

# *Volleyball team travels to the World Cup with a healthy squad*

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**Cuba wins Challenger Cup**

Havana, August 22 (RHC)-- The Cuban men's volleyball team travels to Europe on Monday to participate in the 20th World Championship, from August 26 to September 11 in Poland and Slovenia, with its 14 members in good health.

"The 14 members of the team are in good health and very motivated for the tournament," said team doctor Ramses Raymond in statements to Radio Habana Cuba.

Regarding star Robertlandy Simón, the doctor explained that he has trained with the group after the five stitches he received in one of his attacking hand fingers due to a cut during a training session were removed.

"Simon is fine. We are still keeping him with a prophylactic bandage on the finger, but he has complied with the training sessions," he said, commenting on the world's best center back, who missed the Pan American Cup in Canada.

When asked about the starting passer Adrian Goide, who injured one of his hands in the last match of the Pan American Cup, he said that he has been at 100 percent for several days.

"He felt a pain in one of his hands after a fall in the final match of the Cup, but it was nothing important and he did not suffer any trauma. He recovered completely in a little more than 24 hours," he said.

In the World Cup, Cuba is in a difficult group with Japan, Qatar and Brazil, the latter being its first opponent on Friday, August 26th.

In addition to Simon and Goide, in the group of 14 players stand out the assistants Osniel Mergarejo (MVP of the Pan American Cup), Miguel Angel Lopez (world club champion with Sada Cruzeiro of Brazil and one of the best in the world in the service) and the opposite Jesus Herrera, of remarkable performance in recent tournaments of the Cuban national team.

According to what DT Vives said last week, upon his arrival in Slovenia, it is in the plans to play a preparation match with the Slovenian national team.

In the previous World Cup (2018), the Cuban squad finished in 18th place with a balance of one victory - against Puerto Rico - and four losses.

Several players on the team have World Cup experience, including Simon, who has three participations (2006-2010-2022) and Liván Osoria, also with three World Cups (2014- 2018- 2022), published the specialized portal Cubansp1ke.

"We are going to put up a fight in every game. We expect a good performance," said Vives, who led the team to victories in its last three tournaments, including the South Korea World Challenger, which gave them a ticket to the next edition of the Nations League (VNL).

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