

In 1999, Canada again hosted the Pan American Games in Winnipeg. Cuba finished in second position at the 1999 games, with Canada in third. Given Cuba's prowess in boxing, a highlight of the Games was the gold medal heavyweight match between Cuba's Odlanier Solís and Canada's Mark Simmons. Solís eventually won the bout and the gold medal, on a 4-2 decision.



Odlanier Solís and Mark Simmons in heavyweight final, Pan American Games, Winnipeg, 1999

The annual Cuban Terry Fox Run reveals another way in which sport has contributed to the broader Cuba-Canada relationship. For Canadians, Terry Fox needs no introduction. Images from the "Marathon of Hope," a journey across Canada he began in 1980 to raise funds for Cancer research after losing a leg to the disease, are permanently etched in Canada's national consciousness. Many Canadians, though, would be surprised to learn how many Cubans are now aware of his legacy. Since 1998, Cuba has joined Canada and other countries around the world in organizing an annual Terry Fox Run to raise funds