

2022 Black College Baseball World Series champ Edward Waters topped 2023 BCBWS champ Florida Memorial 8-5 in Game 1 of the Black College Baseball World Series presented by Tyson Foods at Riverwalk Park – home of the Class AA Montgomery Biscuits – Wednesday morning.

EWU, fresh off the championship contest in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in its debut season with the conference, got a solid pitching performance from sophomore righty ace Anthony Bayyat (8-1) who worked 7 2/3 innings before getting into an eighth inning jam. The Tigers advanced to 32-18 while FMU dropped to 20-25 on the campaign.

Bayyat fanned three hitters while walking three in a workmanlike performance but put a pair of runners on base to set up a three-run blast from Keith Harden (his first home run of the season) to cut a previously comfortable EWU lead from 6-2 to 6-5 in the eighth. The Lions threatened again in the ninth with the potential tying run at the plate in the top of the ninth, but a strikeout ended the contest.

Kelvin Feliciano (2-2) was tagged with the pitching setback for FMU as the Lions will meet the loser of Thursday's Game 4 at 4 p.m. (CDT) Thursday. The losing team was victimized by four errors afield and three unearned runs, which proved to be the game difference.

Erickson Matos paced the 11-hit attack for EWU with four hits in four trips and three RBI. Harden was one of four Florida Memorial batsmen with a pair of hits during the team's 10-hit morning.