

She made some resistance to the call of Professor Rubén Benítez Rivalta to speak with a journalist. She felt something like an intense siege of her goal in the middle of the game.

It is not common for Yurismaily García Sánchez to have a "rival" to a reporter who only intended to extract words that describe her experiences and tells the story of a girl who chooses hockey as a favorite sport.

"I started when I was 10 years old. I was studying at Mártires Elementary School on April 9, in the municipality of Baraguá. She was in fifth grade and had the possibility of practicing three sports: taekwondo, weights and hockey. I opted for the latter. "

A native of the town of Gaspar, the girl's decision responded to the example of her older sister, Arianny, who already practiced that competitive modality and was a goalkeeper.

"At that time I played as a defense. The door didn't appeal to me, but the change of category came from my sister, who finished her 11-12 year stage. Not having her on the team, Professor Yoel Gómez, a former member of the national team, asked me to occupy that position.

"He told me to do it for a day and, if I didn't like it, to come back as a defense. Everything went well and since then I am a porter. From my early years I trained a lot and the teacher told me that I could reach the national team because I was willing, disciplined ... "

To his numerous attributes are added arguments that the young woman finds in hockey: "It is a strong sport and the goal is the most complicated position. You must have full concentration. If you make a mistake you pay with a goal against. "

With that generation of athletes born in the final years of the last century, the Avilanian women's hockey landscape improved with medals in all categories and the current presence of three players in the senior team, a figure considered small. The other territories included in the first division have more athletes in the national team.

Barranquilla: the glory that almost fades

The Central American Games of Barranquilla, Colombia, gave her the greatest prize in her short career, but she was at a point of not attending.

"Only 15 days after the competition we went to a top in the Dominican Republic, where I got sick. I returned to Cuba, I did not feel fully recovered, instead the sports medicine specialists valued my case, gave the precise indications and I could go to the regional games.

“As I was in the process of recovery, I didn't play in the first games. I thought I wouldn't have participation, but four days before the end of the competition I felt good. Then, Professor Guillermo Stackerman gave me the opportunity to play in the semifinal against Trinidad and Tobago. We beat them 2x0.

“The gold medal game was another difficult time, because we had lost with Mexico in the opening of the competition. I had in my favor a good preparation and the advantage that, in a top eight matches against that team, we won in the four that I played.

“For the final we did what was necessary and dominated, a goal for zero. As for my participation, I consider it important. They made many more shots I knew how to solve each situation and they didn't write me down. After that golden medal, a new goal arrives: to attend the Pan-Americans of Lima, Peru. ”

While the continental event arrives, Yurismaily has, in these days, a commitment to its province: to represent it in the national championship that will take place in Ciego de Ávila between February 6 and 12. Last year they achieved the silver medal before the powerful Las Tunas team. This year they intend to remain in medals and return to the final, but with 20 years, talent and responsibility, their possibilities are still difficult to predict.