## Juan Hernández Sierra

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Name: Juan Hernández Sierra. Date of Birth: March 13, 1969. Birth Place: Guane, Pinar del Río, Cuba. Nationality: Cuban Occupation: Boxer Titles: Seven times monarch of the Giraldo Córdova Cardín International Boxing Tournament, four world titles and two Olympic subtitles. Juan Hernández Sierra. Cuban boxer who between the 12 strings won four world titles and two Olympic subtitles.

## Biographical Synthesis

He was born on March 13, 1969 in Guane, Pinar del Río, a town of champions in different sports. His high stature attracted the early attention of talent scouts, but after starting in athletics he was inclined to the sport of fists.

Sports trajectory

From its first steps, the quality it possessed was noticed, and for this reason it successfully passed through all the children's and youth categories. In the latter, he won his first important title when he was crowned at world level in the 1987 edition of Havana, in the 60 kilogram division. In that tournament he accumulated victories against Man Deum (South

Korea) by 5:0, Arpad Szasz (Hungary) by RSC in the second round, Olaf Trenn (GDR) 5:0, and in the final against the later professional world champion Konstantin Tszyu (Soviet Union) 4:1.

With this performance he won the confidence of the top Cuban boxing officials, who included him in the team that participated in a bilateral cap with the United States in April 1988 in the northern city of Atlantic City. There, at 63.5 kilograms, he defeated Charles Murray by points.

His first medal in the National Beach Girón Boxing Championship came in 1989, when in the city of Guantánamo he won the bronze medal in the 67 kilograms, the division that would bring him his greatest success,

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after falling in the semifinals with the star Candelario Duvergel. However, from that moment on, the Pinar del Río took over the welter division and left his predecessor, winner of several world metals, but none of gold.

In that year he was not chosen to go to the World Championship in Moscow, but returned with the highest honors of the tournament Centrocaribe del deporte, held in Santo Domingo, after beating the Colombian Julio Green in the final, and was also crowned in the Spartachiada de los Arércitos Amigos held in Sliven, where he won the conclusive lawsuit against the Polish Dariusz Mróz, for abandonment.

From 1990 he became the undisputed king of his category at the national level, including smiles against the stellar Ariel Hernandez Azcuy. His reign extended uninterruptedly until 1997, then won silver in 1999 at 71 kilos, after falling to his everlasting Cuban rival, Aníbal Rodríguez. His international career continued in 1990 when he won the Central American and Caribbean Games in Mexico, the World Cup phase in Dublin, Ireland, and in 1991 at the Pan American Games in Havana.

A few weeks later he took possession of his first planetary sash, when he defeated Germany's Andreas Otto 22:12 in the final match of the World Cup in Sydney (Australia), and also won the 1991 Barcelona Pre-Olympic Tournament with a major victory over U.S. Patrick Byrd. After that first world title, Hernández Sierra added those of Tampere (Finland) 1993, Berlin (Germany) 1995 and Houston (USA) 1999, in addition to the bronze obtained in Budapest (Hungary) 1997.

It was precisely his clash against the Russian Timour Gaidarov in the final of the northern fight that filled the cup of patience to the Cuban delegation, which withdrew all its representatives for arbitrary irregularities.

However, in the Olympic Games he could not assert his favoritism, and gave in the final fights of Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996, in both cases before opponents unknown until then as the Irish Michael Carruth (13:10) and the Russian Oleg Saitov (14:9).

Sydney 2000 should not have competed, but it was included in the 71 kilogram category, and after beating Stephan Nzue Mba of Gabon and Mohamed Salah Marmouri of Tunisia in the preliminaries by RSCO in the third, it then fell to Kazakhstan's champion Ermakhan Ibrahimov by a 16:9 vote.

After that performance, he decided to hang up his gloves after a very successful career, which also included the first places in the Central Caribbean tournament of Bayamón (Puerto Rico) 1993, the Pan American Games of the sport in Cartagena (Colombia) 1997 and the Pan American

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Games of Winnipeg (Canada) 1999.

In addition, he deserved the gold medals in the Goodwill Games of Saint Petersburg (Russia) 1994 and New York (USA) 1998 in 71, the World Cup of Chongking (China) 1998 in 71, and the silver medal in the World Cup of 1994.

Retreat

The seven-time monarch of international tournaments Giraldo Córdova Cardín said goodbye during the World Youth Championship held in Santiago de Cuba in 2002, in an emotional act where the public showed him the admiration he had for him.

Sports results
Year Tournament City Country Result
1990 Central American and Caribbean Games Mexico City Mexico 1st
1991 Pan American Games Havana Cuba 1st
1991 World Cup Sydney Australia 1st
1992 Olympic Games Barcelona Spain 2nd
1993 Central American and Caribbean Games Ponce Puerto Ríco 1ero
1993 World Cup Tampere Finland 1st
1995 World Cup Berlin Germany 1st
1996 Olympic Games Atlanta United States 2nd
1997 World Budapest Hungary 3rd
1999 Pan American Games Winnipeg Canada 1st
1999 World Cup Houston United States 1st