
Marifélix's Redemption

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She had to overcome a doping suspension for which she was not responsible after winning the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games, but those nearly 12 months away from the stage and fighting for her innocence in court made her stronger.

With the name of a movie diva, Marifélix Sarría showed her character and after returning to the platforms, she demonstrated that that domestic accident (ingestion of contaminated meat) would in no way stop a sports career destined for stardom.

It was merely a stumble in the dance of existence, which the weightlifter chose to transform into a symphony of strength and resilience, turning her pain into a source of inspiration, further proof that true greatness lies not in being free from falls, but in getting back up with greater determination.

Her first big warning was the junior world title she won last year; it was the sign that she was back, ready to add her name to the top division of the planet.

This weekend, she solidified her status as the world runner-up in weightlifting in the over 86 kilograms category, at just 21 years old and with a more than promising future among the crowbars.

The Norwegian city of Førde witnessed the young Cienfuegos native's redemption, lifting 118 kilograms in the snatch, 157 in the clean and jerk, and 275 in the total, surpassed only by South Korea's Hyejeong Park, Olympic runner-up at Paris 2024, with 125, 158, and 283, in that order.

Her mistakes (one in the first exercise and two in the second) make it clear that she has much more to offer, especially the final one over 165 kilos, which would have secured her gold in the event, but was not considered valid.

Nevertheless, her temperament, worthy of the Doña of Mexican cinema, allowed her to recover from her mistakes

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and overcome difficulties, climbing the difficult world podium three times. These were Cuba's only medals in the competition, but Ludia Montero's sixth-place finish, who had won two silver medals at the World Championships in Pattaya, Thailand, in 2019, cannot be overlooked.

The Granma native had been out of competition for three years due to maternity, and her return to the sport's biggest stages in the 49-kilogram division is highly commendable.

The little warrior returns stronger after this hiatus, ready not to make up for lost time, but to give us new joys once again, because in her heart she no longer carries only her dreams, but also those of her offspring.

Through hard work and passion, Cuban weightlifting now has two candidates to shine in the current Olympic quadrennial, which will conclude very close to Hollywood, where Marifélix, in particular, could emulate the star who gave her name and from whom she also seems to have inherited her indomitable spirit.

Translated by Amilkal Labañino / CubaSí Translation Staff
