

Lions or Roosters? Only one semifinal berth left in Cuban baseball

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Sancti Spíritus, July 17 (PL) - The last place in the semifinals of the Cuban baseball tournament will be defined today between Industriales and Sancti Spíritus, the only pair that reached the seven-game limit.

The Gallos evened the quarterfinal series at three wins apiece with a 6-2 triumph that counted on an airtight work of the bullpen, author of seven zeros against the Leones on Sunday.

After an early blowout by starter Jose Isias Grandales, Yankiel Mauris (6.0 IP, 2H, 1K and 1BB) controlled the Blue Jays to score the win, while regular season saves leader Yanielquis Duardo took over the last two innings.

The fate of the match was decided in the second inning when six of the eight runs of the game were produced, first the Leones stepped on the rubber a couple of times due to an error by the shortstop and then the hosts replied with four runs scored by Rodolexis Moreno and Yunier Mendoza with a hit and a double, respectively.

With two runs in the seventh inning, the Gallos settled the scoreboard that stretched the playoff until today.

In five post-season series between the two teams, Industriales has won four, but in a similar situation last year, the Gallos turned the match against Pinar del Río in the same quarter-final stage.

Only this duel remains to be concluded, which will determine Santiago de Cuba's opponent in the semifinals, as the other match will be played between Las Tunas and Matanzas.

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