

HUELLAS

28

CENTRO
CARIBE
SPORTS



FUTURE FOOTPRINTS

CONTENT

- 04** IN ITAPÚA, MOUNTAIN BIKE LEAVES ITS MARK
- 05** TRICOLOR REIGN
- 07** HISTORIC GOLD FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
- 08** ROBERTO BONILLA BREAKS RECORD
- 09** GALLERY: A BETTER WORLD
- 19** CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SHINE
- 21** DAYANARA CURBELO MAKES HISTORY
- 22** COLOMBIA SOARS OVER THE VELODROME
- 24** MEXICO BATHES IN SILVER
- 25** INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL AWARDS
- 28** YOIKEL GOICOCHEA EARNS GOLD
- 29** SPORTS PASSION IN ACTION
- 39** RECORDS THAT REWRITE HISTORY
- 42** IOC: SPORT MUST UNITE THE WORLD
- 43** JUAN SOTO, AMBASSADOR

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ATHLETES OF THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT

The expression “athletes of the future” in this context does not merely refer to a new generation; it embodies a genuine hope that inspires sport. It promotes youth development through multi-sport events and represents a philosophy of life.

At Centro Caribe Sports, we want to highlight and bring visibility to these athletes who elevate the region’s competitive level, who inspire others, and who promise to continue shaping the enduring emotions of their countries and the region.

The II Junior Pan American Games Asunción 2025 — a milestone we will never forget.

Luis Mejía Oviedo

President

Centro Caribe Sports





IN ITAPÚA, MOUNTAIN BIKE LEAVES ITS MARK: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FEEL THE PULSE OF ASU2025

The AguaVista complex in San Juan del Paraná experienced a historic day, becoming the first venue in the Itapúa sub-venue to host competitions for the II ASU2025 Junior Pan American Games. Set against a stunning natural backdrop, the Olympic Mountain Bike Cross Country event brought together the continental elite of the discipline, offering spectators a thrilling display of speed, skill, and endurance.

In the women's category, Brazil's Luiza Cocuzzi claimed gold with a time of 1:17 over 19.63 km. Silver went to Argentina's Lucía Miralles (1:17, 19.54 km), and bronze to Colombia's María Salamanca (1:18, 19.48 km). Florencia Monsálvez of Chile finished fourth (19.37 km – 1:18), while Laura Cagua of Colombia took fifth with 19.05 km. Cocuzzi, atop the podium, praised the course:

"The feeling is indescribable, and I thank the entire Brazilian team. The track is one of the best I've raced on — fast and technical — and I adapted quickly. Bringing this medal

home to my country is a huge honor."

In the men's category, Mexican Iván Aguilar was crowned champion with a time of 1:16, covering 23.88 km, setting a strong pace from the start. Silver went to Argentina's Nicolás Reynoso (23.62 km – 1:17), and bronze to Mexico's Eiki Yamauchi (23.54 km). Colombian Antonio Gómez finished fourth (22.56 km – 1:21), followed by Mexican Nils Gutiérrez in fifth (22.47 km – 1:21).



TRICOLOR REIGN: VILLEGAS SISTERS AND SAÚL HERNÁNDEZ CONQUER ASUNCIÓN



Colombia experienced a historic day in BMX Freestyle at the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games, earning two gold medals and one silver thanks to the performances of sisters Queen Saray and Lizsurley Villegas in the women's division, and Saúl Hernández in the men's division.

In the women's final, Queen Saray Villegas, the national team's flag bearer, took gold with 81.67 points, securing direct qualification

for the Lima 2027 Pan American Games. Her sister, Lizsurley Villegas, earned silver with 76.00 points, marking a historic 1-2 finish for Colombia. The podium was completed by 15-year-old Chilean Catalina Henríquez, who scored 72.67 points.

"We saved a lot of tricks and brought them out in the final. We're very happy to represent Colombia so well. Now the goal is to keep improving and train hard for upcoming competitions; we

have World Championships and the Olympics ahead. We enjoyed the process, the competition, and everything," Queen said after her victory.

Hernández Shines in Men's Division

In the men's division, 18-year-old Saúl Hernández was crowned junior Pan American champion with 92.67 points, staging a remarkable comeback after a fall in his first run. Argentine Manuel Turone earned silver with 91.00 points, while Brazilian Davi Gibim took bronze with 79.67 points.

