

Sports News Roundup March 8



Baseball

The Cuban capital's baseball team, Industriales, defeated Pinar del Rio by a narrow margin of 5-4 and secured the 3rd place in the regular Season at the *55th Cuban Baseball Championship*.

These pending results defined the already 4 classified teams to the semifinals of the National Series, which are ready to request reinforcements next Thursday, March 10th to prepare for the *playoffs*.

Basketball

With the teams of Villa Clara, Capitalinos, Ciego de Avila, and Guantanamo as animators of the semifinals, the men's *Superior Basketball League (LSB)*, approaches the *play off* stage.

The capital's Los Bufalos are facing Ciego de Avila's squad at the *Giraldo Córdova Cardín Sports Complex, located in Ciego de Avila*.

Judo

Onix Cortés' silver medal and Magdiel Estrada's bronze medal closed the performance of Cuban judo at the *Continental Open of Lima, Peru*, a contest that awarded points for qualifying for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

In the competition, Maricet Espinosa's took gold in 63 kg and 100 points for the leading-board list which closes on May 29th.

Russia led the medal tally by countries with 3-3-2, followed by Brazil (2-2-3), Spain (2-1-3) and Cuba (1-1-1).

Also regarding Judo, 6 Paralympic judo athletes of Cuba who participated in the *Grand Prix of Rio de Janeiro* this weekend, won 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals, highlighting champions Dalidaivis Rodríguez and Yangaliny Jiménez.

And in another from judo, this time local, it was reported that Villa Clara's star Asley González, Olympic silver medalist in *London 2012*, will not go up to the tatami today at the *Fernando de Dios Atheneum* in

the city of Holguín, looking for the crown in the men's *National Judo Championship*, which closes on Wednesday March 9th and is led, so far, by the team of Havana.

Cycling

Through the 3rd seat achieved by Arlenis Sierra in the women's points race, Cuba got its first medal on the penultimate day of the *World Track Cycling Championship*, based in London, the British capital.

When it seemed impossible for Cuba to earn medals, largely by the discrete actions of its leading figure Lisandra Guerra, Sierra had a great performance and climbed to the awards podium.

In a tight race, Sierra managed to accumulate 14 points, the same amount as the silver medalist, Canadian Jasmin Glaesser, and one less than the champion, Polish Katarzyna Pawlowska (15), reflects the official website of the contest.

Previously, the young Cuban rider had finished 7th in the *scratch* in a tournament attended by several of the major cyclists in the world.

Through this excellent performance, Sierra tied the 3rd seat won in the 2003 edition of Stuttgart (Germany) by her compatriot Yoanka Gonzalez, who is also the only Cuban that has won an Olympic medal in track cycling.

Gonzalez, with great experience in the international arena, has in her extensive record a historic silver medal in the women's points race in Beijing 2008, an event which is not currently included in the competitive program of the Olympics.

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