
Between somersaults and twists...Awesome Manrique Larduet!

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Improvements, amid somersaults and twists, a little man carved into muscles and ebony fiber performed amazingly in the Gymnastics World Cup held in Anadia, Portugal.

I am talking about Cuban Manrique Larduet, capable of winning three gold medals and two silver medals in a circuit of higher quality than that of last Central American and Caribbean Games Veracruz 2014.

We cannot downgrade Larduet's performance because great gymnastics stars from China, US, Japan, and former Soviet's republics did not participate in the event. He did win over gymnasts from Brazil, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela. All of them will be his main opponents at the upcoming Pan American Games Toronto 2015.

In Portugal, with clean performances of exercises with high degree of complexity, Larduet showed his skills.

His first gold medal came with the floor exercises. He scored 15.075 (break it down: performance 8.475, degree of complexity 6.600). Slovenian Siga Zilc (14.925) and Brazilian Caio Souza (14.750) were second and third, respectively.

He also won the vaulting thanks to his 14.812 as well as the horizontal bar with 14.975.

His silver medals came in the rings with 14.925 behind the 15.275 achieved by Argentine Federico Molinari. In the parallel bars exercises, he once again ended second behind

Colombian Calvo. Although he improved a lot his result with an amazing 15.625, Calvo beat him with a world-class 15.950.

A sharp look to a possible performance of Manrique Larduet in Canada indicates that he must still work hard in the pommel horse, especially for the all-around contest. He looks pretty balanced in the rest of the disciplines.

We shall not be seen him again as the surprised he was in Veracruz. American wolves, and judges, will take him seriously.

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