
Yarisley: A Giant Woman in Love with the Sky

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Villa Videna embraced Cuba, sports dignity, greatness, and glamour. Yarisley Silva (4.75m) and heptathlete Adriana Rodríguez (6 113 points) exalted the name of Cuba in the stadium as they became the queens of day 3 in Pan American athletics.

Their performances were different. But the truth is both made fans jump for joy by taking us to our limits Thursday afternoon.

We shall always trust Yarisley in major events. No matter if her season performance had been poor all year long. She had not jumped higher than 4.70m this season. Besides, the scheduled training had been shortened...and was seemingly not enough.

But naming Yarisley Silva—at least to those who love track and field—is synonym of emotional abundance. Such deed in Lima had all of these ingredients.

Her body was not quite ready. She could not warm up well. All these, paired with the cool weather in Lima, somehow affected her readiness. Hence, she started off her competition with 4.25m.

Such decision evolved into fatigue and a higher number of attempts. If that were not enough, we almost suffer a heart attack when she jumped 4.35m in her third attempt.

From then on, she was almost perfect. She bet on the great skill she had in 2015. She easily jumped 4.45-4.55-4.65m. Some of her most important rivals in the area—Canada's Alysha

Newman (4.55m) and Venezuelan Robelys Peinado (4.55m)— found trouble in this height.

There were only two left. She and the American Kathryn Nageotte (4.70m, sixth in 2019 world ranking this season). Nageotte jumped 4.70m while Yarisley failed to jump in her first two attempts. Therefore, she risked everything and decided to take on the 4.75m in her last attempt. And she did it!

Her sports career has been now crowned with a winning jump, another caress to the sky; with her open arms to heaven.

The flag, the lap of honor, and the eternal gratitude to those who trusted her all the time.

Thanks Yarisley for some many years of sacrifice. Thanks for all those glorious moments you have given us.

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