"We've worked very hard. I've competed in several European events and trained relentlessly to achieve this. Step by step, we unleashed our full potential, and thank God we did it," said Hernández.





SÉ **PARTE** DE LA HISTORIA

Los Juegos se viven mejor... **¡desde adentro!**





Kruz Schembri claimed gold in a thrilling final, narrowly edging out his opponent to become the first Pan American gold medalist from the Virgin Islands at Asunción 2025.

His journey began in Group A, where he defeated Cuban Marlon García 5-1, Argentine Iván Grouppierre 5-2, and Costa Rican Jorge Cabrera 5-2. He then overcame Mexican Daniel Bravo 5-2 and finished the group stage by defeating Ecuadorian Bayardo Naranjo 5-3.

In the round of 16, he faced Daniel Bravo again, this time winning 15-5 to advance to the quarterfinals. There, he defeated Chilean Javier Carmona 15-7, earning his place in the semifinals. In the semis, he bested Panamanian Issac Dorati 15-8, setting up a grand final showdown.

In the gold medal match, Schembri faced Matheus Stuermer, emerging victorious 15-7 in a tightly contested bout that grew even more intense after a short break.

This historic victory marked the Virgin

Islands' first medal at the Pan American Games — and it was gold.



ROBERTO BONILLA BREAKS RECORD AND SHINES WITH GOLD AT ASUNCIÓN 2025



Guatemalan Roberto Bonilla made history at the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games by winning the gold medal in the men's 200-meter breaststroke, setting a new Junior Pan American record with a time of 2:12.60.

His journey began in qualifying heat 2, where, from lane 5, he stopped the clock at 2:14.74 — not only the fastest time of the day, but also breaking the previous record of 2:14.85, which had stood since 2021.

In the grand final, Bonilla surpassed himself once again, swimming with power and precision to claim first place and establish a new junior continental record. The podium was completed by Brazil's G. Camossato, who took silver with 2:12.69, and Chile's Angeli Lazzerini, who earned bronze with 2:14.23.

With this performance, Bonilla reaffirms the emerging strength of Guatemalan swimming on the road to Los Angeles 2028.

