

Young Thalia Diaz reigns in the ALBA cycling speed race

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Havana, April 26 (JIT) - Cuba remains in second place in the ALBA Games medal table, behind host Venezuela.

This Wednesday, the delegation woke up with 65 medals, 30 of them gold, while Venezuela accumulated 284, including 98 gold medals. Third place goes to Nicaragua, owner of 40 medals, 5 gold.

In cycling, young Thalía Díaz was the fastest on the track of the Teo Capriles velodrome.

At the start of the cycling competitions, Diaz won the 200 meters sprint with a time of 12.487 seconds to beat Mariaesthela Vilera, from Venezuela, in the final.

Diaz came in first in the initial heat, but the judges determined that she made an illegal move and awarded it to her rival. She then had to win the next two heats to reign, which she did comfortably.

In the team pursuit, Cuba's men's quartet, composed of Douglas Parrado, Alejandro Parra, Jean Carlos Hernández and Leandro Marcos, deserved the bronze medal.

The swimmers became the top medal winners for Cuba in these V Alba Games.

Dainé Pedré won two more medals after coming in third in the 200 meters butterfly and being part of the 4x100 combined relay, which won silver. In total, Pedré won 6 medals (2-3-1), to become the Cuban with the most medals in the event.

With the medal in the combined relay, Fermín Rodríguez also reached six (1-3-2), while breaststroker Julio Calero added 5 (2-2-1).

In women's softball, the Cubans maintained their undefeated record in seven games and will compete for the gold medal.

On Tuesday they blanked Venezuela A 3-0, in the final phase played by the Page System, with a remarkable performance by right-handed pitcher Lixania Meléndez.

In fencing, the Cuban epee (women) and sabre (men) teams won silver medals.

The Venezuelan women defeated the Cuban women 45-39 in a hard-fought match, while in the men's sabre, Venezuela also won 45-36.

A day earlier, Cuban fencing had a great result with the title of Dariel Carrión, who was crowned champion in epee, after defeating one of the Limardo brothers, Francisco, in the final in a very difficult duel.

Héctor Caballero closed Cuba's performance in skating with a silver medal in the 200 meters.

In the same modality for women, Adriana Cantillo was at the gates of the podium when she entered fourth at the finish line, behind three Venezuelan women.

With this result, the small Cuban skating delegation managed to snatch five medals from the Venezuelans, rivals of the world elite.

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