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Olympic champions start with the right foot

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 17, 2007.- Reigning Olympic champions Ricardo Santos and Emanuel Rego of Brazil started with the right foot their participation in Pool A of the Pan American Games Men's Beach Volleyball. The dynamic tandem defeated Colombians Rafael Cabrales-Diego Alberto Naranjo 2-0 (21-6, 21-14).

Also in Pool A, Costa Ricans Marcelo Araya-Jonathan Guevara beat Argentineans Fabio Pérez-Pablo Suárez 2-1 (13-21, 21-19 e 15-11).

In Pool B, Cubans Francisco Alvarez-Leonel Munder defeated Winston Calderón-Francisco Castro of Nicaragua 2 a 0 (21-8, 21-12). In other match of the pool, Fabio Dalmas-Nicolas Zanotta of Uruguay, also started with a win by defeating Jeovanny Medrano-David Vargas of El Salvador 2 a 1 (17-21, 21-14, 15-7).

In Pool C, Americans Hans Stolfus-Ty Loomis beat Ecuadorians Daniel Maldonado-Julio Bardalos 2-0 (21-9, 21-16). In a much disputed match, Jackson Henrique-Igor Hernandez of Venezuela prevailed against Joseph Gil- Joaquin Acosta of Puerto Rico 2-1 (21-17, 19-21, 18-16).

In Pool D, Canadians Jason Kruger-Wes Montgomery defeated Chileans Mauricio Recabarren-Juan Carlos Chamy 2-0 (21-15, 21-14). Mexicans Ulises Ontiveros- Rodolfo Ontiveros also started with a 2-0 triumph (21-13, 21-17) over Jorge

Bolanos-Jose Gonzales of Guatemala.

On the women's bracket, Cuba, Ecuador, Canada, Mexico, Uruguay and Brazil secured berths in the quarterfinals round with each team achieving its second victory without losses.

In Pool F, Cubans Dalixia Fernandez-Tamara Larrea crushed Nancy Joseph-Elki Phillip of Trinidad & Tobago 21-8, 21-8 and Ecuadorians Mercedes Mena-Karina Hernandez took the same route against Heisell Guandique-Heidy Nostran of Nicaragua winning 21-5, 21-6.

In Pool G, Canadians Sarah Maxwell-Marie Lessard beat Colombians Andrea Galindo-Claudia Galindo 21-4, 21-13 and Costa Ricans Natalia Alfaro-Ingrid Morales won 21-18, 21-17 against Argentineans Maria Elena Evangelista-Alejandra Ortiz.

In Pool H, Mexicans Bibi Candelas-Mayra Garcia defeated Venezuelans Orquidea Vera-Wilmerys Munoz 21-11, 21-19, and Karina Cardozo-Mariana Guerrero of Uruguay triumphed 21-19, 21-13 over Maria Orellana-Lourdes Ramirez of Guatemala.

Finally, in Pool E, Americans Angela Akers-Brooke Niles defeated Ivonne Soler-Laura Molina of El Salvador 21-11, 21-7, and Brazilians Juliana Silva-Larissa Franca beat Yamileska Yantin-Ania Ruiz of Puerto Rico 21-16, 21-7.



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