

# ALWS semifinals: A closer look

## No. 1 California vs. No. 2 North Carolina (4 p.m.)

### San Mateo, Calif., Post 82 (Record: 35-5)

Stat leaders: Tyler Villaroman (.486, 11 runs 10 RBIs); Angelo Bortolin (.385, 9 runs, 2 HRs, 15 RBIs); Felix Aberouette (.344, 7 runs, 1 HR, 14 RBIs, 1-0, 1 save); Ramon Enriquez (.281, 7 RBIs); Kaleb Keelean (270, 6 runs); Jordan Brandenburg (.355, 10 runs, 1 HR, 9 RBIs); Nick Knecht (.333, 7 runs); Spencer Stewart (2-0, 4.50); Alex Waldsmith (2-0, 3.00).

Verbatim: Assistant coach Bob Sargent on how his team has dealt with the murder of former teammate Calvin Riley. “For these guys, it gives them an extra purpose, to dig deeper, because it puts life in perspective. When you’re talking about a one-run game in the ninth inning, does it really matter? That’s really the reality.”

### Rowan County, N.C. Post 342 (Record: 40-13)

Stat leaders: Chandler Blackwelder (.257, 8 RBIs); Dalton Lankford (.250, 9 runs); Hunter Shepherd (8 RBIs); Lee Poteat (.364, 10 runs, 8 RBIs); Juan Garcia (.294, 6 RBIs); Brandon Walton (.314, 6 runs); Jake Pritchard (.400, 7 RBIs); Trevor Atwood (.292, 5 RBIs); Tanner File (.385, 6 runs); John Owen (1-1, 2.40); Bryan Ketchie (1-1, 1.38); Hunter Shepherd (2-0, 0.56).



Verbatim: Coach Jim Gantt on his team’s two consecutive wins in pool play. “I think it says everything about them, as far as their mentality, their confidence level and the fact you can’t just give up because you play poorly one day.”

## No. 1 Indiana vs. No. 2 Arkansas (7:30 p.m.)

### Rockport, Ind., Post 254 (Record: 35-1)

Stat leaders: Kobe Stephens (.250 BA, 6 runs, 7 runs batted in); Trever Zink (.256, 5 runs, 7 RBIs); Spencer Deom (8 runs); Jakob Shuler (.433, 10 runs, 8 RBIs); Sammy Rowan (7 runs, 6 RBIs); Caleb Helms (.313); Jesse Stallings (3-0, 4.38 earned-run average); Andrew Hayden (2-0, 2.57); Caleb Ebelhar (6 saves, 0.00 ERA).

Verbatim: Coach Jim Haaff on preparation for the semifinals. “We can’t control who we play. We’ve just got to concentrate ... and look at one game at a time – not look ahead. We always have things to work on and talk about.”

### Texarkana, Ark., Post 58 (Record: 40-5)

Stat leaders: Matt Goodheart (.294, 5 runs, 4 RBIs); Blake Hall (.345, 5 runs, 4 RBIs); Will Smith (.345, 1 HR, 5 RBIs); Parker Ribble (.375, 5 runs); Beau Burson (.346); Logan Vidrine (.308, 5 runs, 4 RBIs); Austin Cross (1-0, 1.50 ERA); Tanner Vaught (1-0, 2.63 ERA); Patrick Flanagan (1-0, 4.86 ERA).

Verbatim: Manager Dane Peavy on his team bouncing back from an opening loss in pool play. “We’re just going to go out and do what we can every day. We suffered a loss in the first round, and I told our guys ... you still have two more to get after it. We knew that we had a good team.”

