



UNITED WORLD  
**WRESTLING**  
**AMERICAS**

# UWW AMERICAS REPORT 2024



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## FROM ATHENS TO PARIS: THE TALE OF TWO GIANTS

The story goes that in 560 BC, in the Greek colony of Croton (now modern-day Croton in southern Italy), an athlete named Milo of Croton was born. Thanks to his extraordinary strength, Milo trained daily by carrying a calf on his shoulders. By the time he had the opportunity to compete in the Olympics, the calf had grown into a four-year-old bull, yet Milo still carried it 120 steps. He brought the bull to the stadium, where he slaughtered, roasted, and ate it.

A testament to his immense strength was when, during a lesson with Pythagoras and several disciples, the roof of the building began to collapse. Milo held it up with his arms, allowing everyone to escape safely.

In the sport of wrestling, Milo dominated all Panhellenic Games, earning the title of Periodonikes (περιοδόνικης) six times, a prestigious honor given to an athlete who won all four Panhellenic Games. At the age of 18, he claimed his first victory at the 60th Olympiad in 540 BC. He went on to achieve six Olympic victories in wrestling, from the 60th to the 66th Olympiad, concluding his illustrious career at the age of 40.

It would take over 20 centuries for another athlete to emerge with the vitality and skill of Milo of Croton. Indeed, starting from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the legacy of the wrestler Mijaín López began to take shape. A native of Pinar del Río Province in Cuba, López is the only athlete in modern Olympic history to win five consecutive gold medals over a span of 20 years.

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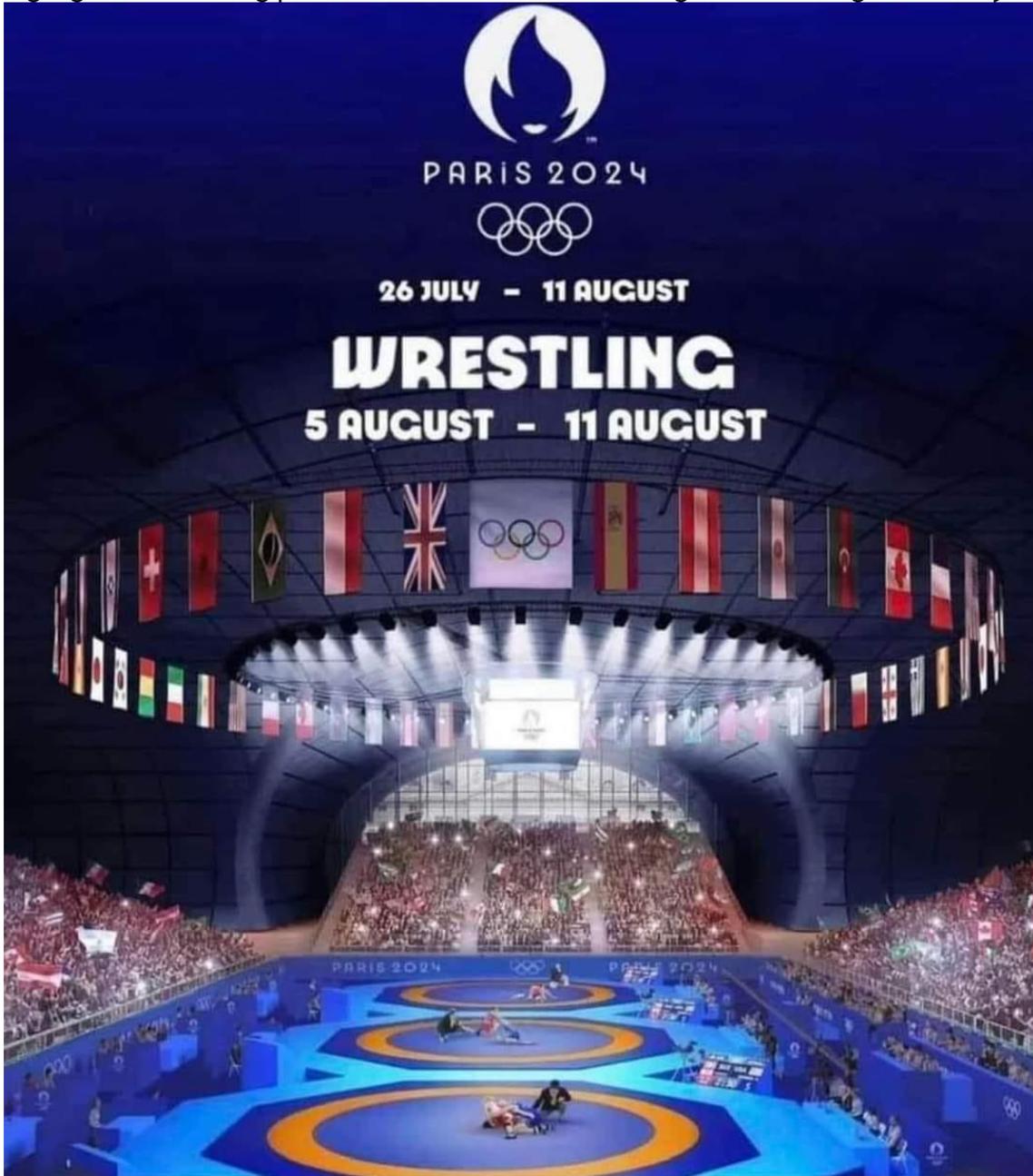
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## OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

