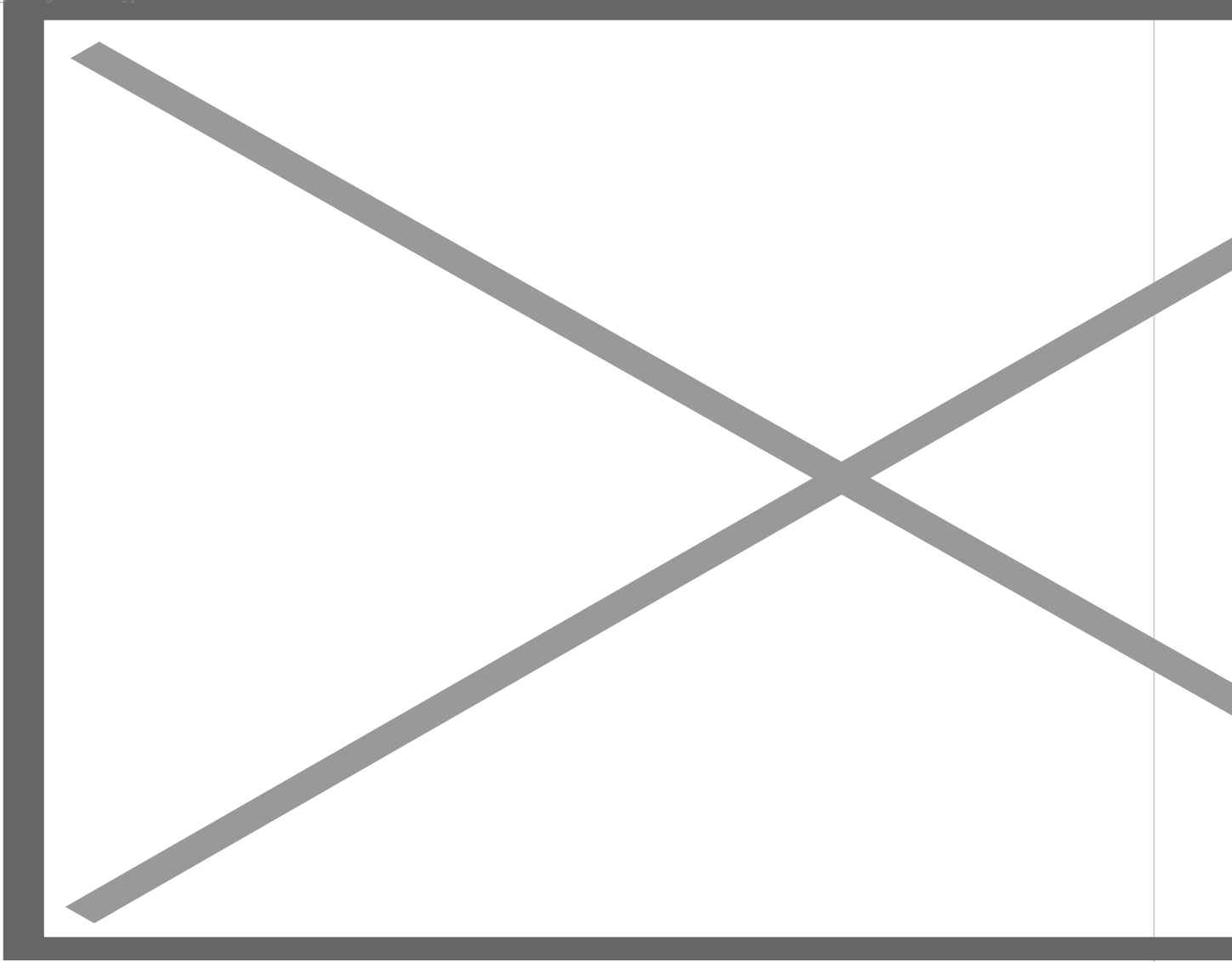


# *Villa Clara celebrates as Cuba's most outstanding province in sports*

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Havana, February 23 (PL) - The 63rd anniversary of the creation of the National Sports Institute (INDER) was celebrated in Santa Clara, capital of Villa Clara, the most outstanding province in 2023 in sports and recreational activities.

The activity, held on Thursday, paid tribute to sports workers throughout Cuba.

The director of sports in the central Cuban province, Mariela Fonseca, told Prensa Latina that the territory was the most outstanding in the country in Sport for All, and excelled in other activities in which a large attendance was achieved in grassroots events.

He also pointed out that more than 75 percent of the repairs to sports facilities were completed, while three national awards for science and technology applied to sport were achieved.

The territory also contributed 30 athletes in different events to the national high performance centres, and graduated a group of athletes in sports medicine specialities.

Several sports facilities were also repaired, including the Natilla Jiménez children's stadium, which was fitted with artificial lights. The children's stadium is a key facility for little league baseball, where Villa Clara is one of the most outstanding teams in the country.

The activity began with a posthumous tribute to the recently deceased Rebel Army captain Felipe Guerra Matos, who was the first director of Inder. During the ceremony, in the Sandino stadium, through different cultural and sporting events, a group of outstanding coaches, teachers and activists of INDER and the sports management in the province were recognised with pennants presented by Jorge Luis Broche, member of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Omar Venega, vice-president of the Inder.

The Cuban Erick Hernández, who holds several Guinness World Records in the mastery of the football, together with the disabled child Rey Armando Morales, showed their skills of balance and acrobatics with the ball, in front of hundreds of people who completely covered the stands of the baseball stadium in this city in the centre of the country.

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