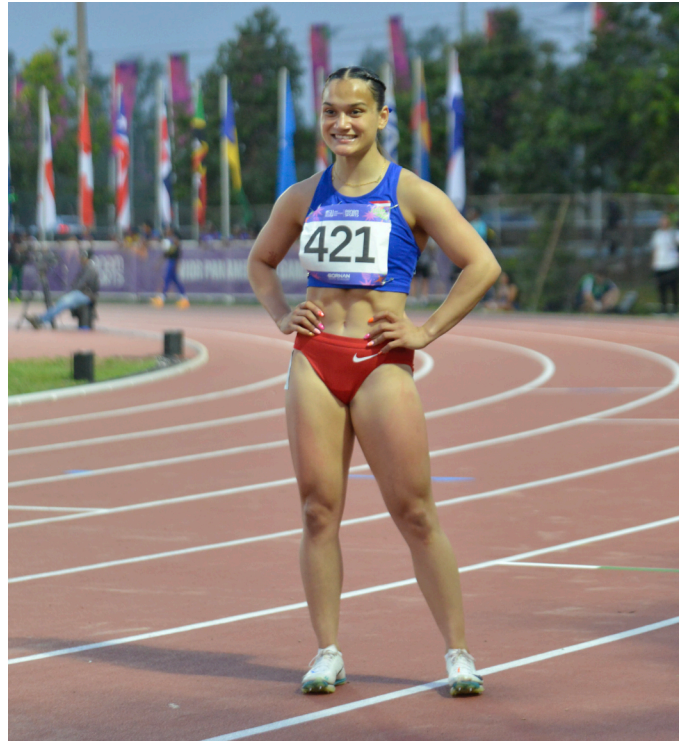


A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

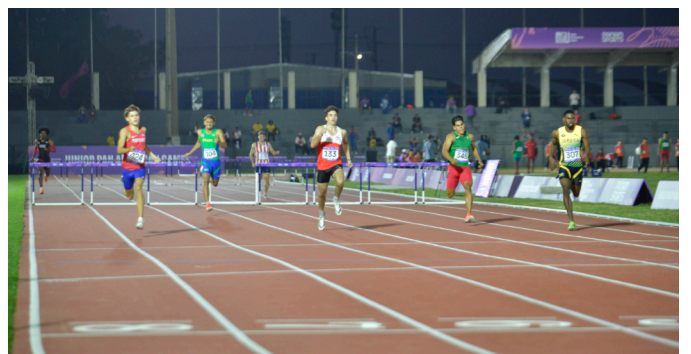
THROUGH SPORT









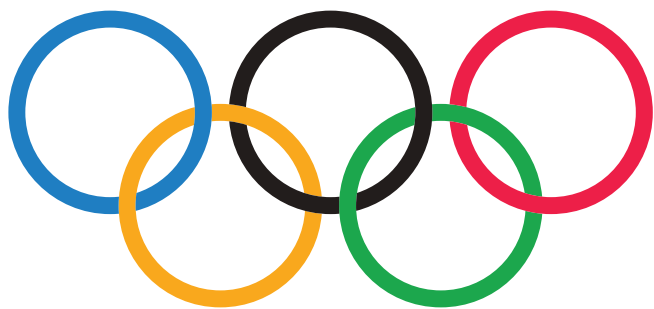












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COMMITTEE



CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SHINE IN ASUNCIÓN 2025: COLOMBIA, MEXICO, AND CUBA LEAD THE MEDAL COUNT

The 2025 Pan American Junior Games in Asunción ended with a brilliant performance by the member countries of Centro Caribe Sports. Colombia, Mexico, and Cuba emerged as the most outstanding delegations in the regional bloc. In total, more than 20 countries from the regional organization took to the podium, demonstrating competitive growth and a commitment to developing young talent in Central America and the Caribbean.



Colombia, Pan American youth powerhouse

Colombia finished third overall in the medal count with an impressive haul of 115 medals: 48 gold, 27 silver, and 40 bronze. It was the highest-ranked nation in the Central Caribbean Sports region, excelling in disciplines such as cycling, athletics, wrestling, gymnastics, and weightlifting. Figures such as Natalia Linares and Kevin Santiago Quintero confirmed Colombia's dominance.

Mexico and Cuba also shine

Mexico finished fourth overall in the medal count with 129 medals: 29 gold, 45 silver, and 55 bronze. Its success was spread across combat sports, artistic gymnastics, athletics, and swimming.

Cuba, meanwhile, was seventh in the final standings, accumulating 47 medals (19 gold, 13 silver, and 15 bronze), with outstanding performances in boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling, and weightlifting.

The Caribbean left its mark

Jamaica was the 13th nation with 15 medals (4 gold), excelling in athletics.

Trinidad and Tobago ranked 17th with 11 medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 8 bronze). It shone in athletics with athletes such as Shaniqua Bascombe, champion in the women's 100 meters.

Guatemala (11th place) won 14 medals

Panama, Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, the Bahamas, and other Caribbean nations also made their presence felt in the medal count.

Closing of the medals table

The 2025 Pan American Junior Games in Asunción were led by Brazil, which was crowned overall champion with 141 medals (66 gold), followed by the United States, which took second place with 93 medals (25 gold). Colombia closed out the podium in third place as the best nation in Central America and the Caribbean.



DAYANARA CURBELO GIVES CUBA ITS FIRST GOLD MEDAL AT ASUNCIÓN 2025



Cuba celebrated its first gold medal at the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games thanks to judoka Dayanara Curbelo, crowned champion in the +78 kg category.

Curbelo defeated Chilean Kharla Casas by ippon at 2:26, securing the Cuban delegation's first gold at this junior continental event.

Bronze medals went to Rhadi Ferguson of the United States and Ana Soares of Brazil, completing the awards for the category.



"I've trained every strategy possible, and the result showed here. There are many things I should improve, but I know that when I return to Cuba, I will," said an emotional Curbelo. From the mixed zone, she received a call from her family, who were proudly celebrating her medal. Through tears, she dedicated the victory to them.





COLOMBIA SOARS OVER THE VELODROME AND BREAKS THE JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN RECORD TWICE

The atmosphere at the velodrome was electric. On the track, the Women's Team Sprinters fine-tuned every detail. The crowd knew Colombia was the favorite, but no one expected them to make history — twice in a single day.