## SCORES

Rowan County, NC -	12
Kennewick, WA -	0
Leesburg, VA -	5
Texarkana, AR -	7
Cumberland, RI -	4
San Mateo, CA -	5

## FINAL POOL PLAY

### STARS

San Mateo, CA	3-0
Texarkana, AR	2-1
Cumberland, RI	1-2
Leesburg, VA	0-3

### STRISES

Rockport, IN	3-0
Rowan Co., NC	2-1
Omaha, NE	1-2
Kennewick, WA	0-3

## SCHEDULE

Semifinal #1  
4:00 pm – ESPNU  
Rowan County, NC  
San Mateo, CA

Semifinal #2  
7:30 pm – ESPNU  
Texarkana, AR  
Rockport, IN

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# World Series Journal



## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

<b>San Mateo, Calif., Post 82:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Rowan County, N.C., Post 342</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Texarkana, Ark., Post 58</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cumberland, R.I., Post 86/14:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Kennewick, Wash., Post 34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Leesburg, Va., Post 34</b>	<b>5</b>

For five innings, San Mateo, Calif., Post 82 found itself locked in a scoreless game with Cumberland, R.I., Post 86/14. But as they'd done in their previous two American Legion World Series pool play games, the Shockers showed how explosive – and resilient – they can be.

Two doubles and a home run in the sixth inning gave San Mateo a 4-0 lead, and the Shockers made enough big plays down the stretch to hold off Cumberland 5-4. The win gave Post 82 a 3-0 record in pool play and a spot in Monday's 4 p.m. semifinal game against Rowan County, N.C., Post 342.

It was the fourth game San Mateo has played since learning that former teammate Calvin Riley was murdered. The Shockers have won all four of those games.

"It was a tough loss losing Calvin," said San Mateo's Felix Aberouette, who was 2-3 with a run and an RBI, and pitched the final 2.2 innings for the save. "Calvin's motivating us right now to win this tournament, and that's what we're going to try to do."

Alex Waldsmith (2-0) got the win for San Mateo, allowing 10 hits and three earned runs in 6.1 innings. Aberouette allowed one hit over the final 2.2 innings.

Rowan County controlled its own destiny Sunday afternoon in the final day of American Legion World Series pool play – and completely exercised that control. Post 342 (40-13) led 4-0 after three innings, added three more in the fifth and closed out with a four-run eighth. Rowan County ended pool play 2-1 to advance to Monday's semifinals against San Mateo, Calif..

Rowan County had won 10 straight games heading into the series but lost a 3-0 lead in its first game in falling to Indiana. The past two games have been a different story.

"It was a hard loss, but it was kind of a wake-up," said Post 342 right fielder Lee Poteat, who was 2-4 at the plate with three RBIs. "It was just good to get that loss underneath our belt and realize that we do need to play as hard as we can and stay focused in order to win this tournament."

"We don't have a lot of power," Post 342 coach Jim Gantt said. "We just base hit. We pitch and play defense and get timely hitting. That's the key to any good baseball team."

Kennewick, which got two hits from Dillon Plew, finished 54-17.

Another day, another Arkansas comeback.

For the second straight day, Texarkana fell behind 3-0. And for the second straight game, the Razorbacks rallied. Down 3-0 after the first inning Sunday, Texarkana (40-5) put together big rallies in the second and fourth innings and then held off a late charge by Leesburg and earn a spot in Monday's semifinals against Rockport, Ind.

"I'm just proud of these guys," said Texarkana manager Dane Peavy, whose team improved to 2-1 in pool play. "They battle tooth and nail for each other and give you everything they've got. We knew that we needed to win. And we knew that we had a good team."

Virginia, which came into the game 0-2 in pool play, stunned Texarkana with three runs in the top of the first inning.

But Texarkana came back two innings later. Nick Myers, Parker Ribble and Beau Burson all singled to start the inning. Burson drove in Myers, Logan Vidrine followed with a walk, and Riley Orr drew a base on balls to score Ribble.

Matt Goodheart's fielder's choice brought home Burson. Goodheart then stole second and Vidrine came home on a throwing error on the play, giving Texarkana a 4-3 lead.

Texarkana tacked on two more runs in the fourth and then added a seventh.

Rhode Island rallied back, but could not overcome the lead, ultimately falling just two runs shy of a victory.