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La Cruz, the doctor of boxing

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The nickname suits him down to the ground, because few like him are so talkative, as much with the press, the executives or the general public. Julio César La Cruz is a danger on the ring...

But outside the ring he has that cheerful temper, which distinguishes kind-hearted people.

It was one of the characteristics that led him to become not only the captain of the Cuban boxing squad, but also the Captain of captains of El Cerro Pelado, the most important High Performance center in Cuba, with influence over the rest of the leaders in the different sports.

Often, when we meet each other there comes out his knowledge on the sports world, beyond the art of fists, and I would like to share that aspect with CubaSi's readers:

**Today, I want to talk about other topics, but let's start with boxing, how do you see yourself and the team for the final stages of the World Series?**

"In my case, I could win my first bout, which is weigh-in. The leader pulls his teammates, and that's my mission; should I am focused they're too, because we achieve all aims united. All bouts are difficult, and although they finish 3-2, it's a victory; so it is in all sports, even 1-0 is a victory, and that's the main thing."

**What do you think about Victor Mesa's appointment as manager of Industriales?**

"Víctor Mesa is a great strategist. In my opinion he is among the best in Cuba. He hasn't crowned himself champion, but Messi is considered the best too and he hasn't won a World Cup. This is going to be a very good opportunity for him, I am sure he'll give a good show, together with other new managers, such as Orestes Kindelán, Pedro Luis Lazo, etc."

**I have seen you as fan in other sport shows, what other sports do you like?**

"I get on well with sports in general; my thing is to make sport win. Generally speaking, we have a complex task, the Central American Games in Colombia, where we must give our best in the work day by day, and perseverance will lead us to victory and thus to keep the first place overall."

**Why are you a fan of Pinar del Río?**

"Since I used to play baseball in my childhood, my idols were Omar Linares, Faustino Corrales and others from Pinar, and I always followed them. Personally, I am a friend of Donald Duarte, and when I arrive in Pinar del Río, I am treated like a Pinar del Río local, as if I were Roniel Iglesias or Lázaro Álvarez".

**But, what about Camagüey?**

"Watch out for the "Bulls" from Camagüey, who have a good young pitching, and a captain focused on his task. Now, with the opportunity given to him to play abroad, Alexander Ayala is going to lead them to victory. They qualified for the tournament last year and this time their performance will be better".

This is Julio, also self-confessed fan of Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo, a faithful sports lover. When he is not on the ring, one can see him like any other fan in the crowd, cheering for Pinar del Río or Camagüey, either in baseball or basketball.

**Translated by Jorge Mesa Benjamin / CubaSi Translation Staff**