The long period of preparation, consisting of years, months, and weeks of intense training, culminated with the start of the wrestling competitions at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Americas were represented by 45 athletes across 18 weight divisions in the three official wrestling styles, alongside 7 referees from 12 countries. This participation highlighted the strong presence of the continent in the global wrestling community.



## PARIS 2024 - UWW BUREAU MEETING

Upon arriving in Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games, UWWA leadership immediately commenced a series of formal activities. After arriving on Saturday afternoon and completing logistical arrangements, the first engagement was a reception hosted by the USA delegation later that evening.

The following day, the Bureau of United World Wrestling Americas held a breakfast session at 9:00 AM, followed by the official Bureau meeting, which began at 10:00 AM. After the meeting, attendees proceeded to the inauguration of the "Wrestling House," which was hosted on a boat on the Seine River.

This busy schedule took place amidst an 8-hour time difference, which presented some challenges in terms of acclimatization for participants arriving from Latin America.

The wrestling competitions were set to begin the following day.



## U20 BEACH WRESTLING PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The event took place in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It is worth mentioning that this event was held on the beach, at the host hotel's facilities. The event was well-organized and took place in two circles, unlike last year when only one was used, which unnecessarily prolonged the event.

During the competition, there was heavy rainfall; however, after some logistical adjustments, it was possible to continue with the event, which was held on Sunday, June 30. A total of 12 countries participated and 71 athletes.



## U20 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

As part of the protocol during the opening ceremony of the U20 Pan-American Championships, the UWWA "Medal of Sporting Merit" was awarded to distinguished individuals who have significantly supported the development of wrestling. The honorees included:

- Dr. Renzo Manyari, President of the Peruvian Olympic Committee
- Mr. Federico Tong, President of the Peruvian Sports Institute
- General Aldo Muñoz, from the Ministry of the Interior



## U20 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - TECHNICAL CONGRESS

Amid great anticipation, the U20 Pan-American Olympic Wrestling Championship will be held from December 10 to 14 in Lima, Peru.

The Technical Congress was led by the UWW Americas (Pan-American Wrestling Confederation) President, alongside Technical Delegate Pedro Gama Filho, José Davila, representative of the Peruvian Federation, and Yuri Maier, Technical Manager. The refereeing instructors are Galva from Puerto Rico and Casey from the USA.



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## U20 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - TECHNICAL MEETING

From the 10th to the 14th of this month, Lima, Peru, hosted the U20 Pan-American Wrestling Championships. Delegations from 17 countries participated in the four official wrestling styles, with 205 athletes, 61 coaches, and 18 referees, totaling 330 accredited individuals.

The Technical Meeting was led by the UWW Americas (Pan-American Wrestling Confederation) in collaboration with Pedro Gama Filho, Technical Delegate; José Davila, representative of the Peruvian Federation; and Yuri Maier, Technical Manager. The referee instructors for the event were Galva (Puerto Rico) and Casey (USA).



