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Cienfuegueros in the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Contribution to local sports historical memory

*Cienfuegueros en los Juegos Centroamericanos y del Caribe: contribución a la memoria
histórica deportiva local*

*Cienfuegueros nos Jogos Centro-Americanos e do Caribe: contribuição para a memória
histórica do esporte local*

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, inquiries aimed at recovering various elements linked to the historical memory of regional, national and international sport have shown the hard work of



researchers from different countries around the world such as England, Spain, the United States of America, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, to name a few examples; and other nations have begun their foray into these studies.

In Cuba, there are references, research and compilations of historical memories linked to sporting events and personalities from various regions, among which the work of Armas et al. (2020); Cañizares et al. (2024); Domínguez (2019); Ennis et al. (2020); Figueredo (2020); Fuentes et al. (2022); García (2022); Hourruitinier (2020); Leoncio (2021); Lóriga and Ortiz (2020); Lóriga et al. (2018); Montero and Pantoja (2020); Montero and Suárez (2017); Pérez et al. (2020); Valladares (2023), and others, outstand.

Ortiz (2020) states that historical memory requires the preservation of the focus on what is unique, indigenous to the cultural heritage of each people and that distinguishes it from the rest because it reflects its cultural identity, which is why it is based on an appropriation process.

In Cienfuegos, historical studies linked to the rescue of the historical memory of sport have been highlighted since 2001, with investigations related to stories about institutions, results, significant events and the lives of important glories.

The unstoppable development of the social history of man, where sport as a sociocultural phenomenon reveals its important work, requires that the relevant results that occurred in local, national and international events are not forgotten and reach future generations, to consolidate the historical sports culture.

This research aimed to compile the main contributions made by athletes from Cienfuegos in the Central American and Caribbean Games who left their name written in the history of Cuban sport.

DEVELOPMENT

The first edition of the Central American and Caribbean Games was held in Mexico City from October 12 to November 2, 1926. 269 male athletes from three countries participated:



Mexico, which won 24 gold, 24 silver, and 18 bronze medals; Cuba, with 14 gold, 15 silver, and 15 bronze medals; and Guatemala, with three bronze medals. The competition included athletics, fencing, basketball, diving, baseball, swimming, volleyball, tennis, and shooting (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Photos of the competition (1st Central American and Caribbean Games)

Olympic champion Ramón Font stood out, who won three gold medals in the modalities of sword, sabre and foil; Cuban shooter Enrique Ros won in precision, in the 25 m; Antonio Gutiérrez Salvo won bronze; and Manuel Porro, bronze in war shooting.

Swimming was notable for Lionel Smith, with three gold medals in the 400 m, 1500 m and 4 x 100 m freestyle; Gonzalo Silverio, gold in the 100 m and bronze in the 1500 m freestyle; Eloy de Castroverde, silver in the 100 m backstroke; and Silvio Ofarril in springboard diving.

In athletics, Mario González won a silver medal in the 100 m, while in the 200 m Armando Barrientos won silver and Francisco Arango, bronze; in the 400 m Luis Esteves won silver and Arturo Ojeda came 5th; in the 800 m Darío Álvarez won bronze and Luis Esteves came 4th; in the 110 m steeplechase, silver medal was for José Sorzano and bronze for Dionisio Fuente Fría; and in the 400 m steeplechase silver for José Suárez and bronze for Eugenio Silva who also won second place in the 4 * 100 and 4 * 400 m steeplechase.



The second edition of the Central American and Caribbean Games In 1930 was held in Havana from March 15 to April 5. More than 600 athletes participated, including, for the first time, six female athletes in the tennis category, all Cuban.

Cuba finished in first place in the medal table with 68 medals (28 gold, 19 silver and 21 bronze); Mexico in second place (12-18-10=40); and Panama in third (4-1-5=10). The competitive sports were athletics, fencing, basketball, diving, baseball, swimming, volleyball, tennis, shooting, and soccer was added. Since this Central American event, more nations, other sports and a greater number of athletes have been incorporated.

The third Central American and Caribbean Games were held in San Salvador in 1935. This edition was supposed to be held in 1934, but a strong storm the previous year forced the country to ask for an extension to hold it in 1935, from March 16 to April 5. 740 athletes participated and women competed in swimming, basketball and volleyball.

This event included a film of the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony and the sports performances, where the first country to parade was Cuba and the name of the games officially changed to the Central American and Caribbean Sports Games. Nine countries participated: Cuba, Mexico, Panama, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and 15 sports disciplines were contested: athletics, baseball, show jumping, soccer, swimming, diving, boxing, tennis, volleyball, shooting, and golf; polo, wrestling and dressage were incorporated.

