

HOME GROWN NATIONAL ANTHEM

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The Marlins were the home team for Game 3, so the in-game experience at neutral site Thursday at Minute Maid Park replicated what it would have been like at Marlins Park.

That included the pre-game national anthem performance, which was sung by 17-year-old Silvio Plata, a junior at Miami Braddock High School and the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Plata pre-recorded the anthem at Marlins Park on Tuesday.

Plata, who lost his eyes during surgeries at the age of 9 months and 18 months after being diagnosed with retinoblastoma, sang the national anthem at Marlins Park a couple times over the past two years.

Marlins shortstop Miguel Rojas, who invited Plata to record the anthem for Thursday, overheard an interview he did with Fox Sports Florida during a Sept. 18, 2018, game against the Washington Nationals after Plata performed the anthem for the first time at the ballpark. He gave Plata an autographed bat while on-deck to hit in the seventh inning.

“I was listening to what he was saying about life and adversity,” Rojas said that day. “When you’re facing adversity, you take that as a challenge. That’s something that really got me. It touched me because as a baseball player, we complain about a lot. You complain about going 0 for 4 or not having a good at-bat or not helping the team win. We worry so much about that, but when someone has something like that, something that they’re battling in life, it’s when you realize that your problems are not bad.”