

Canada loses 69-66 to Cuba in women's basketball world championship tune-up

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The Canadian women's basketball team lost 69-66 to Cuba in a world championship tune-up game Friday.

Trailing 28-22 at halftime, the Canadians rallied to take the lead in the final minutes of the fourth quarter. But Cuba tied it in the final minute to force overtime and held on for the victory.

Miranda Ayim of London, Ont., led Canada with 18 points and nine rebounds while Edmonton's Katherine Plouffe added in 11 points and five rebounds.

"We fought hard to come back into the game after being down by 15", said Plouffe. "We kept our composure when we were down."

Head coach Lisa Thomaidis of Dundas said Canada had some missed opportunities.

"We showed a lot of resilience coming back from halftime deficit," she said. "Cuba played with a lot of physicality and I thought we handled that better in second half. Unfortunately we missed opportunities, missing 15 free throws and a number of defensive block outs that gave them second-chance points."

Kia Nurse had three points while fellow Hamiltonian Shona Thorburn snared a rebound.

Canada faces Spain on Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern before heading to Turkey for the Sept. 27-Oct. 5 FIBA World Championship.

STATS

CANADA		Pts	REB	AS	FP	VAL
4	M. Langlois	3	2	2	2	1
5	K. Nurse	3	0	0	5	-5

CANADA		Pts	REB	AS	FP	VAL
6	S. Thorburn	0	1	1	0	2
7	C. Pilypaitis	0	0	0	1	-2
8	K. Gaucher	0	4	2	1	-1
9	M. Ayim	18	9	1	3	23
10	N. Fields	0	1	0	0	-1
11	K. Plouffe	11	5	2	4	13
12	L. Murphy	10	2	1	2	5
13	T. Tatham	9	8	4	3	17
14	K. Boogaard	0	0	0	1	-4
15	M. Plouffe	12	4	1	1	12
CUBA		Pts	REB	AS	FP	VAL
4	F. Ochoa Izquierdo	1	2	0	2	-2
5	I. Casanova González	2	1	2	2	-3
6	A. Galindo Martínez	3	1	0	1	3
7	O. Gelis González	11	1	5	2	12
8	A. Romero Moinelo	7	1	3	0	10
9	Y. Amargo Delgado	18	2	1	0	14
10	A. Povea Chacón	5	7	0	4	10
11	M. Cepeda Valle	2	4	1	5	-3
12	C. Noblet Salazar	5	4	0	5	0
13	T. Fernández	0	2	0	2	-2
14	L. Oquendo Valdés	15	8	0	2	20
15	S. Ávila Casañas	0	1	0	1	-3
