

## Mijaín López makes Olympic history for Cuba



*"The Cuban Giant": Mijaín López (source: [X](#)) (AI-scaled)*

Mijaín López, "El Gigante" of Greco-Roman wrestling from Cuba, has reached a historic milestone at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. With his victory in the over 130 kilogram weight class against Chile's Yasmani Acosta, who also has Cuban roots, López secured his fifth gold medal in a row with a convincing 6:0.

This makes him the first Olympian to win five gold medals in one discipline.

Yasmani Acosta, who has been competing for Chile since his desertion from the Cuban delegation in 2015, trained with López at the start of his career and sees him as more than just a sporting role model: "He's my brother, my friend. I owe a lot of what I know today to him. Even five minutes before the fight in the semi-final, he was still giving me advice," Acosta told the BBC. "It's a privilege to compete against Mijaín. Everyone wants to compete with the best and I really enjoyed it," he said after the bout.

After the fight on Tuesday, 41-year-old López took off his shoes and placed them in the middle of the mat - a symbolic act that marks the end of his 20-year career as an athlete. He will have a special place in sporting history, not least because he only suffered two defeats in the last 16 years and was able to continue his Olympic winning streak despite several herniated discs.

Mijaín López's performance was not only celebrated enthusiastically in the arena, but above all by the local population. President Miguel Díaz-Canel and revolutionary leader Raúl Castro also paid tribute to the Cuban champion.

López himself emphasized that his successes belonged not only to him, but also to his people, his family, and his coaches.

"To win, you just have to love what you do," López told media representatives. ([Cubaheute](#))