Mexico obtained 37 gold medals, 20 silver and 21 bronze; Cuba, 31 gold, 30 silver and 24 bronze; and Puerto Rico, five gold, five silver and five bronze. Cienfuegos' participation in San Salvador 1935 achieved seven medals (3-2-2) and was represented by four male athletes, two in athletics, one in fencing and one in swimming. In athletics, bronze medal in the heptathlon by Manuel Suárez Hernández and bronze in the 1500 m flat race by Pedro José Sarría ; Eugenio Garate, gold medal in individual épée fencing and gold in teams; and in swimming Alberto Raurel silver in 100 m freestyle and 200 m breaststroke and gold medal in the 4 x 200 m freestyle relay.



The IV Central American and Caribbean Games of 1938 were held in Panama City from February 5 to 24. Ten countries participated, including Colombia and Venezuela. There were 1,216 male athletes and 187 female athletes, the latter making their debut in fencing and athletics. Other sports such as water polo, weightlifting, frontenis and cycling were also incorporated into the event.

The emblem of three shields pierced by a javelin, which had been used since 1926, was officially adopted there, and doves flew at the inauguration. Mexico won 24 gold, 32 silver and 16 bronze medals; Panama, 24 gold, 22 silver and 10 bronze; and Cuba, 24 gold, 17 silver and 19 bronze.

The Cienfuegos participation achieved seven medals (4-3-0) with the representation of six athletes, four in track and field, two in baseball and two in swimming. In athletics Manuel Suárez Hernández won the silver medal in the heptathlon; Jacinto Ortiz Angulo, gold in the 200 m, and silver in the 100 m race and the 4 * 100 m flat; in baseball David Pérez Hernández and Juan de Call obtained the gold one; in swimming Alberto Raurel got gold in the 400 and 1500 m freestyle and silver medal in the 4 * 200 m freestyle relay; and Oscar Maruelo did not win any medals.

The V Central American and Caribbean Games planned for 1942 were not carried out as a result of the Second World War. The VI Games took place in Barranquilla, Colombia, from December 8 to 28, 1946, with the participation of 1,540 athletes (294 women) from 13 countries, with the debut of the Netherlands Antilles, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, and the achieved sports modalities were maintained.

On this occasion, Cuba participated with a delegation of 146 athletes, 35 of them women, and won 29 gold medals, 26 silver and 23 bronze. There were no Cienfuegos athletes participating in this event; Mexico won 26 gold, 22 silver and 28 bronze medals, and Panama won 13 gold, 17 silver and 10 bronze medals.



The VII Central American and Caribbean Games of 1950 were held in Guatemala City from February 8 to March 12 and 1,390 athletes (163 women) competed in 19 sports; 14 countries participated and this year the debutant country was Haiti.

Cuba regained the title in baseball, undefeated in seven outings; boxing dominated; confirmed its traditional virtuosity in fencing and returned an admirer with the quality of its gymnasts, who took all the gold, silver and bronze prizes in eight disciplines. Mexico had 43 gold, 24 silver and 26 bronze medals; Cuba, 24 gold, 27 silver and 28 bronze; and Puerto Rico, 12 gold, seven silver and 10 bronze. On this occasion, Cienfuegos had participation in baseball with the presence of Antonio Chacón, with a gold medal.

The participation of Cuban athletes in the Central American and Caribbean Games was rich and successful. The participation of Cienfuegos is explained below:

1. Rosendo Brunet Sarría participated in the VIII Central American and Caribbean Games of 1954, held in Mexico, with the 8th place in the 1500 m flat.
2. In the IX edition of this event, in 1962 held in Kingston, Jamaica, the Cienfuegos participation did not have medals, despite being represented by seven athletes: in athletics, in the long jump Antonio Capote Vera and Irene Martínez Tartabull; in baseball, Aquino Abreus Ávila and Julio Bécquer Pino obtained 4th place; and in women's volleyball Benita Jiménez, Mercedes Torriente Acea and Teresa Torriente Acea , 4th place.
3. At the 10th celebration, in 1966, In San Juan, Puerto Rico from July 11 to 25, Cienfuegos participated with six athletes, three of them female, and three medals were achieved (2-1-0); in athletics, in long jump Irene Martínez Tartabull, silver medal; Antonio Capote Vera, 6th and 8th place in the marathon; in baseball Aquino Abreus Ávila, gold; in boxing José L. Cabrera, gold, in over 81 Kg; and in women's volleyball Benita Jiménez and Mercedes Torriente Acea, gold.
4. In the XI edition held in Panama, Cienfuegos contributed five medals, with four male athletes (4-1-0); in athletics, Antonio Capote Vera obtained a silver medal and 9th place in the marathon; in boxing, José L. Cabrera, gold in over 81 kg; in soccer, the first Cienfuegos player involved was Andrés Roldán Cordero and he contributed the gold



