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*Editorial*

## *Motivaciones para Cuba en las Olimpiadas de Paris 2024*

*Motivations for Cuba in the Olympic Games, Paris, 2024*

*Motivações para Cuba nas Olimpíadas Paris 2024*

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The Olympics are undoubtedly one of the most anticipated events by the world's population. On this occasion, it is taking place in Paris, a European capital that has been characterized by being visited annually by millions of people and by establishing the best of art and science in its institutions. This event becomes the greatest expectation of the year for everyone to enjoy. That has been the essence of the artistic sporting spectacle that was



prepared; the best of the hosts was given in its realization to meet these objectives, especially from the call for peace in the difficult context that humanity is living in, in current times plagued by wars, economic crises and environmental disasters.

The Olympics at the foot of the Eiffel Tower and the Seine River served as a platform for the presentation of athletes and for exchange with the culture of the countries, in direct contact with nature and with the benefits of advanced technology.

However, for Cubans, the motivations went a little further than the physical or organizational aspect of the event. For most of them, they focused on the realization of their dreams as athletes, as individuals who, from a small island with very modest resources, have been able to infuse the soul and the extra that must be given in each challenge. (Toursinov, 2024).

In this sense, we could mention the "Giant of Horseshoe", Mijaín López, who was crowned World Champion in his fifth Olympic medal, until now unsurpassed in his sport or in the generality of Olympic sports. (Orlando, 2024) He was joined by the outstanding judoka Idalys Ortiz who traveled to Paris with a similar motivation, since to date she had four Olympic medals (a gold in London 2012, two silvers in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, and a bronze in Beijing 2008) matched only by Tani Ryoko .

Among other Cuban Olympians who sought their highest sporting recognition are other athletes who have gradually managed to rise to the top of the winners' podium, not only from a technical point of view but from the perspective of their values such as will, perseverance and self-improvement, among them are: Leyanis Pérez, Luis Alberto Orta , Julio César La Cruz, Arlen López, Liadagmis Povea , Lazaro Martinez , Cristian Naples and Andy Hechavarria . (Reyes et al., 2024)

On the other hand, the 2024 Olympics brought an interesting element in the number of athletes of Cuban origin who showed up to defend other flags. Determining the personal motivations of each athlete is a complex process because it depends on various factors that are interrelated, however it is very easy to understand that each athlete is most motivated



in sports by reaching higher levels and taking advantage of a competition as significant as the Olympics. It is a common motivation to face a rival, such as the case of the decision for the gold in Greco Roman wrestling between the multi-award-winning Mijaín López and the Cuban nationalized in Chile Yasmany Acosta. Based on the evidence shown, it was a high-caliber motivation to reach that technical level and physical preparation, but the public was also able to enjoy the respectful attitude of the two athletes until the last moment of the event.

The total number of Cubans who wore uniforms from other countries was 21, representing 13 countries, which, in any interpretation, was obvious that the quality of the Cuban athlete radiated in the Olympic sports community. Among those countries were: Portugal, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Chile, Poland, Brazil, Puerto Rico, the United States, Canada and Belgium.

In any latitude or region where Cuban athletes are located, there will always be values that unite and identify them, above all, due to the education received and sustained in the homes and educational centers where they come from, particularly while they resided in Cuba, these are: respect, responsibility, camaraderie and sportsmanship. (Rodríguez et al., 2019)

It does not require an exploratory study to discover what is the most sublime motivation of each Cuban athlete when he competes in distant lands. It would be an honor for a simple and honest athlete to have been born in a country of wise people, noble and supportive people whose motivation is to show love for the teachers who taught them and for the Cuban land that is proud to see them grow.

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