

Round up of Sports News for January 7th, 2014



Boxing

The members of Cuba's *Los Domadores* who will fight next Saturday against local Azerbaijan's *Baku Fires* team at the *World Boxing Series* started their training in the city of Baku.

The Caribbean team finished on top of *Group B* with 12 points in the first stage, while the hosts goes in 4th place with 6 points preceded by Kazakhstan's *Arlans Astana* (10) and Russia (7), while *Los Guerreros de México* (3) and *Hussars Poland* (0) complete the list.

Meanwhile, *Group A* consists of Ukraine *Ottomans* (9), Algeria *Desert Hawks* (2), Germany (3), the *Condors of Argentina* (4), *USA Knockouts* (1) and *Dolce & Gabbana Italia Thunder* (5), said the Cuban head coach Rolando Acebal.

Chess

Cuban GM Leinier Dominguez needs to fill more than 5.5 points of 11 possible at the *Tata Steel Chess Tournament* to maintain his current Elo of 2754 which puts him in 14th place in the world list.

Leinier will face opponents with higher levels such as the Armenian GM Levon Aronian (2812), American GM Hikaru Nakamura (2787) and Italian GM Fabiano Caruana (2782), 2nd, 3rd and 6th of the universal scale, in that order.

However, they all have a 1-1 balance regarding *classic* games, but the Cuban has a 0-2 disadvantage against Israeli GM Boris Gelfand (2777) and Russian GM Sergey Karjakin (2759).

Baseball

The *Cristóbal Labra Baseball stadium* in the Isle of Youth shows its best gala and is ready for the *All-Star Game* this coming weekend.

The stadium received a comprehensive and detailed repair and technical insurance, said Lazaro Gonzalez, municipal director of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER).

For the 2nd straight time, the local team known as *Los Piratas*, classified for the 2nd half of the Season, now with a better performance, that granted it the headquarters of the *All-Star Game*.

Wrestling

The Cuban wrestlers, including double Olympic champion Mijaín Lopez in his return to competition, now in the new category of 130 kilos recently approved by the *International Wrestling Federation (FILA)*, are ready to participate in the *National Wrestling Championships* to be held in Camaguey and Ciego de Ávila cities from 10th to 18th to come.

In the *Greco-Roman* category, gladiators will fight in Ciego de Avila, while Camaguey will host the best exponents of *Free Style* modality, both in the male and female branches.

Soccer

The *Atlético Mineiro* Brazilian soccer club, champion of the *Libertadores Cup* and 3rd in the *FIFA World Clubs*, was the best team on the continent in 2013, according to a report released by the *Pluri* sports consultant magazine, which includes the best soccer teams of the Americas.

Tennis

The Argentine Federico Delbonis said today goodbye to the Auckland Tennis Tournament, New Zealand, after losing in the 1st round against American Donald Young by 5-7 and 2-6.

Number 54th in the world rankings, Delbonis could not stop the push of Young, who again showed his quality demonstrated in the preliminary phase with a clear victory against a rival with better ranking.

Venezuela Receives Sports Authority of MERCOSUR

The sports authorities of the countries of the *Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)* are meeting today in the Venezuelan state of Vargas, as part of efforts to strengthen the activity in the region.

According to the local sports ministry, the meeting will run until next Thursday, taking as its starting point the cross-cutting principles of cooperation, solidarity, complementarity and regional integration among the brotherly peoples.

In that sense, the Venezuelan government intends to promote programs, plans and social projects to consolidate the South American Homeland.

MERCOSUR is composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela as *full members*, while Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru enjoy the status of *partner countries*.



Radio Habana Cuba