

# *Sports News Roundup December*

## *03*

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### **Baseball**

Pinar del Rio defeated the leader and current monarch Ciego de Avila by a score of 7 to 0 to score its 4th consecutive victory in the continuation of the pending challenges of the 1st round of the *55th Cuban Baseball Championship*.

Erlis Casanova reached 5 successes by completing 9 innings to give 10 strikeouts and only 6 hits allowed.

First baseman William Saavedra led the winning drive, 4-2, with 1 homer and 2 trailers.

After the resumption of the *National Baseball Series* to perform suspended or sealed matches in the qualifying round, Pinar del Río files 3-1 wins over Granma, 5-0 compared to Las Tunas, and another one by not presentation against the already removed Mayabeque.

With Wednesday's victory, the team of Cuba's westernmost province files 27 successes and 15 failures, only surpassed by Ciego de Avila (30-13) and Industriales (30-14).

Pinar del Rio's Los Vegueros still have 2 remaining encounters with the Avilanians' *Los Tigres* and another against Industriales to close the preliminary phase.

The match between Matanzas and Las Tunas will complete the pending clashes from December 5th to give way to the selection of reinforcements and the *All-Star Game*, agreed on Saturday 12th and on Sunday 13th next January at the *Julio Antonio Mella Stadium*, while the 2nd round of the *Cuban Baseball Championship* will kick off on December 15th.

## **Futsal**

The Cuban team of *Indoor Football* or *Futsal* faces Peru today after winning their first 2 games against Peruvian 1st division teams in their training base tour by the South American country.

On Saturday, students from capital's technical Clemente Reynoso debuted with a 3-2 win against *Overall Club* and on Tuesday 3-1 over the *Primero de Mayo* team.

Cuba prepares for the knockout stage of the Caribbean in January to be held in Havana in which 8 teams will compete enrolled into 2 groups.

That lid gives 2 direct quotas for the CONCACAF finals based in Costa Rica in May 2016, a cap that also grants 3 tickets for the World Cup in the Colombian city of Cali in September 2016.

Cuba has attended 4 *Futsal World Cups*: Spain (1996), Guatemala (2000), Chinese Taipei (2004), and Brazil (2008).

## **Fencing**

Cuban fencers Reynier Henríquez Ortiz and Yamirka Rodríguez Quesada will attend the *Grand Prix de Espada* to be held from December 5th-7th in Qatar.

Cuba sends only its best fencers as part of a strategy that seeks to improve its accumulated so that they can be classified by the Olympic roster to Rio de Janeiro.

With 36 points, Reynier is located in 52nd place in the world rankings while Yamirka now appears in 62nd with 26 points.

The *Cuban Fencing Federation* intends to send Yamirka and Reynier to attend all *World Cups* and *Grand Prix* as they give world ranking points; however, if they cannot achieve them in this way, both fencers will join the Cuban delegation that is represented in all categories and weapons, which look for next April their tickets to Rio.

## **Handball**

Cuba's women handball team will play in France its 5th friendly game before participating in the *World Championship* in several Danish cities from December 5th.

The National Commissioner Andrés Hurtado detailed that the Cuban team will face a club from the first division of the French Handball League.

The executive highlighted that Cuban girls played against elite teams like France and Romania, among the top 10. They also play against clubs from the 1st and 2nd division of France handball.

Cuba will play in Pool B against Poland, China, Netherlands, Sweden, and Angola.

## Sports Collaboration

The Bolivian President Evo Morales confirmed the possibility of increasing sports collaboration with Cuba in disciplines such as Athletics.

During our visit to Paris, we met with Cuban First Vice-President Miguel Diaz-Canel and talked about strengthening our links in sports to win an Olympic medal, Morales stated in a press conference.

He commented that athletics would be one of the fields to be strengthened and announced that one of the biggest stars in this sport in Cuba and worldwide, Ana Fidelia Quirot, could support this initiative.

## Chilean Soccer Team Goes Up in PL Sports Poll

The Chilean soccer team --winner of the *2015 America Cup*-- went up in the sports poll of Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina*, taking the vote by local Biobio radio station.

Alvaro Lara Vera, general editor for sports in *Biobio*, one of the most important Chilean radio stations, gave the point of view of the Chilean radio station to select the most outstanding athletes of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015.

The Chilean soccer won the 2015 America Cup and with an exceptional season, has been recognized as one of the best teams in the ranking of the International Football Association (FIFA).

At the individual level, Biobio favored Jamaican male sprinter Usain Bolt, king of speed, for Best Male Athlete of the Year, ratified at the highest throne in the World Championship in Beijing.

For women, Biobio selected Colombian cyclist Mariana Pajón for the title for Best Female Athlete.

Then Radio Biobio launched their bets for the other five outstanding athletes in the survey conducted for more than 50 years ago the Prensa Latina news agency:

María José Moya (Chile, Skating)

Cristian Valenzuela (Chile, Paralympic Track and Field)

Joao de Lucca (Brazil, Swimming)

Carlo de Gavardo (Chile, Motorcycle Race) Posthumus, he died this year.

Lionel Messi (Argentina, soccer)

Before, another two press media from Chile, the magazine Punto Final and Crónica Digital, also voted in favor of the Chilean national team.

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