



## USA are 2-0, Puerto Rico and Venezuela are still alive

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 24, 2007.- Behind four players scoring double-figure points, the USA Men's National Volleyball Team swept Argentina 25-17, 25-22, 25-21 in Pool B action. Venezuela got its first victory by defeating Puerto Rico.

USA is now 2-0 and plays Puerto Rico (1-1) on Wednesday while Venezuela (1-1) meets Argentina (0-2).

Brook Billings led the U.S. with 12 points, Sean Rooney and Jim Polster turned in 11 points apiece and Delano Thomas provided 10. Lucas Chavez paced Argentina with 13 points despite only starting the third set.

"Tonight was a nice match by both teams," Polster said. "Our young guys did well again. Both Sean and Brook played well, and we are one step closer to our goal."

"The balance in scoring has come from Kevin (Hansen)," Coach Ron Larsen said. "We give him a game plan, and he is good at understanding it. Kevin is able to spread the offense and distribute the ball. When everyone hits as well as they did tonight, it makes his job even easier."



Following a well fought first set which ended 31-29 in favour of Puerto Rico the Venezuelans commanded the match and prevailed in the next three sets by scores of 25-16, 25-18 y 25-19.

Ivan Marquez was the big man of Venezuela with 21 points. Luis Diaz had 14, Harry Gomez 13 and Tomás Ereu 12. Hector Soto led Puerto Rico with 21 and Jose Rivera added 10.

"As we had anticipated, it was a crucial match and we went out to play hard since the beginning," said Ereu. "There is a lot to play, but now we are on the path to try to retain the crown."

