



Canada, Cuba, Mexico and Brazil in Final Four at Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 19, 2007.- The Canadian pair of Marie Lessard and Sarah Maxwell easily defeated the duo of Mercedes Mena and Karina Hernandez of Ecuador by scores of 21-11, 21-10, advancing to the semi finals of the Beach Volleyball Tournament of the Pan American Games.

The next opponents for Lessard/Maxwell will be the Cuban tandem of Dalixia Fernandez and Tamara Larrea, winners 21-12, 21-14 over the Colombian siblings Andrea and Claudia Galindo.

Mexicans Blbi Candelas and Mayra Garcia finished the American hopes of a medal with a 21-18, 21-19 victory over Angela Akers and Brooke Niles, and they now will meet favourites Brazilians Juliana Silva and Larissa Franca who won 21-8, 21-11 over Karina Cardozo and Mariana Guerrero of Uruguay.

In Pool A of the men's tournament, Brazilians Ricardo Santos and Emanuel Rego won for the third time in three outings defeating Costa Ricans Marcelo Araya and Jonathan Guevara 21-9, 21-10. Despite the loss, Araya/Guevara also made it to the quarterfinals. In other match of the pool, Perez/Suarez of Argentina defeated Cabrales/Naranjo of Colombia 21-11,

21-14.

In Pool B, in a duel between two teams already qualified, Cubans Francisco Alvarez and Leonel Munder defeated Fabio Dalmas and Nicolas Zanotta of Uruguay 23-21, 25-23. In the same pool in a match of eliminated teams, Medrano/Vargas of El Salvador beat Castro/Calderon of Nicaragua 21-18, 21-14.

In Pool C, Jackson Henrique and Igor Hernandez of Venezuela beat Bardales/Maldonado of Ecuador by scores of 21-13, 23-21, and in the other match of the pool, Puerto Ricans Joseph Gil and Joaquin Acosta edged Americans Hans Stolfus and Ty Loomis 23-21, 15-21, 15-8. USA, Puerto Rico and Venezuela all had 2-1 records but the Americans and the Puerto Ricans advanced due to a better points-ratio.

In Pool D, Canadians Wes Montgomery and Jason Kruger finished with a perfect 3-0 record after scoring a 21-18, 22-20 victory over Mexican brothers Ulises and Rodolfo Ontiveros who also moved to the next phase, and Mauricio Recabarren and Juan Carlos Chamy of Chile defeated Jorge Bolanos and Jose Gonzalez of Guatemala 21-19, 22-20.

Final Men's Pool Positions: Pool A (BRA 3-0, CRC 2-1, ARG 1-2, COL 0-3); Pool B (CUB 3-0, URU 2-1, ESA 1-2, NCA 0-3); Pool C (USA 2-1, PUR 2-1, VEN 2-1, ECU 0-3); Pool D (CAN 3-0, MEX 2-1, CHI 1-2, GUA 0-3).

