

Sports News Roundup October 05



Baseball

The current leader and defending champion Ciego de Avila will visit this Monday the inspired Cienfuegos team in the continuation of the qualifying round of the *55th Cuban Baseball Championship*.

First to arrive at 20 wins and only 7 setbacks, Ciego de Avila's *Los Tigres* will try to extend their lead in front of Cienfuegos, traveling in the 7th rung with 13-11, after a surprise swept over Granma.

They, then relegated to 4th seat because of these 3 defeats in the last subset are Granma's *Los Alazanes* with 16-10, who will try to regain winning ways at home to receive Villa Clara (14-13), also hungry for victories after falling 2 times facing Camagüey.

Camagüey, precisely behind with 7-20, will host Pinar del Rio (17-8), which seeks to maintain or improve their 2nd place after sweeping Guantánamo.

Meanwhile, Industriales (18-9) seek to recover the 2nd place to visit Sancti Spiritus (14-13), and Matanzas (15-11) will try to extend its string of 6 consecutive wins when receiving Holguin (13-14).

Las Tunas (15-10) could take advantage of its foray into Artemisa (8-16) to add new wins and stay in the *Sorting Area*.

The Series complete its calendar for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Isla de la Juventud (13-14)-Santiago de Cuba (10-17) and Mayabeque (4-22)-Guantánamo (12-14) challenges.

Volleyball

The Cuban men's volleyball team debuts this Monday against Costa Rica at the *NORCECA* tournament to be held in Córdoba, Mexico, which grants 4 tickets to the *Final Four tournament* next January.

After the match against Costa Rica, Rodolfo Sanchez' disciples will face Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday and Mexico on Wednesday in the preliminary *Group B*, and if they win, the Cubans will pass to the Olympic qualifiers, which will give the winner 1 ticket to *Rio de Janeiro 2016* while Canada, Puerto Rico and Honduras will do the same in *Group A*.

Finally, the United States, defending champion, will not be present in this fight along with Italy as they got their direct tickets in the last World Cup in Japan.

Boxing

The world's best boxers are poised to show off their skills at the *Doha 2015 AIBA World Boxing Championships* in Qatar, with not just medals, but the promise of qualification places for *Rio 2016 Olympics* up for grabs.

Having arrived through the confederation championships held across the globe in recent weeks, the crowded pool of boxing talent will descend on Doha for the opening ceremony and draw on October 6th.

Football

Everything went splendidly for the United States in its Olympic qualifying match against Cuba on Saturday until the final minutes, when Marc Pelosi went down in a collision and clutched his shin. For a moment, coach Andi Herzog feared the talented midfielder had broken his leg again.

It turned out the budding *Earthquakes* star merely sustained a deep gash, one that should not keep him out too long. Good thing for the Americans, whose 6-1 victory over Cuba in Kansas City, Kansas, guaranteed them a place in the CONCACAF semifinals.

Pelosi, who missed more than a year after breaking his leg in 2013, said: "I was really worried something happened again. It hurts, but it's not bad."

The Americans play their final group stage match against Panama, which lost 3-1 to Canada, on Tuesday night in Colorado while Cuba faces Canada in the other doubleheader match.

The top 2 teams from each group advance to the semifinals, and the 2 finalists qualify for the *2016 Rio Games*. The winner of the 3rd-place faces Colombia in a one-game playoff for another berth.



Radio Habana Cuba