## MORE THAN MEDALS AMERICAS 2024

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic was the host for the opening of the "More than Medals" 2024 event. An initiative that aim to promote the values of sports and the development of the discipline in the region. The inaugural ceremony was attended by distinguished authorities from the Dominican Olympic Committee, Dominican Wrestling Federation and UWW Americas.

We are honor and glad to host 13 countries and 50 participants.

"More than Medals" it's about transcend competition and focus on the integral development of athletes, promoting values such as respect, discipline, education and teamwork.



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## U17 BEACH WRESTLING PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The event took place in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It is worth mentioning that this event was held on the beach, at the host hotel's facilities. The event was well-organized and took place in two circles, unlike last year when only one was used, which unnecessarily prolonged the event.

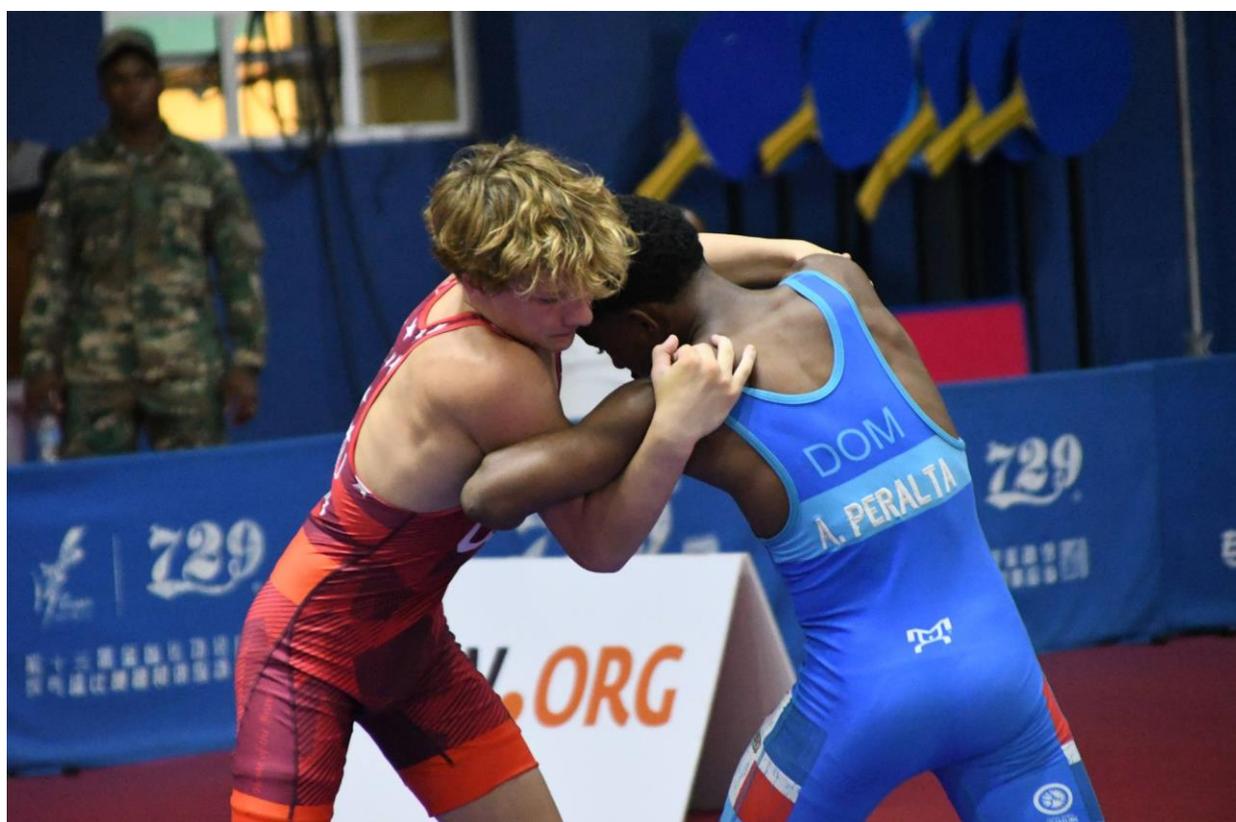
During the competition, there was heavy rainfall; however, after some logistical adjustments, it was possible to continue with the event, which was held on Sunday, June 30. A total of 15 countries participated and 68 athletes.



