

Bluefield State (now 31-14 overall and the No. 1 seed in tournament) broke open a 1-0 game with four runs in the fourth inning to down 2022 champ pesky Edward Waters (32-19) 9-7 in Game 3 of the Black College Baseball World Series presented by Tyson Foods at Riverwalk Park – home of the of the Class AA Montgomery Biscuits – Wednesday.

Bluefield State starter Zach Powell (9-3) allowed just two hits and pitched shutout ball over the first six innings to keep the Tigers at bay and gain the mound win. He fanned three hitters and walked three to move within one decision of a 10-victory campaign before the BSU bullpen faltered a bit.

Edward Waters starting pitcher Elvin Polanco (1-2) was charged with the loss as the Tigers played their sixth game over the last seven days, including a title 4-0 run through the Southern Intercollegiate Conference Championship last week in Albany, Ga.

Chris Larkin added a 410-foot solo homer to the attack for his team-high-tying eighth round tripper of the year. That turned out to be a key insurance run as the Tigers erased an 8-0 Big Blue advantage with seven runs over the final three frames. Larkin joined Peyton Lewis with three hits apiece, four combined RBI (three by Lewis) and three runs scored to key the Bluefield offense.

EWU second baseman Dave Mitchum led the Tigers comeback effort with three hits and two RBI before State relief man Braeden Major managed to record the final three outs in the top of the ninth.

Bluefield State advances into Friday's semifinals against Thursday's Talladega-Wiley victor while Edward Waters tangles with Miles Thursday in a 12:30 p.m. (CDT) elimination contest.