

Pirates Eliminate Blue Hens, Advance to World Series Semi-Finals

By Kelsey Detweiler | May 27th, 2014

Tampa, FL – East Carolina ended a terrific day of baseball with a 5-3 win over Delaware Club Baseball on Tuesday night at The University of Tampa Baseball Stadium.

The game was originally scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., but lightning and thunderstorms pushed start-time back 'til 9:15 p.m. A highly anticipated match-up, the stands were filled to capacity throughout the nightcap to make for a terrific baseball atmosphere. Both teams were antsy to get the ball rolling, but it was the Blue Hens who struck first.

The sophomore starter Andrew Slosberg shut-down the Pirates through four innings while the Blue Hens' offense put up one in the second and two more in the fifth to take an early 3-0 lead.



In the bottom of the fifth, Slosberg struggled to locate his pitches and put men on first and second with one out thanks to a hit-by-pitch and a walk. With a runner in scoring position, East Carolina took advantage of a Delaware error and wheeled around the bases to put up their first run. Riding the energy, the Pirate offense kept rolling to score another in the sixth and three more in seventh to take a 5-3 lead.

Off of the mound, the tandem of senior Brandon Denton and junior Jim Pearce blanked the Blue Hens for the final two innings and the Pirates earned the big elimination win.

East Carolina's third-baseman Kevin Sanders was named most-valuable player of the game. Sanders was 2-4 with 2 doubles and 3 RBIs, including the double in the 7th inning to break the 3-3 tie and put the Pirates ahead for good.

East Carolina is now 2-1 in tournament play and will face Cal-Berkeley Club Baseball on Tuesday, May 27th at 7:30 p.m. for a chance to advance to the National Championship game. After a 1-2 performance on the week, the Blue Hens are eliminated from the 2014 World Series event.

For more details about today's game, check out the complete [box score](#).

This is the second consecutive season that the National Club Baseball Association has hosted the season-finale event at the University of Tampa Baseball Stadium in downtown Tampa. Games will continue through Thursday, May 29th. For a full schedule of events, links to in-game broadcasts and play-by-play updates, head to the [NCBA World Series Website](#).