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*Translated from the original in spanish*

**Athletic Letter**

***Olympism, values and education. Life story of the outstanding athlete and volleyball coach, Víctor Andrés García Campo***

***Olimpismo, valores y educación. Historia de vida del destacado deportista y entrenador de voleibol, Víctor Andrés García Campo***

***Olimpismo, valores e educação. História de vida do extraordinário esportista e técnico de vôlei, Víctor Andrés García Campo***

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## INTRODUCTION

*Olympism is a humanistic philosophy that emphasizes the role of sport in the education of young people, its social impact and its peaceful and moral mission. (Olympic Charter, Fundamental Principles of Olympism, July 17, 2020)".*

The life and work of this glory of Cuban sports is a tacit example; and with the aim of deepening the education and/or formation of values in the new generations of athletes and sports specialists, it deserves its dissemination and study with novel and attractive methods (Alfonso, 2007; Sánchez, 2015; Rivero, 2017).



This work is based on some experiences that have already been carried out, especially in the use of multimedia as a tool to visualize in various formats the imprint generated by personalities and events related to sports. Among these works are: a multimedia on the legendary life of sports glories in San Juan y Martínez, Pinar del Río, Cuba (Morejón, *et al.*, 2007), Influencias de las noticias deportivas en los clubs futbolísticos de España (Portet, 2010) and also a multimedia that in sporting terms ensures sustainability because the evolution of young people in sport is the thematic priority.

During the process of socialization of life history -by means of multimedia- deficiencies in knowledge, study and dissemination of the personal stories of sports glories and other personalities linked to the Cuban sports movement were detected in adolescents and young athletes; and the evaluation of the positive impact of these as references (González, 2013, Sordini, 2018).

Born in 1950 into a poor family 8 years before the triumph of the Revolution, Víctor Andrés García Campo, is an example of the result of the inclusive policy developed from its beginnings by the process in education and sports; and of the social compensation that each person must provide for the sake of the development of the socialist social system. To the laurels obtained as a member of the municipal, provincial and national Volleyball teams, it must be added, as a coach, the positive results in the education and/or training of young pupils in this sport; several with outstanding results are former members and/or active members of the National Team and foreign leagues.

## DEVELOPMENT

Victor ranks as the eldest of 2 other brothers. He was born in the town of Calabazar de Sagua, former province of Las Villas. His parents inherited a precarious financial position. As was common, they suffered racial discrimination during the pseudo-republic and without social opportunities they hardly studied; being classified by this in their level of instruction as semi-illiterate.



Since he was little, he was inclined towards games and recreational activities that involve physical efforts; this led him to the development of psychomotor skills and the cultivation of volitional qualities that, together with his somatotype, placed him in the visual field of his teachers and professors who induced him to practice various sports, such as: basketball, athletics, soccer and the baseball; this last discipline for that stage became his passion, standing out on offense for his touch at bat.

At the secondary level, he participated in municipal, regional and provincial competitions, until he competed in athletics in the I School Games inaugurated by Fidel Castro Ruz on August 22, 1963.

At only 16 years old, a new stage in the life of the adolescent begins. His companions recognize in him an exemplary young man; and proudly joins the Young Communist Union. He is grateful for his permanence and training at Improving School for Athletes (ESPA); and he recognizes that the center contributed to forge his character; the punctuality; practice formal education and respect for the rules of coexistence.

In March 1968 he traveled abroad for the first time on a preparation tour of Eurasian countries. The following year he participates in another preparation tour with the youth and senior teams that include Mexico, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the former USSR. In 1970 he attended the "Olympic Hopes" Tournament held in Romania; his first official competition in the youth category.

The year '72 is defining for his future as a person and athlete; which in his case converge. Restructured the technical direction of Volleyball, the new direction recognized in him a pillar for the development of this sport and the future international projection. Preparation begins with a view to the Montreal '76 Olympic Games and the cycle begins with an international friendly stop in Peru. In 1973 he participated in Mexico in the North Central American and Caribbean Tournament (NORCECA) and in the World Universiade in Moscow, in both events they ranked second.



The following year at the XII Central American and Caribbean Games in the Dominican Republic, the team wins the gold medal. In 1975 they took part in the VII Pan American Games in Mexico where they took first place. For the USA, he part as a member of the team to the qualifying event (NORCECA) for the Montreal Olympics, Canada and they win the gold medal.

In 1976 the XXI Olympic Games were held in Montreal, Canada. The competition in men's Volleyball is strong: in the fight, out of the forecast, but with the courage that characterizes Cuban athletes, the men's Volleyball team wins the bronze medal. For the first time a team in that discipline wins an Olympic medal.

In 1977 the national team that he integrates is crowned (gold) in the NORCECA held in the Dominican Republic. Fruitful year, the competitive commitments culminate with the participation in the World Cup in Japan, where they climbed the podium with the bronze medal.

This same year in the World Championship held in Italy they occupy third place (bronze); and unbeatable in the area are crowned in the XIII Central American Games based in Colombia. In 1979 Cuba repeats as host of NORCECA and the team reiterates the first place. Subsequently, the group attends the Sparta game in Moscow and wins the bronze medal. The year was intense, they also attended the VI Pan American Games in Puerto Rico where they placed at the top of the podium (gold medal). Upon his return from Moscow 1980, Victor decides to retire as an active player. He was 30 years old and 16 years of intense activity and sacrifices had passed.

At the end of his sports career, in his service record, as a result of his participation in relevant national and international events, he accumulates the following results: in national championships, with the team from his home province of Villa Clara, he obtained 1st place in two occasions, 1978 and 1979; and second place in 1981. In these tournaments he was considered the best passer. At the international level, he has accumulated: seven Gold medals (three NORCECA, two Central American Games and two Pan American Games); two Silver medals (one NORCECA and one Universiade) four Bronze medals (one Olympiad, one World Championship, one World Cup and one summer Sparta games).



Due to his prolific career as an athlete and trainer, he received several awards: in 1992, for the attitude maintained during his sports career, he was awarded the Martyrs of Barbados Distinction and the Order of Sports Merit. In 1986 he was awarded an apartment and in 1989 he received the "Distinguished Service Distinction in the FAR".

The recognitions for his results and career include the awarding of the Sports Honor Diploma (June 2016) and the Rafael María de Mendive Distinction as an educator and trainer of future generations (December 2019).

Due to his work as a coach at the National Volleyball School and collaborations abroad, he is recognized as one of the architects of the following results:

First place in the NORCECA of the following years: 2001 older category; 2006, sub-21; 2012, sub-21 and 2016, sub-21, 2018, sub-21. In addition, 2014, third place in the Central American Games; in 2016, second place under-19 and in 2019 first place in the Pan American Cup. As a collaborator in Mexico, 2010 and 2011 second place in the Pan American Cup.

## CONCLUSIONS

The life story of Víctor Andrés García Campos contributes to the reinforcement of education in values in all spheres of action in Cuban athletes and sports specialists.

The research contributes to the Government Program for Historical Memory.

The preparation, dissemination and study of life stories represents a stimulus and recognition for outstanding athletes of the Cuban sports system.



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**Conflict of interests:**

The authors declare not to have any interest conflicts.

**Authors' contribution:**

The authors have participated in the writing of the work and analysis of the documents



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