Written by By Bernie Dotson For the Sun
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Miyamura to play No. 1 Roswell Goddard

The Miyamura Patriots got hot on offense and clamped down on defense to beat the Alamogordo Tigers 6-0 in the second game of a three-game series May 5 to advance to the second round of the New Mexico 5A baseball tournament at Miyamura High School.

Freshman starting pitcher Marc Rios allowed two hits in the win. The No. 8 seeded Patriots (15-11) now play Roswell Goddard in the quarterfinals May 11 at St. Pius in Albuquerque.

“It was a good win for us,” Miyamura head coach Brian Silva said. “The guys really played tough on defense and we got the hits we wanted on offense.”

The Tigers (13-16) won the first game of the series May 5 by the score of 9-3. That game tied the series at 1-1 as the Pats won the opening game May 4 with a 2-1 decision. Rios didn’t give up a hit May 5 until the game was well into five innings. Senior Isaiah Salazar of Alamogordo bunted and got on base and sophomore Rooster Williams was hit by a pitch and that went against the otherwise perfect game for Rios.

Rios rapidly went through the third, fourth and fifth innings May 5, striking out a total of eleven batters. Rios appeared to be getting tired in the fifth, and it showed when he walked two batters and when the Tigers’ sophomore Elias Orozco hit a single to first base.

The scoring deluge by MHS

In terms of scoring, the Patriots got on the scoreboard first when sophomore centerfielder Lance Evans hit in junior outfielder Jason Cordova in the bottom of the first inning. In the same inning, senior catcher Giovanni Chioda hit in fellow upperclassman Brett McFarland. Freshman Lorenzo scored for a 3-0 Patriots lead and Rios hit in Cordova for another run.

“We had some breakdowns on defense in the second and third innings,” Tigers’ head coach Michael Crabtree said. “They scored a slew of runs in that juncture. We had a couple chances to get back in it, but the hits weren’t there.”

The No. 9 seeded Tigers started sophomore Julio Mendoza as pitcher who Crabtree called a very good athlete. And he was on defense when Alamogordo wasn’t going to get runs, though.

Still, Rios went to bat and hit in Cordova and the Patriots appeared to have found a weakness in Mendoza because of the high number of hits. Cordova later brought in senior outfielder and Miyamura was coasting at 5-0.

“Stay in there. Stay in there,” Crabtree repeated to his players. “Stay in there.”

The Patriots scored one more run before the game was done at 6-0 in the seventh inning.

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