

# *Sports News Roundup April 02*

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## **Soccer**

Cuba will face off Curacao the 8th and 16th of June at the opening of the soccer playoffs in view to attending the *Russia 2018 World Cup*.

Curacao was the last team this week to advance to the 2nd phase of *CONCACAF* qualifying after beating Montserrat's team 4-3.

In the 1st game, those led by former Dutch player Patrick Kluiver, exceeded as local the Monserrat's 2-1 but were lately tied with 2 points in the 2nd game.

Cuba and Curacao will clash in the 2nd stage of *World Cup* qualifying, where the 1st cap is scheduled for Monday, June 8th at the *Eligio Hato Stadium*, Willenstad City, and the other will be played on Tuesday, June 16th at the *Pedro Marrero Stadium* in Havana.

Besides Curacao also agreed to the 2nd knockout round Dominica, Nicaragua, Barbados, Bermuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Belize.

This 2nd stage will cope with 20 teams round matches, of which 10 winners will advance to the 3rd round, where Haiti and Jamaica are already qualified.

## **Chess**

The Cuban GM Lázaro Bruzón and his compatriot IM Ermes Espinosa lead with 2.5 points from 3 possible, *the 2015 Central American & Caribbean Sub-Zonal 2.3 Championships*, based in Ecuador.

Bruzón, 2691 Elo points, and Espinosa, 2494, won in the first 2 rounds and split the point between them in the 3rd one.

Bruzón defeated the Ecuadorian IM Miguel Muñoz and Lenin Guerra, while Espinosa defeated Honduran IM Carlos Burgos and then the Ecuadorian IM David Heredia.

The Ecuadorian event awards 2 tickets to the *World Cup* this year under the *Swiss System* of 9 rounds covering 15 players from 6 countries: Ecuador (8), Colombia and Cuba (2), Honduras, El Salvador and Barbados (1).

### **Americas Summit**

The sports will be represented by Olympic legends in the delegation of Cuba to intervene in parallel encounters to the *VII Summit of the Americas* in Panama.

The *Directorate of International Relations of INDER* reported that the list includes Olympic champions Alberto Juantorena, Javier Sotomayor, Mireya Luis, world runner-up Yipsi Moreno, and the Rector of the "*Manuel Fajardo*" *University of Sciences and Physical Culture of Sports*.

A large Cuban delegation will be in the regional event that opens space for Civil Society Forum, Youth, Entrepreneurs and University Rectors, who will later attend the *People's Summit*.

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