In qualifying, the Colombians blasted off from the first meter. The roar of their bikes and the echoes of cheering spectators accompanied their flight. When they crossed the finish line, the scoreboard read 49.200 seconds — a Junior Pan American record, erasing the previous mark of 49.480. Argentina, with a solid 50.433, secured their place in the final, while Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela completed the quartet vying for medals.

But the best was yet to come. In the gold medal final, tension was palpable. The starting gun triggered an explosion of speed. Colombia seemed to glide through the air, each relay executed with millimeter precision. The final lap was a spectacle of pure strength and perfect coordination. The clock stopped at 48.595 seconds, averaging 55.561 km/h. The

crowd erupted: a second Junior Pan American record of the day and the gold medal secured.

Argentina, fighting to the last meter, finished with 50.032 seconds to claim silver. Colombia, gold around their necks and their flag waving proudly, sealed a golden day that will remain in the memory of continental junior cycling.





**Un legado de libertad y
unidad para nuestra región**
15 de septiembre



MEXICO BATHES IN SILVER AND DELIGHTS CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT ASUNCIÓN 2025



The women's volleyball final at the II Junior Pan American Games was a showcase of intensity, excitement, and Mexican pride. Mexico took the court determined to fly the national flag high — and they succeeded. The Mexican team claimed silver, a result that highlights the strength of the Central American and Caribbean region.

The start was electric. Every point energized the fans, who wore their hearts on their sleeves in green, white, and red.

In the first set, Mexico fought valiantly, falling 25-23 in a heart-stopping finish that kept the crowd on edge. The second set (25-19) demonstrated a team that never stopped pushing, with heroic defenses and courageous attacks. By the third (25-14), fatigue was evident, but determination never wavered: Mexico left its heart on the court.

On the individual level, Andrea Félix shone as an offensive powerhouse with 10 points, supported by Aime Topete, who added 9 points, leading a team that refused to give up.

Beyond the score, the final left unforgettable images: players embracing, flags waving proudly, and a team demonstrating that Mexican volleyball is ready to challenge anyone on the international stage.



ATHLETES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SHINE IN THE INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL AWARDS AT ASUNCIÓN 2025

The power of women from the Caribbean and Central America left its mark on the individual women's volleyball awards at the II Junior Pan American Games Asunción 2025, with a strong presence across the main categories.

The standout star was Rashanny Solano of Costa Rica, who emerged as one of the tournament's brightest talents by receiving three individual awards: Best Libero, Best Receiver, and

Best Digger. Her dedication and confidence were key for her team, making her one of the most complete players in the competition.

From the Dominican Republic, Katielle Alonzo was recognized as Best Opposite, while Cuba's Whitney James earned the award for 1st Best Spiker. Cuban Lianet García took home Best Server, demonstrating precision, power, and consistency.





The top scorer of the tournament was fellow Dominican Alondra Tapia, who claimed the Best Scorer award, reaffirming her team's offensive prowess in this junior edition.

Brazilian Julliana De Andrade was chosen as the tournament's MVP, while her teammate Ana Luiza Rüdiger completed the podium of the best spikers.





SKYROS

SPORTS

CUBA EARNs ITS THIRD GOLD MEDAL AT ASUNCIÓN 2025 THANKS TO YOIKEL GOICOCHEA



Havana-born Yoikel Goicochea claimed the gold medal in the +80 kg taekwondo category this Saturday, giving Cuba its third gold medal at the II Junior Pan American Games Asunción 2025.

In an intense final, Goicochea defeated Colombian César Silva 2-0, displaying tactical precision and power from the very first move.

The road to the podium was not easy. In the quarterfinals, he overcame Brazilian Erick

