

The World Games 2013 Cali

Parachuting and Paragliding at the World Games International Air Sports Test Event Cali 2012

Carlos Ribeiro Marques of Brazil ended up as the top competitor in the parachuting canopy piloting competition of the World Games international Air Sports test event that was held at the Marco Fidel Suarez military air base in Cali, and was under the patronage of The World Games 2013 Cali.

The Brazilian was the most dominant athlete overall in the three combined disciplines, Accuracy, Distance, and Freestyle. "I'm really happy. I wanted to grab the top spot in all three categories, and I did it", said the champ after finishing up his last run.

This particular Air Sports event was organized in the following way. Each competitor made 4 Accuracy runs and 4 Distance runs. The 12 competitors with the highest combined scores moved on to the final, a single round of Freestyle. After the Freestyle round, all competitors' scores were tallied, and the three athletes with the highest combined scores were awarded trophies and prize money.

In the distance event, the competitors need to pass through two laser gates, at 0,10 and 1.5 meters off the ground, which are 50 meters apart. After passing through the second laser gate, they then continue on as far as they can. The maximum distances achieved were, 113.92 meters, 125.87 meters, and then finally settled on 133.40 meters, a mark set by William Sharman representing the United Arab Emirates.

With Accuracy, the competitor navigates his parachute through a course collecting points for contacting the surface of the water and for a precision landing. A grid is laid out just at the end of the aquatic part of the course in which competitors must land precisely in a specified zone.

The event was highlighted by the high level of technical abilities displayed by the athletes who took advantage of the "tardes Calenas", the afternoon breeze, in order to unofficially break The World Games record in the distance category, not once, but three times during the course of the four day competition. Even though the records broken were unofficial, the excitement was still real.

Colombian pilots dominated the paragliding competition. The top spot was taken by Ricardo Gomez, Miguel Martinez took third, and Julian Carreno rounded out the top five. UK competitor Andy Shaw, and one of the three female competitors, Marketa Tomaskova from the Czech Republic, grabbed slots 2 and 4,

respectively. Gomez knocked off the current national champion, Miguel Martinez, and Shaw in order to take the title.

“It was the reward for intense training over the past year, combined with the fact that we were competing on our home turf, helped us grab these spots while competing against some of the best in the world,” stated the Colombian as he picked up his trophy. “In Colombia, we have a lot of places to train, and we can do it all year round. This was key in achieving these results. We want to let Colombians know that we are capable of classifying for The World Games next year”, concluded the athlete born just up the road in Armenia.

The other winner in the event was the organization of The World Games 2013 Cali. Never before has an event of this type been put together in Colombia from concept to execution. With the 3 parachuting disciplines being run one right after the other on the same course and in parallel with the paragliding competition was logistically challenging. As a test event, this can be considered a success. It's one of the building blocks that will help The World Games create their multi-disciplinary event.

The final results for the overall competitions are listed below.

Final Canopy Piloting Results (Accuracy-Distance-Freestyle)		
1	Carlos Ribeiro Marques	Brasil
2	Marat Leiras	Brasil
3	Paul Rodríguez	USA
4	Mark Rahbani	CZE
5	Luke Oliver	AUS

Final Paragliding Results		
1	Ricardo Gómez	Colombia
2	Andy Shaw	Great Britain
3	Miguel Martínez	Colombia
4	Marketa Tomaskova	Czech Republic
5	Julián Carreño	Colombia

Markus Graeber (Colombia)
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