



North Central American and Caribbean
Confederation, NORCECA

Norceca Newsletter

July 2007
Year.5 - No. 43
English Edition



Cuba and Brazil blanked their opponents in Pool A



RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 23, 2007.- Cuba and Brazil enjoyed a good start blanking their opponents in Day One action of Pool A of the Men's Volleyball Pan American Games Tournament.

Cuba opened with a comfortable victory over Mexico in straight sets 25-20, 25-18, 25-20 dominating with a strong blocking that practically stopped the Mexican offense. The

Olympic champion Brazil defeated Canada 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-17).

The Cuban squad blanked Mexico 18-0 in the blocking category led by the threesome of Roberlandy Simon, Michael Sanchez and Pedro Iznaga.

"We established our game of attack and defense over the net, and that was the key for the victory," said Orlando Samuel, the Cuban coach. "This is a tough tournament, and you have to go out to play hard every day, it's not going to be easy."

Sanchez with 18 points led Cuba and Simon added 15. Gustavo Meyer and Jose Martell had 9 and 7 for Mexico.

Brazil, the three-time Pan American monarchs, did not have any difficulties to get their first victory with Dante Amaral as their best scorer with 12 points and Rodrigo Santana adding 10. Dan Lewis and Bret Youngberg each had 9 apiece for Canada.

"It was a good start for our team. We had not played for a long time in Rio de Janeiro so we have overcome that pressure," said Coach Bernardo Rezende.

"We failed in our counterattacks but took advantage of our serves. We have to correct our mistakes against Cuba, which is a stronger team than the Canadians," he added.

On Tuesday, Brazil meets Cuba in the last match of Day Two action.

"Cuba is a new and dangerous team. They beat Russia in the World League. We are going to study them before going to the court," said Amaral.