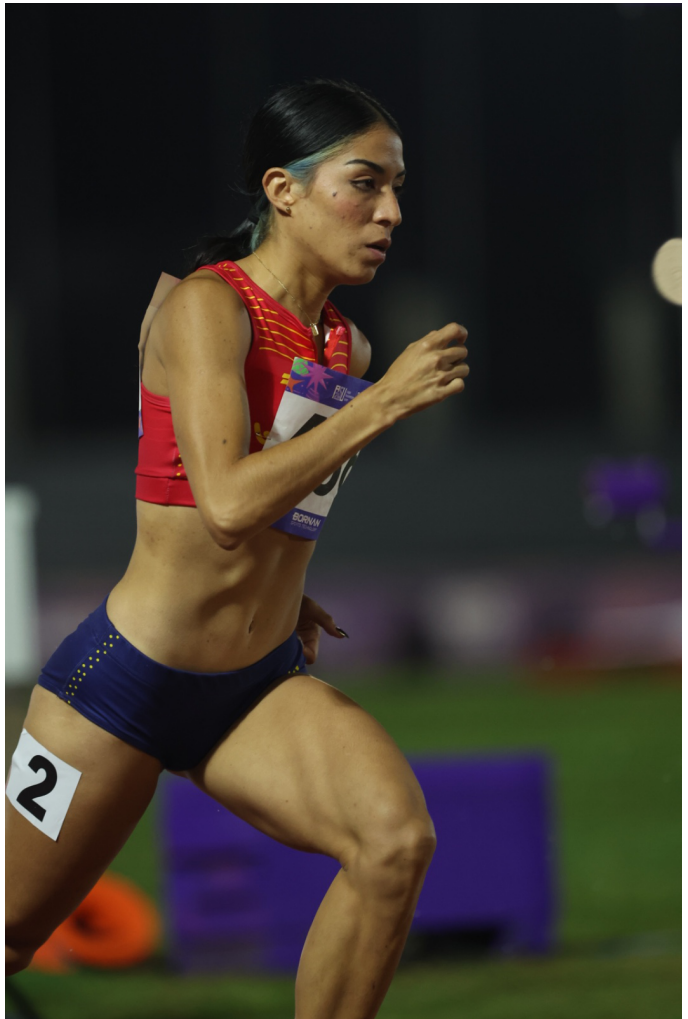
Batista in a tight 2-1 match. Then, in the semifinals, he convincingly defeated Mexican Víctor Ramírez 2-0, securing his place in the grand final.

Both Ramírez and Batista took home bronze medals, highlighting a category rich in Latin American talent and notable participation from Central Caribbean nations.

SPORT PASSION IN ACTION





















CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SHINE AT ASU2025: RECORDS THAT REWRITE HISTORY



When the clock struck the opening of the ASU2025 Junior Pan American Games in Asunción, Paraguay, the continent's eyes turned to its youth athletes. But none shone brighter than the rising stars of Centro Caribe Sports — the regional organization that unites more than 30 countries and territories across the Caribbean and Central America.

Athletes from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama, Guatemala, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, the Cayman Islands, and others not only stood proudly on the podium, but also shattered records with historic performances that raised the bar for youth sports in the Americas.

A Caribbean Faster Than Ever

The stadium track vibrated with pure speed. Cayman Islands sprinter Davonte Howell carved his name in gold by becoming the first athlete in the region to run the 100 meters in under 10 seconds, clocking an impressive 9.98 on August 19. A milestone for his country and for Centro Caribe Sports.

Colombia also celebrated with gusto: Ronald Longa ran the 100 meters in 10.13, while Natalia Linares soared in the long jump with 6.92 meters, smashing the previous record. In the relays, the Colombian men's 4x100m team set a new Pan American record with 38.99 seconds.

Women in the Lead

Mexico's Karla Serrano stunned in the 20,000-meter walk, cutting two minutes off the previous record with a time of 1:31:40.1. From Cuba, Jocelyn Echazábal redefined precision in the hurdles, stopping the clock at 12.95 in the 100m hurdles — the most technical event in women's athletics.

The Caribbean added its sparkle with Liranyi Alonso of the Dominican Republic, who blazed through the 100 meters in 11.08 and the 200 meters in 22.69, establishing herself as the new queen of regional sprinting.

A Revolution in the Pools

The ASU2025 pool overflowed with records.



Panama's Emily Santos electrified the crowd, breaking the junior Pan American record in the 100m breaststroke twice in one day, closing at 1:08.44.

Puerto Rico's Xavier Ruíz surprised everyone with 1:00.80 in the men's 100m breaststroke, putting himself among the best on the continent.

Mexico and Guatemala also stood tall: Celia Pulido dominated the 100m and 200m backstroke, while Guatemala's Roberto Bonilla earned two records — the 200m breaststroke and the 200m individual medley.

