

West Zone Champions Upland, California remained undefeated as they knocked off previously undefeated North Zone Champs Bay County, Michigan 2-0 in a game that was dominated by starting pitching. Upland starter Robert Lopez was brilliant as he gave up no runs on just three hits in a complete game effort.

Both pitchers put up zeroes in the first and second innings until Upland found some offense in the top of the third. Juan Garza smacked a one-out single up the middle and scored all the way from first on Michael Santana's long double to right field, giving Upland a 1-0 lead. Santana was thrown out at third as he tried to stretch his double into a triple. First baseman Christian Serna stepped in and launched a 3-1 pitch over the wall in deep left field to extend the Upland lead to 2-0.

Robert Lopez was really able to cruise through the first five innings, only allowing two hits and retiring nine Bay County hitter in a row at one point. Bay County pitcher Anthony Bernard gave up six hits, but still managed to limit Upland to just the two runs. Upland had a small chance snuffed out in the top of the sixth when Christian Serna was hit by a pitch to start the inning. Joshua Sosa then hit into a fielder's choice and Serna was out at second. Sosa then stole second, but Emilio Mata struck out looking and Sosa was thrown out trying to swipe third and the inning was over.

Bay County was finally able to generate a scoring chance in the bottom of the sixth, when Garrett Glysz reached on an error with two outs. Carson Kwapiszewski rifled a single through the left side of the infield to give Bay County runners at first and second with two out. However, John Dorman struck out swinging to end the threat, and Lopez's shutout would continue.

Bay County came up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh needing two runs to tie the game and force extra innings, or three runs to win the game in regulation. After retiring the first two batters, Robert Lopez issued only his second walk of the game to Branden Brown, bringing the tying run to the plate in the form of Nick Birdsall. Lopez forced Birdsall to pop out to the second baseman Juan Garza to end the game at 2-0.

Upland, California plays next on August 8th at 5:00 PM and Bay County plays Crowley, Louisiana tomorrow at 5:00 PM in an elimination game.