



CUBA TEAM PROFILE - Women's



Cuba comes into the 2003 World Cup with the aim of turning around a recent run of poor form and reorganising themselves for the Athens Olympics. Coming off a sub-standard fifth place finish at the 2002 World Championship in Germany, a far from satisfactory seventh placing at the Montreux Masters and an 11th place finish at the 2003 World Grand Prix, Cuba have a lot to look forward to at the 2003 World Cup.

The national team has included some of the world's great players but some of the side that won the gold medal in Sydney 2000 have now retired. Younger players are now being drafted into the team to lay the foundation for a solid performance in Athens 2004. Of those who stood on the podium at Sydney 2000, Yumilka Ruiz, Marta Sánchez and Zoila Barros are still there and head this team of young players who have played inconsistently in the World Grand Prix, the Pan-American Cup and other NORCECA tournaments in the past three years.

The Cuban women have a distinguished record in international competition and were Olympic champions three times and have taken four World Championship titles. Their performance in the World Cup, will be another litmus test on their progress ahead of the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Recent Results

NORCECA Continental Women's Championship in the Dominican Republic (September)

Gold medal play-off: Cuba lost to USA 3-0 (25-22, 25-17, 30-28)

Semifinal: Cuba beat the Dominican Republic 3-2 (25-23, 25-22, 20-25, 20-25, 15-11)

Cuba lost to USA 3-2 (20-25, 25-20, 25-20, 18-25, 15-13)

Cuba beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-6, 25-15, 25-14)

Cuba beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-14, 25-11, 25-13)

Pan Am Games in the Dominican Republic (August)

Final: Cuba lost to the Dominican Republic 3-2 (25-16, 25-17, 14-25, 26-28, 15-13)

Semifinal: Cuba beat USA 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-21)

Cuba beat the Dominican Republic 3-1 (23-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-21)

Cuba beat Mexico 3-0

Cuba beat Venezuela 3-0 (25-16, 25-27, 25-17)

2003 World Grand Prix in Italy (July-August) finished 11th

Cuba lost to Japan 3-2 (18-25, 25-18, 25-20, 19-25, 15-13)

Cuba lost to the Netherlands 3-2 (23-25, 19-25, 25-23, 25-16, 15-13)

Cuba beat Italy 3-2 (16-25, 22-25, 27-25, 25-20, 15-12)

Cuba lost to Germany 3-1 (25-16, 25-14, 22-25, 25-16)

Cuba lost to USA 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-14)



World Cup results

1999 - First

1995 - First

1991 - First

1989 - First

1985 - Second

1981 - Sixth

1977 - Second

1973 - Fifth



Team Roster

1 Ruiz Luaces Yumilka , 2 Santos Allegne Yanelys, 3 Carrillo de la Paz Nancy , 4 Ramirez Echevarria Daimi, 5 Martinez Adlum , 8 Ortiz Charro Yaima , 11 Mesa Luaces Liana , 12 Calderon Diaz Rosir , 13 Munoz Carrazana Anniara, 16 Tellez Palacios Dulce, 17 Sanchez Zalfran Martha, 18 Barros Fernandez Zoila.