in the quarterfinals the Gallos Espirituanos and in the semifinals the Avispas de Santiago de Cuba, in both cases in the maximum possible number of games, so they have accumulated 14 games in this postseason.

Today at 6:00 p.m. the field will have the last word in the first battle for the Cuban baseball crown.

Pitcher Silvano Hechevarría has been announced to start for the Blue Jays, while Alejandro Meneses will start for the home team.

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