

Baku Grand Slam: Another fateful tournament for Latin American judo

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Baku, February 19 (PL) - The Baku Judo Grand Slam closed without medals for Latin America and the Caribbean, with Cuba's Ivan Silva (90 kilograms) the only one to fight for the podium on Sunday.

The region drew a blank at the Grand Slam in Paris at the beginning of the month and had some real options for medals in the Azeri capital, where it arrived with 36 athletes from a dozen countries, with Brazil (seven women and seven men) and Cuba (two and four, respectively) as the most represented.

However, only Silva, defeated on Sunday for bronze by Bulgaria's Ivaylo Ivanov, and Brazil's 66kg William Silva, beaten on Friday in the same instance by local Yashar Najafov, reached the medal discussion block.

Among the women, the best performance came from Cuba's Maylin del Toro, who finished seventh in the 63kg after losing yesterday's repechage.

Azerbaijan made their home venue count and dominated the Baku Grand Slam with three titles, including the one won on Sunday by 90kg Murad Fatiyev.

Also crowned on Sunday were French Olympic and world gold medallist Romane Dicko (over 78kg), Dutch Guusje Steenhuis (78), Russian over 100 Valeriy Endovitskuy, competing as a neutral athlete, and Georgia's Iliia Sulamanidza (100).

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