

FIBA America Pre-Olympic Tournament Slated for Mexico



Basketball

Cubans' main event this year will be the *FIBA America Pre-Olympic* tournament in Mexico. It is going to be an extremely tough tournament for those who have barely seen playing time after the Central American Games.

The best basketball nations of the continent will play in the Mexican capital. All teams seem to be stronger than ours even though some of them will not count on their NBA stars.

Cuba's sole friendly games took place against NCAA's University Coastal Carolina. The team also played a four-team tournament held in Panama.

It would be naïve to trust these games to hope for a hypothetical qualification, granted to the finalists. The other semifinalist teams are granted others qualifying's tournament.

The United States —world champion—, and the host Brazil are already qualified. The tougher battle will take place among the Dominican Republic, Panama, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Canada, Venezuela, and Cuba.

There are many obstacles to surpass since this goal to end in the top-8 depends heavily on the work of alternate players like Javier Justiz, Orestes Torres, and Lisvan Valdes.

Baseball

The baseball teams of Holguin and Ciego de Avila are currently tied with 3 wins and 1 loss at the *Eddy Martin in Memoriam Baseball Cup*, which is underway in the city of Ciego de Avila.

Judo

The men's judo team of Cuba is training in the Romanian city of Oradea, with a view to their participation in the *World Championships in Astana*, Kazakhstan, scheduled to take place from August 24th-30th.

Para-Pan American Games Toronto 2015

Cuba finished in 6th place in the *V Para-Pan American Games Toronto 2015*, recently held in Canada with 19 gold, 15 silver and 13 bronze medals.

Boxing

The 10 Cubans attending the continental tournament of boxing recently opened in Venezuela will debut for bronze medals in the quarterfinals and only need those wins to advance to the World Cup next October.

Athletics

The IAAF announced today that it will award \$ 100,000 for each world record to be achieved at the World Athletics that starts next Saturday in Beijing.

20 records have so far occurred in the 32 years of World Cup history, the last one of which belonged to the Jamaican 4x100 relay with Usain Bolt in *Daegu 2011*.

The *International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)* said the award will be activated if the earlier mark is exceeded but not in the case of tying the present record.

The figure of \$ 100,000 for each record is the same as the one paid during the *2013 World Championships* in Moscow.

The next edition of the championships will be held from August 22nd-30th in Beijing and will feature some 2,000 athletes from more than 200 countries.

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