
Noe Mar gives Costa Rica's second Olympic medal surf: Bronze in Panama

Contributed by Patrick Cornwell
Tuesday, 24 April 2012

For the second year running, surfing in Costa Rica leads the country's second Olympic medal in the discipline, after Noe Mar McGonagle won in the waves of Playa Venao, Panama, the third place of the World Under-18 Surf championship.

Noe Mar, who did not defeat during the eight days of competition, reached the preliminary stage of the grand final where he emerged as victorious. Once at the final, fate of all was not on his side and he scored 11.34, 2 points, just behind Hawaiian Kalani David who became the world champion.

So with this podium by the tico, Costa Rican surfing is adding the second medal in less than 12 months after Craig "Tequila" Schieber, won gold in El Salvador during the 2011 ISA World Masters.

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"Actually I feel frustrated because I could win that final stage, I always felt sure I could accomplish it, but this is goo and you have to accept defeat. Surfing is like this; I lacked luck, but I'm happy that I could give good points to Costa Rica, which was my mission, "said Noe Mar.

The best wave of McGonagle (6.57) was an example of the direction the Costa Rican received more points; going left and using his backhand (back to the waves), was the strategy used mostly for this world.

Individually, the world bronze for Noe Mar reiterates the great moment he's living in 2012, after winning the Under 21 Latin American twice, total dominance in the national podiums and now defending champions of the Under 16 Latin American King Of The Groms, which will come next July in Acapulco, Mexico.

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Costa Rica's goal was to close inside the top 10 teams, but couldn't happened because New Zealand was finally able to do end in the 10th position. Tahiti and Argentina fought for the last but spot, but also failed in the attempt.