

Sports News Roundup Jan. 03



Cuban Sports in 2015

The *XVII Pan-American Games*, which will be held for the 3rd time in Canada, and the *World Athletics Outdoor Championships*, in the Chinese city of Beijing, are among the main events that will have the presence of Cuban sports in 2015.

The American Games will be held from July 10th-26th in Toronto, and will compete in 36 sports, while the competition of the game, in the Chinese metropolis, is made from August 22nd-30th.

Cuba will also attend the following worldwide combat sports events during 2015: The world of judo, in Astana, Kazakhstan, during the last week of August 24th to August 30th; the Wrestling Cup in Las Vegas, USA, from September 7th-13th; that of taekwondo, from September 16th-23rd in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk; and the Boxing Top, in Doha, Qatar, from 5th to 18th of October.

The most universal sports will play the U-17 and U-20 world tops, the first one in Chile from October to November, while the U-20 years will be in New Zealand between May 20th and June 20th.

Cuba Warms-up for CONCACAF Tourney

Cuba's under-20s soccer team will tackle Jamaica in an international friendly cap this Saturday at the *Waterhouse Mini-Stadium* as both teams fine-tune preparations for the *CONCACAF World Cup* qualifiers

set to start on January 9th in Jamaica.

The Cubans, the first to arrive on the island on Friday, will engage Jamaica again on Monday in the curtain-raiser at the *Anthony Spaulding Sports Complex* before Arnett Gardens play Boys' Town in a Red Stripe Premier League match.

The Jamaicans are coming off three defeats in the *Simon Bolivar Cup Tournament* in Venezuela, losing 1-3 to eventual champion Paraguay, 1-4 to Peru and 1-5 to Venezuela.

Head coach Theodore Whitmore was not pleased, and these 2 games against Cuba are expected to highlight his team's readiness. Jamaicans are drawn in Group A alongside the mighty US team, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, Panama and Aruba.

On January 9th, the *Young Reggae Boyz* open their campaign against Trinidad in a triple-header at the *National Stadium*, when Aruba takes on Panama before USA faces Guatemala.

Cuba are drawn in Group B alongside Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, and Canada, and will open against Mexico on January 10th at the *Montego Bay Sports Complex*.

Bolivia to Live 2015 Dakar Rally

A few days are left for the most risky sports event in the world and Bolivians are already living it minute by minute, because they are the hosts of the *2015 Dakar Rally*, for the 2nd time.

Messages on the radio, television and public spaces in Bolivia are announcing the celebration of the race that will tour several places in the country.

The government invested more than 5 million dollars for the organization, promotion and the logistics of the race, which will cover 9,000 km on the national territories of Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

Three million of that amount was paid to the *Amaury Sport Organization* excess of the ceiling and the number financed advertising, setting up camps, hotel infrastructure and other services that use the spectators and runners.

Bolivia awaits the arrival of at least half a million foreign and domestic visitors, whose spending on accommodation, food and fuel gains would leave almost 87 billion dollars.

The country will be represented by nine drivers already in Argentina with their respective backpackers to complete preparations and undertaking relevant reviews of the vehicles before the start, covering some of the most famous figures in motorcycle worldwide.

The Government has declared January 12th a holiday for everyone to enjoy the show and the state-operated *Bolivian Tourism Company* sold more than 60% of a package trip to Dakar areas, including transportation, lodging, meals and visits to important sites while 5 thousand police officers and soldiers will guarantee security for the event.



Radio Habana Cuba