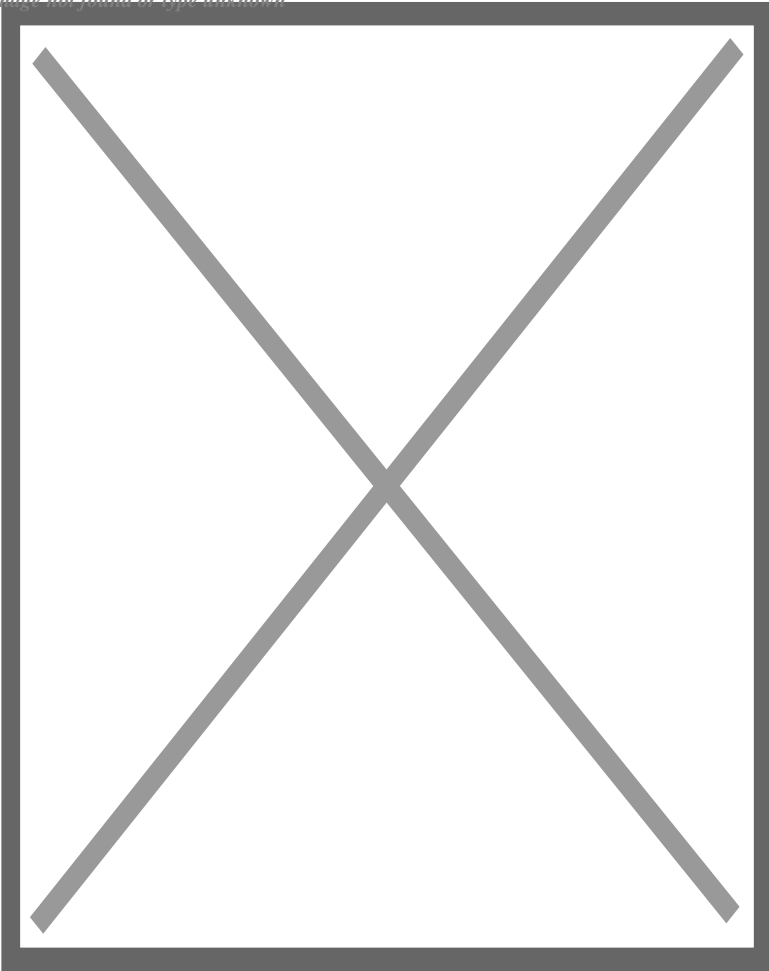


Pinar del Río falls but remains firm at the top of Cuban baseball

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Havana, April 25 (ACN)-- The Las Tunas Lumberjacks took advantage of Wednesday's day and slipped into second place in the National Baseball Series standings, 3.5 games behind the leader Pinar del Río.

Defeats of the Vegueros leaders of Pinar del Río and the Tigres of Ciego de Ávila led to the rise of the green-red troop, Las Tunas, in a day where 16 home runs were hit.

A double by Denis Peña with bases loaded in the ninth inning gave the orientales a 5-4 victory against the Villa Clara Leopards, to take revenge for the previous day.

Rafael Viñales scored a home run for Las Tunas, in a match where Alberto Pablo Civil scored his fifth win of the season.

The Pinar del Río team, after five successes in a row, fell 4-5 to the Gallos de Sancti Spiritus despite Yadiel Agete's home run.

Yoandry López took the credit and Yanielquis Duardo saved the seventh game from him to reaffirm himself in command of that department.

The Avispas of Santiago de Cuba continued in the qualifying zone and defeated the Tigres de Ciego de Avila for the second consecutive day, this time by a knockout 14-3 in eight innings.

A home run by Rainer Castillo with one on base left the Avilianians lying on the grass, who suffered their third failure in a row.

Yoelquis Guibert also took her out of the park, his ninth in the campaign, and Eduardo García (eighth), who drove in five runs to reach 40 in the tournament.

Alexquemer Sánchez hit his tenth hit with four bases, Hubert Sánchez hit two and Guillermo Avilés another with the bases loaded, so that the Alazanes de Granma took revenge 10-4 against the Cazadores de Artemisa.

The Industrial Lions beat the Guantánamo Indians 9-5, in a game where Ángel Hechavarria hit a home run for the third consecutive day.

The Elegantes of Cienfuegos, tired of sleeping in the basement of the series, rebelled to beat Camagüey 11-2 and drop them from fourth place in the standings.

Within a 13-hit offensive, Félix Rodríguez's home run hit stood out.

In other challenges, Mayabeque beat Holguín 6-1 and Matanzas 11-7 against La Isla with Armando Dueñas' fifth save and home runs by Eduardo Blanco, his seventh of the campaign, and José Amaury Noroña, his tenth.

Now Pinar has 24-10, followed by Las Tunas 18-11, and Ciego de Avila and Granma, both with 20-14.

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