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Matanzas, May 17 (RHC)-- The Dominican Republic and Nicaragua have been announced as Cuba's opponents for the pre-Olympic baseball tournament of the Americas, to be played from May 31 in the U.S. state of Florida.

Ricardo Eizmendi, technical chief of the national commission, explained to JIT news website that the games are scheduled for May 27 and 29, in that order, as part of the schedule prior to the competition conceived by the organizers for the venue itself.

"It's a scheme that favors a chance to practice against teams outside the group in which we will face the event," recalled the specialist, who considered it positive to hold matches of this level at the end of the preparation process.

Eizmendi highlighted the results of the preparation hosted by the Victoria de Girón stadium in Matanzas, visited on Saturday by the president of Inder Osvaldo Vento Montiller, and explained that the team has placed special emphasis on the tactical situations of the game.

He said that they are analyzing all the details that allow them to form a balanced team, with men in conditions to respond to a challenge that is known to be demanding, but with the philosophy of mixing total dedication and joy on the field.

Cuba will be part of group B, where it will compete against Venezuela (May 31), Canada (June 1) and Colombia (June 2) in search of a place in the super round, which will also host the top two teams in group A, made up of the United States, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

The tournament will grant a direct ticket to the winner and will reward those placed in positions two and three with tickets to the world qualifier to be held in China-Taipei.

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