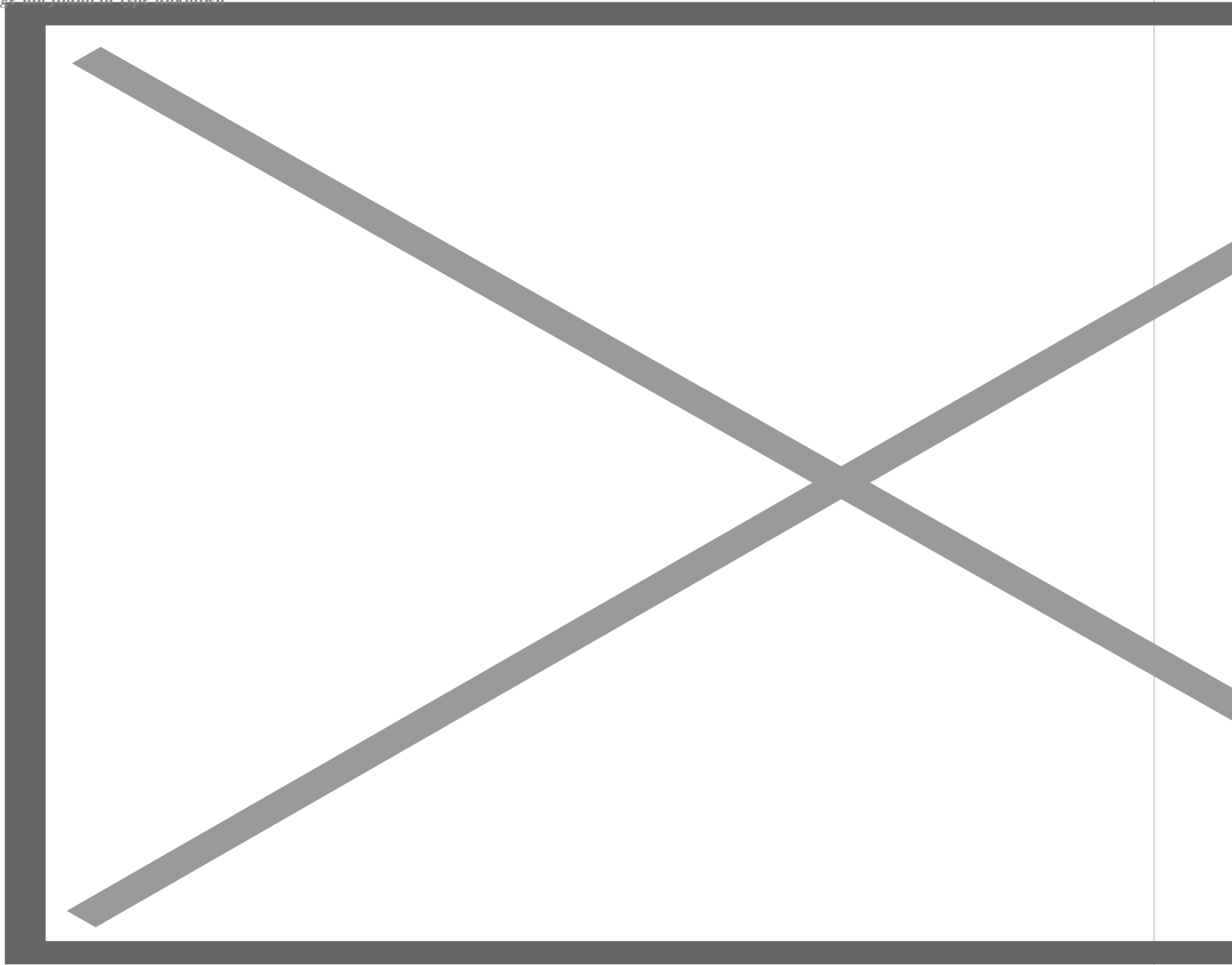


Cuban baseball receives praise from all corners of the globe

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Havana, March 15 (Prensa Latina)-- Cuba qualified today to the semifinals of the V World Baseball Classic, a fact that brought with it a wave of praise from all corners of the planet.

The official website of the United States Major League Baseball (MLB) highlighted that "Cuba suffered to the limit, but withstood the pressure and managed to advance" to the next stage of the championship.

The Caribbean team, also identified with the hashtag #TeamAsere, defeated Australia 4-3 on Wednesday, in extremis, in a match staged at the Tokyo Dome in the Japanese capital.

La República, a Peruvian newspaper, emphasized that the "Cuba team is back to the elite", after several years away from the baseball summits.

It is worth remembering that Cuba's best performance in the World Classics dates back to the first edition, in 2006, when it was runner-up after losing to Japan in the final. After that performance, it was always left out in the final phase of the tournament.

Meanwhile, the U.S. newspaper El Nuevo Herald published that "Cuba comes to Miami in search of gold".

The semifinal and final rounds of this V Classic will be played at Miami's LoanDepot Park, between March 19 and 21.

Cuba got off to a bad start in this championship after losing its first two matches in group A, against the Netherlands and Italy, but managed to recover in time to first win the key with successive victories over Panama and Taipei of Chiba, and then prevail in the quarterfinals against Australia.

Cuba wins a great game against Australia and becomes the first semifinalist of the Classic, highlighted the Venezuelan newspaper Meridiano, which later praised the inclusion of active MLB players in the roster of the Antillean team, for the first time in history.

For this edition, the Cuban Baseball Federation changed its policy for the call-up of the national team and called up several players active in Major League Baseball organizations, among them the stellar Luis Robert Jr. and Yoan Moncada, pillars of the Chicago White Sox franchise.

The Cuban team's potential rivals in the semifinals will be Venezuela, already qualified for the quarterfinals, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico or even Colombia, still with remote possibilities of reaching the next phase.

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