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Las Tunas beat Industriales to tie playoff series

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HAVANA, Cuba, Jan 17 (acn) Las Tunas beat Industriales 6-3 at home, thus tying 3-3 the semifinal playoff of the 57th Cuban National Baseball Series and both squads will play a decisive game today.

The local side was winning 2-0 due to two unearned runs, but on top of the 6th frame Industriales took the lead thanks to a three-run homer by pinch hitter Eriel Sanchez off Vladimir Baños.

But, on bottom of the eighth, DH Danel Castro batted his second hit of the game and Victor Mesa, Industriales' manager, surprisingly removed from the mound lefty Misael Villa, who had barely allowed two unearned runs to this opponent in 14.1 innings.

The debacle came then for Industriales, as reliever Vladimir Garcia earned the loss after surrendering three runs, with two hits and a dead-ball, in one third of an inning.

The win went to ace closer Jose Angel Garcia, who pitched two scoreless innings allowing two hits. For the winners, there were offensive highlight to SS Alex Ayala, who batted 3 for 4 with an RBI, and CF Yuniesky Larduet and DH Castro also amounted two hits each; while 1B Alex Malleta was the only one who batted two hits for the losing side.

The decisive match to decide who will accompany Granma, defending monarch, in the grand final will take place today at 7:15 pm and it is expected right-handers Fredy Asiel Alvarez and Yoalkis Cruz to be the starting

pitchers for Industriales and Las Tunas, in that order.

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