

Canada and Puerto Rico make it into semifinals at NORCECA



far. "We were more disciplined and served better. We're improving day by day and I think if we continue that rise we'll continue to be effective."

GATINEAU, Canada, August 19, 2010 – Hosts Canada and Puerto Rico reached the semifinals of NORCECA Men's Junior Continental Championship joining USA and Cuba as protagonists of the Final Four.

The top three ranked teams at the end of the tournament will get tickets to next year's FIVB World Championship scheduled to be played in Brazil.

While it was a relatively easy quarterfinal for the Canadians who outlasted Dominican Republic in three sets, it was not the same story for the Puerto Ricans who battled against a resilient team of Mexico before prevailing in five sets. Also, Guatemala defeated St. Lucia and Honduras beat Martinique.

In Friday's semifinals, USA goes against Puerto Rico and Canada plays Cuba. Additionally Guatemala faces Honduras and St. Lucia meets Martinique for the seventh and ninth positions respectively.

Canada v Dominican Republic: Canada defeated the Dominican Republic in straight sets on Thursday to advance to the semifinals. Now they must challenge the sport's sharks to win a medal and gain a berth at next year's world junior championships. The impressive Canadians, a team that was formed a mere month ago, took the match 25-19, 25-15, 25-19. Justin Olmstead led the Canadians with 14 points while Nicholas Hoag added 12 and Matthew Schriemer 11. Jose Castillo was the Dominican's top scorer with 10 points. "We came in with a good plan and executed quite well," said Canada's head coach Greg Barthel, whose troops are 3-0 overall so

Puerto Rico v Mexico: Puerto Rico overcame a 0-2 deficit to defeat Mexico 23-25, 21-25, 26-24, 25-21, 15-7 in the first semifinal on Thursday. Ricardo Archilla led Puerto Rico with 23 points while Christian Rivera added 21 and Jorge Antonio Lopez 13. Juan Revuelta sparked for the Mexicans with 21 points while Ricardo Galindo and Jorge Cabrera added 12 each. "We started very slow," said Puerto Rico's team captain Ramon Burgos. "In the third set we said to each other that we didn't come here to lose at this point and we made the necessary adjustments. In the fifth set it was all us and we played really good. It was a great game for both teams but in the end someone has to lose."

Guatemala v St. Lucia: After an impressive showing in their two round robin losses, Guatemala kept its pedal to the floor on Thursday defeating St. Lucia 25-12, 25-9, 25-10 in a consolation quarter finals. Team captain Jeyson Fernando Nery Flores led the Guatemalan attack with 19 points while Luis Augusto Garcia Betancourt added 12. Julian Bissette once again starred for St. Lucia scoring six points. "We were expecting to be among the six finalists in this tournament but our players found a way to play with a lot of energy today," said Guatemala's head coach William Fernandez Pizat.

Honduras v Martinique: Honduras fended off a strong effort by Martinique on Thursday to win the second consolation quarterfinal 25-21, 25-23, 25-21. Josue Carbajal Vargas led the Honduras attack with 17 points while Jorge Rival Murillo added 10. Yves Vadeleux led all scorers with 20 points while Emmanuel Aglae and Boris Zeline added 11 each. "To win two matches here, we are proud of ourselves," said Carbajal. "This victory is for the players and all of Honduras. We plan to give everything we have against Guatemala."