From South America, Leticia Fassina (Brazil) and Agostina Hein (Argentina) made their mark, but the Caribbean and Central America proved they were anything but secondary player

Speed on Wheels: Cycling and Skating

Track cycling also featured Caribbean protagonists. Colombia broke the Pan American record in the women's team sprint, lowering its time twice in a single day.

In skating, Venezuela made history: Jacob

Melton and Wilmary Toro dominated the 1000-meter sprint with record performances, while Colombia — a traditional powerhouse in this discipline — took the top honors in the individual sprint events.

In total, more than 40 records were broken in this edition, with Central America and the Caribbean standing out as key players both on the medal table and in history.

A Golden Generation

With more than 40 records broken, ASU2025 confirmed that Central America and the Caribbean are not only keeping pace with the great sporting nations — they are leading the way.

These achievements are not an endpoint, but the dawn of a new era in the history of youth sports in the Americas.

Centro Caribe Sports stands as a breeding ground for champions — a symbol of diversity, resilience, speed, and passion.

UN MUNDO MEJOR ES POSIBLE A TRAVÉS DEL DEPORTE
A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE THROUGH SPORT



Huellas que nos Inspiran:
150 Historias de Atletas

Footprints that Inspire us:
150 Athlete's Stories

Seminario de Periodismo y Crónica Deportiva
Huellas Centenarias de Centro Caribe Sports

Sports Journalism and Reporting Seminar
Centenary Traces of Centro Caribe Sports



Programa de Acompañamiento Internacional
a los Juegos Santo Domingo 2026

International Support Program for
the Santo Domingo 2026 Games

Programa Periodismo Joven
en Centroamérica y el Caribe

Young Journalism Program in
Central America and
the Caribbean



Plataforma Digital Centro Caribe Sports
Digital Platform Caribe Sports Center



THE IOC REAFFIRMS: SPORT MUST UNITE THE WORLD IN PEACEFUL COMPETITION



IOC President Kirsty Coventry and members of the IOC Executive Board visit the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Village, where she delivered a message that sport should be fundamental to bringing people together.

In a world shaken by conflict and division, the Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) remains steadfast in its conviction that sport must continue to be a beacon of hope, a force that unites the entire world in peaceful competition. This is the very essence of the Olympic Movement and stems from the Fundamental Principles of Olympism.

The Olympic Charter recognizes that sport develops within the framework of society and that the sports organizations of the Olympic Movement must remain politically neutral. Furthermore, the United Nations (UN), through resolutions of its General Assembly, has repeatedly reaffirmed the autonomy of sport and the neutrality of the IOC. These resolutions are more than symbolic: they are a call to protect the sacred space of sport from global divisions.

As part of the IOC's "Ready for the Future" process, the IOC Executive Board today decided to create a Working Group on the Protection of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism. This group seeks to ensure that the IOC, the Olympic Games, and sport remain politically neutral and can fulfill their mission of uniting the world in peaceful competition. Athletes have a unique opportunity to showcase Olympic values and act as ambassadors for peace, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Olympism.



JUAN SOTO, AMBASSADOR FOR THE 2026 CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GAMES



In an emotional meeting held in New York City, the Central American and Caribbean Games announced the appointment of Juan Soto, Dominican baseball star, as official ambassador for the 2026 centennial edition.

The announcement was made at the home of the New York Mets, a setting that filled the Dominican Republic and the entire region with pride as they watched one of their greatest sporting figures commit to representing the values of unity, passion, and excellence that characterize the oldest multi-sport event in the Americas.

An honor that transcends borders

Upon receiving the appointment, Soto expressed his gratitude with words full of humility and emotion:

“Thank you for keeping me in mind. It is an honor for me to represent the Dominican Republic wherever we go and to be part of this great event. I hope everyone enjoys it.”

With this distinction, the Dominican becomes a symbol of the link between baseball—one of the most iconic sports in the Caribbean—and the spirit of regional integration promoted by the Central American and Caribbean Games.

On the way to the centenary

The 2026 edition will mark 100 years of history for the Games, a tradition that has seen generations of athletes from Central America and the Caribbean grow and shine. The addition of Juan Soto as ambassador adds to the international profile of an event that, beyond the medals, celebrates the sporting and cultural legacy of the entire region.

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