## U17 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U17 Pan-American Championships are being successfully held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with the participation of 18 countries and a total of 198 athletes competing in three styles of wrestling: 98 in freestyle, 73 in Greco-Roman, and 69 in women's wrestling. Additionally, there are 21 referees officiating the matches. The Dominican Wrestling Federation has made significant efforts to organize this important competition.

For the International Federation and the Pan-American Wrestling Confederation (UWWA), it is gratifying to witness the performance of emerging talents.



## U23 BEACH WRESTLING PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was the first edition of this Championship, held in the city of Rio Negro, Colombia, on June 23, 2024. A total of 9 countries participated and 59 athletes.



## U23 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U23 Pan-American Championships were successfully held in Rionegro, Colombia, on June 21-22. This competition featured 16 teams, showcasing a total of 192 athletes across various wrestling styles: 86 in freestyle, 62 in Greco-Roman, and 64 in women's wrestling. The event was officiated by 19 referees, ensuring a fair and competitive environment.

The Colombian Wrestling Federation's efforts in organizing this championship highlighted its dedication to promoting wrestling talent in the region. The tournament provided a vital platform for athletes to demonstrate their skills and potential on an international stage.



## U15 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event took place in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador. It is worth mentioning that this event was held despite inclement weather, as it rained continuously for days, and the competition itself took place under heavy rain.

Despite this, the atmosphere was unparalleled; the participating athletes always showed great commitment, and participation was very high.

Beach wrestling was held in the afternoon on Sunday, June 16. A total of 9 countries participated and 55 athletes.

## U15 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SAN SALVADOR 2024

The Pan-American U15 Championships (ages 13 to 15) are being successfully held in San Salvador, El Salvador, with the participation of 12 countries and a total of 198 athletes competing in the three styles of wrestling. The Salvadoran Wrestling Federation has made significant efforts to organize this important competition.

For the International Federation and the Pan-American Wrestling Confederation (UWWA), it is gratifying to witness the performance of emerging talents.

The direction of officiating is managed by instructors Abraham Galva (Puerto Rico) and Yunion Sosa (Cuba).



## UWW AMERICAS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

In conjunction with the XXXIII International Olympic Wrestling Cup, "Pat Shaw," in memoriam, the Pan-American Wrestling Confederation (UWWA) launched live broadcasts of its competitions through its YouTube channel.

This event featured simultaneous coverage of matches across four mats, resulting in a total of 25,000 views from 20 countries, including Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, El Salvador, Peru, Turkey, and Japan, among others.

The technical staff is commended for their efforts, with hopes that each subsequent event will surpass these metrics.



## THE XXXIII PAT SHAW CUP SHINES BRIGHT

On Friday, the 7th of this month, the opening ceremony for the XXXIII International Olympic Wrestling Cup, "Pat Shaw," in memoriam, took place. The event featured the distinguished athlete Erick Barrondo, a prominent figure in the history of Guatemalan sports, who is known for his achievements in race walking, including:

- Gold Medal at the Central American Games
- Gold Medal at the Central American and Caribbean Games
- Gold Medal at the Pan American Games
- Silver Medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games

It was a significant honor for the Pan-American Wrestling community to have Erick Barrondo deliver the inaugural address, highlighting the national and international prestige of the "Pat Shaw" Cup.



## “COPA PAT SHAW” - CAMP AND COURSES PRIOR TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION TOURNAMENT

### REFEREE COURSE

It was delivered by educator Rafael Abraham GALVA LEBRON from Puerto Rico and was attended by 18 judges from 12 countries. The facilitator's experience allowed the course to flow in a dynamic and enjoyable way, with both theoretical and practical sessions in which the participation and opinion of all was encouraged in an atmosphere of tolerance, friendship and mutual respect.

### COACHES COURSE

For this course we had the valuable intervention of the Mexican educator Héctor Luis CAMACHO PEDRIQUEZ, who was also supported by the head coach of the High Performance Center of America (CARDA), the Iranian professor Reza AZIMI. There were 29 coaches from 15 countries who participated in the course activities, which were divided into theoretical and practical sessions in which they were able to apply what they had seen in class directly in the planning of training camp sessions. In both courses the participants showed a dynamic and active attitude, with interesting points of view and many questions that constantly strengthened the interest and pedagogical development, not only of the listeners, but also of the facilitators.



