

► Division 1 North Semifinal

Nunez comes up with stunner

By BILL BURT

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LOWELL -- Everything was in place for Lawrence High to get an eventual berth into the Div. 1 North finals on Saturday.

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The Lancers had momentum after consecutive dominating wins over Central Catholic and Lexington and they had their ace, Miguel Matos, who allowed six runs the entire season.

But then there was Arvin Nunez, and his 80 mile an hour fastball for Andover High.

A junior varsity pitcher a year ago, Nunez went pitch-for-pitch with Matos for the distance, including one extra inning, and the Golden Warriors stunned the Lancers, 3-1, and will be in the sectional title game Saturday back at Alumni Field at 6 p.m.

“I tried to throw strikes,” said Nunez, a Dominican who grew up in Andover and is headed to UMass Lowell in the fall to study chemical engineering.

“It was fun,” he added. “This is what you play for, for games like this.”

Even when the score was scoreless through four innings, it felt like



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover’s Arvin Nunez throws a pitch against Lawrence Wednesday. Nunez went the distance in a surprising complete-game victory in the Div. 1 North semifinals.

Lawrence was chasing Andover. Lawrence didn’t get its first hit until the 5th inning, just after Andover went ahead 1-0 on Josh Gruenberg’s RBI single to left field.

The Lancers finally tied it in the bottom of the sixth on a booming, high, 370-foot sacrifice fly to left

center by Christian Verona, scoring Kebler Peralta.

The teams went quietly in the seventh inning before the floodgates opened for Andover in the first extra frame. It all started with one out on a grinding, 10-pitch walk by Matthew

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