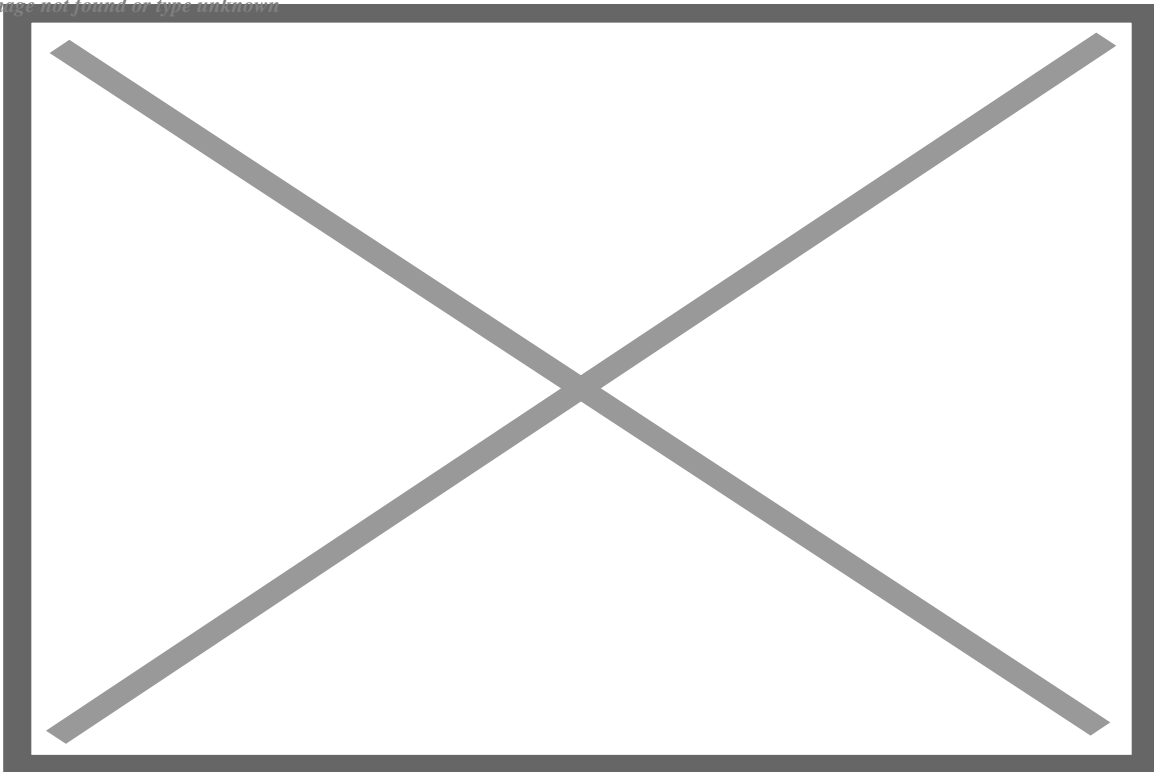


Cuba advances directly to the Pan American Baseball5 finals

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Cuban Baseball5 Team

Barquisimeto, Jun 30 (JIT) - The Cuban mixed Baseball5 squad won its two games, maintained its undefeated record, and got a direct pass to this Sunday's final of the Pan American tournament, held at the Domo Bolivariano, in this Venezuelan city.

In the first match, the team coached by Pablo Terry, world champion in Mexico 2022, defeated Venezuela 2-1 (7x0, 4x6, 9x3) and reached 13 points, unreachable for the rest of the three participating teams.

The captain, midfielder, and first in the shootout, Briandy "Leyenda" Molina, who scored 11 hits, stood out in the ball striking.

That set lost against Venezuela is the second setback for Cuba in its rich history in international matches in the senior category. The first occurred against Mexico, precisely in this tournament, when the victory was also 2-1.

In their second match on Saturday, Terry's disciples crushed Puerto Rico 2-0 (15x0 and 5-0 super knockout).

The entire team fielded the ball with power and concentrated on defensive work to achieve large scores against a Puerto Rican team that has only been practicing this dynamic baseball modality for four months.

Offensively, Molina once again stood out with six hits. If the 11 hits of the game against the locals are added, he reached first base 17 times.

Cuba closed the qualifying phase with 16 points out of a possible 18 points, thanks to four 2-0 wins and a pair of 2-1 victories.

A semifinal game will be played this Sunday between Venezuela and Mexico. The winner of that match will play Cuba for the title.

These three teams qualified for the world championship in Hong Kong, scheduled for October of this year.

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