## “COPA PAT SHAW” - TRAINING CAMP

The Camp was held at the facilities of the Center for High Performance and Development of America (CARDA), with the participation of athletes, coaches and educators, coach Reza AZIMI supported all the time the participants and educators; the number of participants was exceptional so two spaces were enabled each with two official mattresses, saunas were also available, a fitness gym and other facilities that helped to strengthen the work plans.



# XXXIII COPA INTERNACIONAL LUCHA OLÍMPICA PAT SHAW IN MEMORIAM

## “COPA PAT SHAW”

The event was held in Parque de la Industria, zone 9 of Guatemala City, on June 7 and 8, with three official mattresses for competition and two official mattresses for warm-up.

The management of the competition was carried out with the Arena system and all the official implementations of the UWW, with the support of the T&R Team of America. There were a total of 581 bouts in the three Olympic wrestling styles and four categories.

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Athletes from 20 countries participated: Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and USA, distributed in the different categories and styles as follows:



## WORLD RANKING SERIES ACAPULCO 2024

This event took place in the city of Acapulco, Mexico, on March 2nd and 3rd, 2024. It was the first stop of the 2024 World Series.

Unfortunately, this event did not have the expected participation; only one athlete from outside the continent took part in the event, while the rest were entirely from the Americas.

A total of 14 countries participated, of which 13 were from the Americas, representing 92.85% of the participating countries. A total of 48 athletes competed in this ranking series.



## PAN-AMERICAN QUALIFIERS - A GREAT SUCCESS

After three days of intense competition, the continent successfully completed the qualification process for 36 athletes who will represent us at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The organization by the Mexican Wrestling Federation was exemplary, and the athletic quality demonstrated by the various delegations was outstanding. Congratulations to all participants and the victors.



## DESERVED RECOGNITION

On the second day of competition at the Pan-American Qualifiers Championship held in Acapulco, Mexico, the presence of Licenciada Ana Guevara, Director of the National Sports Commission of Mexico (CONADE), was welcomed. Guevara is a silver medalist in the 400-meter sprint from the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

In recognition of her invaluable support for organizing the Pan-American Championship and Olympic Qualification, the "Golden Boot" of UWWA was awarded to her.



## 2° PAN-AMERICAN OLYMPIC WRESTLING GALA

On the evening of Monday, February 26, the Second Pan-American Olympic Wrestling Gala was held in Acapulco, Mexico. During this event, three athletes, three coaches, two referees, and two officials were inducted into the UWWA Hall of Fame.

The ceremony was filled with emotion and joy as the legacy of these distinguished individuals in our sport was recognized.



## UWW AMERICAS ORDINARY CONGRESS

The Ordinary Congress of UWW Americas (Pan-American Wrestling Confederation) was held at the "Palacio Imperial" hotel in Acapulco, Mexico. Delegates from 20 countries participated, along with all members of the Executive Committee. Special guests included Mr. Pedro Silva, a member of the UWW Bureau, and Mr. Antonio Silvestre, President of the World Referee Commission.

The atmosphere of harmony, camaraderie, and respect among all present highlighted the unity within the Pan-American Olympic Wrestling family.



## UWW AMERICAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On February 24, the regular meeting of the UWW Americas Executive Committee (Pan-American Wrestling Confederation) was held in Acapulco, Mexico. Special guests included Pedro Silva, a member of the UWW Bureau, and Rich Bender, Secretary General of USA Wrestling.

Appreciation is extended to the Executive Committee members for their support and confidence in carrying out our work plan. Many positive projects for Olympic wrestling in our continent are on the horizon.



## SENIOR PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ACAPULCO 2024

The Senior Pan-American Championships were successfully held in Acapulco, Mexico, serving as a precursor to the Olympic qualification tournament. The event saw participation from 22 teams and was officiated by 27 referees. Competitors included 90 athletes in freestyle, 69 in Greco-Roman, and 80 in women's wrestling, resulting in a total of 239 athletes competing.



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## SENIOR PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ACAPULCO 2024 - CONGRESILLO TÉCNICO

On February 20, the Technical Congress for the Senior Pan-American Championship 2024 was held at the "Mundo Imperial" hotel in Acapulco, Mexico.

