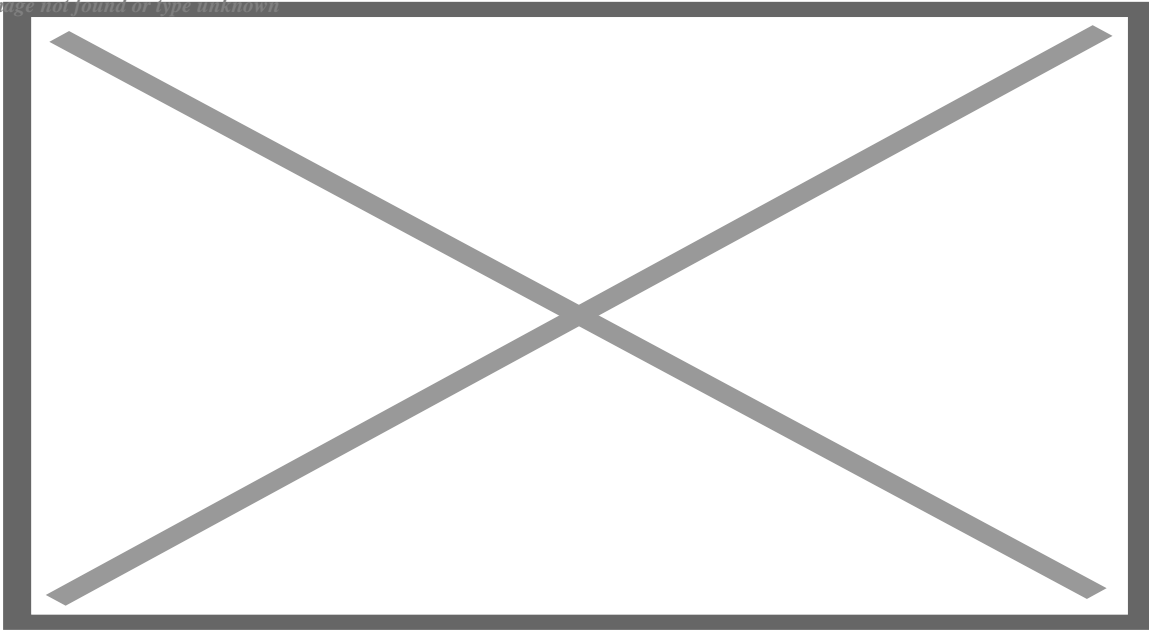


# *Avileñas retain national field field hockey crown*

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Havana, February 10 (JIT)-- Ciego de Avila conquered this Friday the National Women's Field Hockey Championship 2024, as they did in 2023.

In the final they met the same opponent as then, Sancti Spíritus, which they defeated on the synthetic field located near the Giraldo Córdova Cardín roofed hall.

Tahimí Licea, the most outstanding player of the event, took a penalty kick five minutes before the end of the match to break a 2-2 tie and give the coveted victory to the hosts.

According to experts, the Spirituans dominated the midfield for more than half of the match, but failed to hit the goal defended by Melisa Suarez, the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

The Spiritian defense was in trouble in the last stretch, something that Yuniel Villanueva's pupils, the most outstanding coach, took advantage of very well, to the point of provoking the winning penalty kick.

The now national triplereinas finished with five wins and a draw. Meanwhile, Santiago de Cuba defeated Las Tunas 3-0 to win the bronze medal. Camagüey placed fifth and Villa Clara sixth.

The men's national championship will also be held in Ciego de Avila from February 16. The home team will seek to be crowned for the 16th time in these competitions.

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