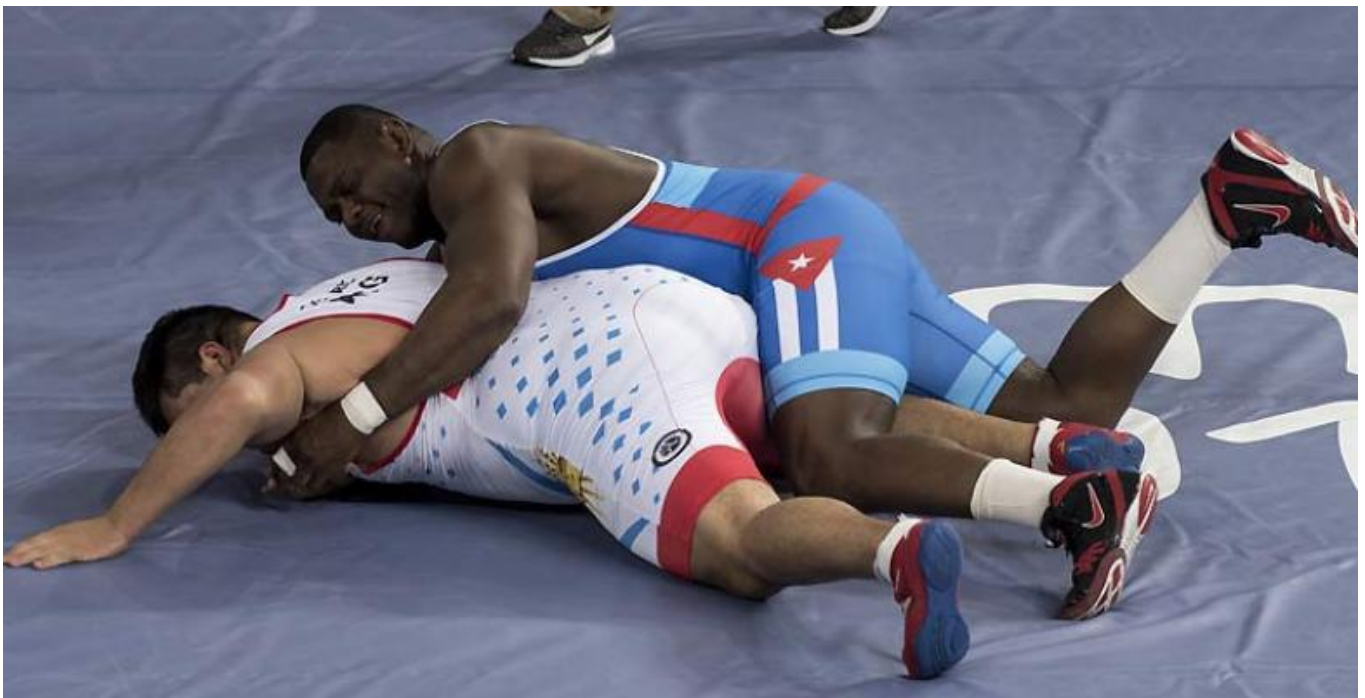

Winning More Olympic Medals for Cuba

By: José Francisco Reinoso Zayas and Jorge Petinaud Martínez
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Havana.- Cuban wrestlers will try to increase the number of medals in the history of the Olympic games, although that goal will be delayed for 12 months, as the Tokyo Games were postponed for the summer of 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic

The non-antagonistic dispute for nearly 28 years between Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestlers will escalate after some women qualify for the Olympics in the latter.

So far, Cuba has guaranteed six Olympic slots in each of the men's teams, with a complete team in the Greco-Roman style, and three women, and it will go for more in the men's and women's categories, after the United World Wrestling schedules new qualifiers.

Undoubtedly, there are many hopes on the female wrestlers, especially on Liana de la Caridad Montero, who won the bronze medal in the World Championship held in Budapest in 2018, when Yudaris Sánchez won the title in the World Under-23 Championship, and Mylainis de la Caridad Marín became the queen of the Youth Olympic Games.

Wrestling is the only sport that has won at least one gold medal in each of the last seven Olympics, thus confirming its perseverance.

Those achievements have resulted from the efforts made by athletes, trainers, activists, relatives and officials nationwide, and mainly by the contribution for decades from late Gustavo Rollé Fernández, who is considered, due to his own merits, the father of wrestling in Cuba.

A special mention for Pedro Val, who trained many outstanding Greco-Roman wrestlers, and official Miguel Langaney, both deceased.

Today, under the leadership of a group headed by National Commissioner Luis de la Portilla, and coaches Raúl de

Jesús Trujillo in Greco-Roman wrestling; Julio Mendieta, in the men's freestyle modality, and Filiberto Delgado, in charge of the women's team, Cuban wrestling is facing the challenge of increasing its contribution of medals, with Mijaín López and Ismael Borrero as the best wrestlers, and the conviction of the possible victory by Cuban female wrestlers at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.