This important competition features the participation of 20 countries, 240 athletes, and 26 referees. The Technical Delegate is Mr. Pedro Silva, a member of the UWW Bureau.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRE-OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS PREPARATION CAMP

In the lead-up to the continental events of Acapulco 2024, the organization, planning, coordination, and execution of the training camp took place at the Mexican Olympic Sports Center from February 13 to 19.

A total of 48 individuals participated, including 38 athletes and 10 coaches from 15 countries. This camp was made possible through the Technical Assistance of UWW, the support of Olympic Solidarity, and the facilities provided by the Mexican Olympic Committee and the National Federation of Mexico.

## U15 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 - OPENING CEREMONY AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

On Friday, November 24, the opening ceremony for the U15 (youth) Pan-American Olympic Wrestling Championship was held at the "Roberto Durán" Arena in the Republic of Panama.

The occasion provided the opportunity to award the "Medal for Sports Merit of UWW Americas" to Ms. Damaris Young, President of the Panamanian Olympic Committee, and to Mr. Roberto Monterrey, President of the Panamanian Wrestling Federation, in recognition of their efforts and support for Olympic wrestling in Panama.



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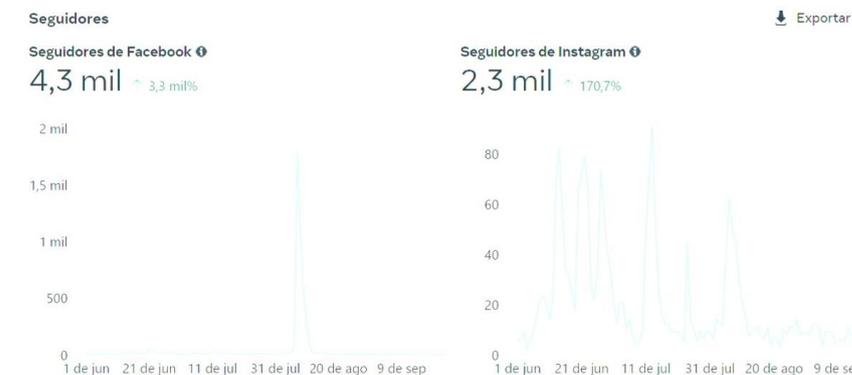
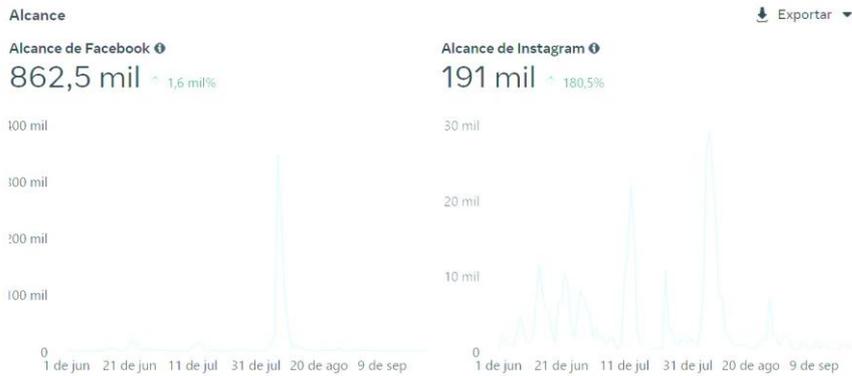


## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

This year, we successfully reactivated the operations of the Communications Department for the Americas, with the support of Sebastián Perez, who is responsible for this area.

The main activities throughout the year included promoting the achievements of our athletes at Paris 2024, sharing information on regional events, managing the YouTube channel, and interacting with our social media followers. This reactivation was clearly reflected in the growth of our follower base, views, likes, and other social media success metrics.

While we are still far from reaching our ultimate goals, we are on the right track.



## AMERICA IN THE UWW ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Last year, during the Senior World Championships, Costa Rican athlete Maxwell Lemar Lacey Garita was elected as a member of the UWW Athletes' Commission.

Maxwell, 29 years old, has achieved notable results throughout his career, including a gold medal at the Central American and Caribbean Games, along with multiple medals at the Pan-American Championships, one of them being gold.

