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Brazil advanced to semi finals

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 24, 2007.- Brazil advanced to the semi finals of the Men's Volleyball Tournament by sweeping Cuba 25-23, 25-20 y 25-20 in Pool A. The second victory without losses assures the Brazilians one spot in the next phase.

Now Canada and Cuba will meet on Wednesday to decide the other team of the pool in the semi final round.

Giba Godoy led the Brazilians with 16 points, Andre Nascimento added 11, and Rodrigo Santana had 10. Cubans Michael Sanchez and Roberlandy Simon had 14 and 11 respectively.

The first set was very close and was tied 22-22 with Cuba showing great blocking. From that point on, Brazil had better defense and relied on its counter attacks to win it in 24 minutes.

In the next two sets, Brazil enjoyed good serves plus monumental defense and Cuba was never a threat.

Canada came back from a poor first set and defeated Mexico 3-1 for its first victory in Pool A. The sets finished 17-25,

25-19, 29-27, 25-19, with Dallas Soonias scoring 20 points coming from the bench.

Murray Grapentine had 15 points for Canada and Dan Lewis and Fred Winters each provided 10 points. Veteran Jose Martell was the best Mexican with 23 points, Ivan Contreras chipped in 15 and Juan Garcia had 10.

The Canadians evened their record in 1-1 and sent Mexico to a 0-2 mark with one match to play against host Brazil.

"We could stabilize our game, leaving behind the mistakes and going back to the fundamentals," said Gleann Hoag, the Canadian coach.