- medal; in sport shooting, Humberto Pérez Toledo, gold in the team rapid shot and 4th place in the individual.
5. In the XII Games Central American and Caribbean Games held in the Dominican Republic in 1974, the event had four participants from Cienfuegos, one of them female, and five gold medals were won. In athletics, María Elena Sarría won a gold medal in the shot put ; Silvio Leonard Sarría won three gold medals in the 100, 200 and 4*/100 m dash, the start of a fascinating sporting career for this athlete; and football provided gold medals for Andrés Roldán Cordero and Dagoberto Lara Soriano.
 6. At the XIII Games, in Medellín in 1978, the Cienfuegos town was present with eight male athletes who won seven medals (6-0-1). In athletics, Ruben Marcelino Camino won bronze in pole vault; Silvio Leonard Sarria, two gold medals, in 100 and 200 meters flat and silver in the 4*/100 of this modality; Antonio Muñoz Hernandez and Pedro Jose Rodriguez, gold in baseball; Andres Roldan Cordero and Dagoberto Lara Soriano, gold in soccer; Jose Damian Carvajal Torres, gold in wrestling 82 kg; and in men's volleyball Jose David Suarez, gold.
 7. To the Games In the Central American and Caribbean countries, Cienfuegos provided great athletes such as Alfredo Valladares Perez, Pedro Rodriguez Bandomo, Efrain Herrera Rodriguez, Felipe Lanier Bermudez, Danilo Mora Armenteros, Juan Alfonso Armenteros , Danilo Mora Armenteros , German Mederos Stuart, Ricardo Galvez Carballo, Irene Santa Cruz Hernandez, Ruben Marcelino Camino Herrera, Vicente Sanchez Vazquez, Amilkar Delgado Dorticos, Carlos Ortega and Yoandri Comas, Eusebio Acea Colarte, Nicolas Vives Espinosa, Alfredo J. Quinones Silva, Yudel Moreno Hernandez, Adiel Palma Lopez, Arael Arguelles Alfonso, Noelvis Palacio Perez, Enrique Villaurrutia Molina and Yordanis Alvares Oropesa.

Women who raised the name of our country on high, such as Barbara Hernandez Ercia, Milagros Palma Gonzalez, Magalys Santa Cruz Hernandez, Elia N. Arbolay Jimenez, Miraida Garcia Soto, Lourdes Rodriguez Gonzalez, Marta Rodriguez Gonzalez, Teresa Santa Cruz Hernandez, Herminia Bouza Ortiz, Yulaidis Trujillo Dorticos , Maria E. Rosell Aponte, Regla Gomez Enrique, Barbara Rodriguez, Grenys Franco, Ana M. Gonzalez



Miranda, Lilia Perez Valdez, Yulaidis Trujillo Dorticos, Daimi Rivas Trujillo, Maribel Garcia Sanchez and Regla Gomez Enrique, Camelia A. Fernandez and Susana Armenteros .

Added to the extensive list are athletes of the stature of Antonio Muñoz, Julio González Valladares, Rogelio Marcelo García, Carlos Pedroso Curiel, Wilfredo Loyola Torriente, Dagoberto Lara Soriano, Julio Modesto Cabrera Rodríguez, Francisco Carrazana Patridge, Máximo Iznaga Delgado, Pedro Zayas, Pedro Hernández Albernaz, Juan C. Martínez, Silvio Pumariega, Lázaro López, Juan Curbelo Molina, Osvaldo González Feito, Juan C. Méndez Garay, Norberto Telles Sanatana, Lazaro Fernandez Bueno, Nicolas Vives Espinosa, Andres Roldan and Yanko Fontanill, Yosvani Despaigne Terry, and some others who have been unconsciously omitted from this report.

CONCLUSIONS

The systematization of Cienfuegos' sporting memory was an essential element in order to create the history of local and national sport and to demonstrate its identity value as a cultural heritage of the Cuban people.

The research allowed to verify the references that exist on the results of Cuba in the Central American and Caribbean Games and showed the contributions achieved by 253 athletes from Cienfuegos in 19 editions, who contributed 204 medals, of which 124 were gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze, which demonstrated the quality and training in sports such as athletics, baseball, field hockey, water polo, fencing, rowing and archery, among others.

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The author is responsible for writing the work and analyzing the documents.



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