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Guatemala City, November 15 (PL) -- Cuba had two great performances at the Pan American Softball Championship for women, held in Guatemala, with a pair of knockout victories. After losing yesterday to Mexico (1-3), the island's team faced the Dominican Republic first thing Monday with a 10-0 score and success for Anisley Lopez, who showed a solid job by striking out nine players and allowing only one base and one hit.

In the second inning, they repeated the same knockout to Nicaragua, victim of zero hits, zero runs.

This time it was a two-hander, Yamelkis Guevara pitched three chapters and Yilian Tornés closed the fourth and last inning due to an out.

The girls opened the home run box with their captain Yilian Rondón, who got it out with two aboard.

In summary, the Cuban pitching allowed only one hit in two games and scored 20 runs.

Tomorrow, the Cuban team will have a crucial day against Canada (19:00 local time) and Guatemala, also in Group B, which is completed by Peru.

The host nation competes under the flag of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation due to the official sanction against the local Olympic Committee since October 15.

This X Pan American offers five tickets for the 2023 world championship and the same amount for the Central Caribbean and Pan American events in San Salvador and Santiago de Chile, respectively, hence the existing rivalry and the high competitive level.

The Cuban team's technical director, Jorge Lamas, told Prensa Latina that his students are looking to be among the first four positions of their key to fight for a place in the next phase.

"They are in good spirits and practice has been good, we were a week before here in Guatemala, which allowed us to grease the preparation," he said.

In Group A are powers like the United States, ranked No. 1, Canada (3) and Puerto Rico (5).

Mexico, which beat the Cubans in its debut, is in fourth place.

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