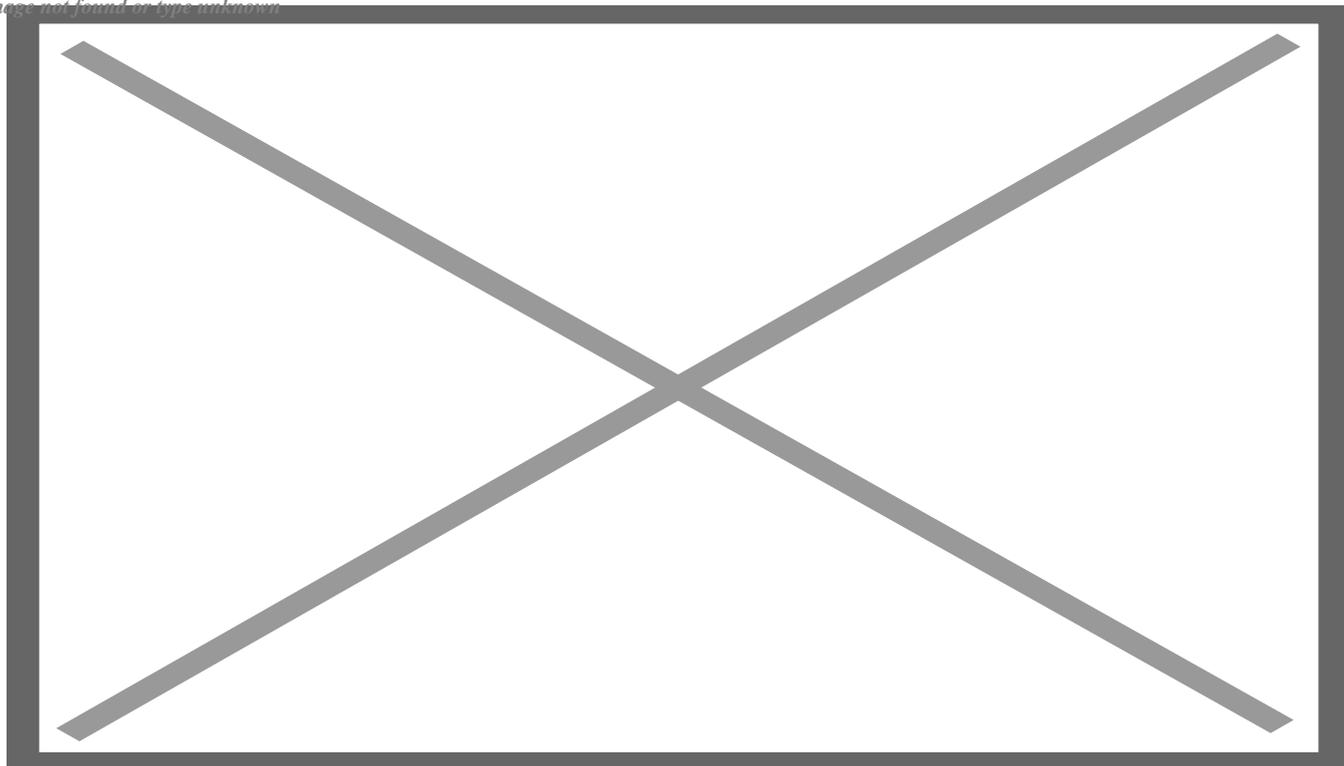


Cuba to unveil roster for the V World Baseball Classic

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Cuba will announce today the names of its 30 players chosen to face the upcoming V World Baseball Classic, the highest-ranked tournament among nations in that sport.

Havana, January 25 (PL) - Cuba will announce today the names of its 30 players chosen to face the upcoming V World Baseball Classic, the highest-ranked tournament among nations in that sport.

Authorities of the national sport on the island will reveal the list in a television program that will be broadcast live from 19:00, local time, a detail that reveals the collective interest on the way to the fight scheduled for March 8 to 21.

Under the guidance of manager Armando Johnson and an expanded coaching staff, which includes illustrious figures of yesterday, part of the country's pre-selection has been training at the Latinoamericano stadium in this capital city since January 16, although with notable absences.

No Major League Baseball (MLB) player will be able to join the teams before March 3, according to the organizers, and the largest of the Antilles will have to wait to gather Andy Ibañez (Detroit Tigers), Yoan Moncada and Luis Robert Moirán, both from the Chicago White Sox, if they are confirmed.

Due to the tensions generated by the visa procedures, the Caribbean territory will release its roster in advance, because the deadline for submitting the list is February 7.

It is worth noting that Cuba is part of the A key and will play against the Netherlands, Italy, Panama and the local Chinese Taipei, in that order, at the Taichung Intercontinental Stadium, one of the four venues of the first round of the competition.

Presumably, the team will fly to Japan on February 10 to train and challenge the top teams of the Chunichi Dragons (February 19), Yomiuri Giants (February 22) and SoftBank Falcons (February 23), while in Taipei they will have other friendly matches.

For the first time in the history of the tournament, which began in 2006, a total of 20 teams will compete in a three-stage format in four different cities: Miami (United States), Phoenix (United States), Tokyo (Japan) and Taichung. Segment B will include the Czech Republic, two-time champion Japan, South Korea, Australia and China, while Segment C is made up of the reigning champion United States, United Kingdom, Mexico, Colombia and Canada.

The "group of death", as specialists call it, D features the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Israel and Nicaragua, the first three of which are full of MLB-bound players.

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