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Cuba and USA sit atop pool in Pan American Cup

TIJUANA, Mexico, June 20, 2010 - Cuba and USA became the first three-game winners of the Women's Pan American Volleyball Cup following their victories on Sunday.

The Cubans survived a tough match of five sets against Dominican Republic in Pool A while the Americans had an easy win over Trinidad & Tobago in Pool B of the competition where four teams get tickets to next year's FIVB World Grand Prix.

Elsewhere, Peru and Argentina recorded straight sets wins over Puerto Rico and Brazil and Mexico defeated Costa Rica in four sets.

Cuba v Dominican Republic

Cuba won a thrilling five-setter against Dominican Republic (31-29, 23-25, 25-19, 25-23, 15-12) and bettered its record in Pool A to 3-0 record while the Dominicans are now at 1-1.

Gisell Silva topped Cuba with 27 points while Kenia Carcaces contributed 21 to the winning effort. Rachel Sanchez and Yilian Cleger chipped in 12 and 10 respectively. Prisilla Rivera was the best Dominican with 20 tallies and Lisvel Eve, Milagros Cabral and Vargas charted 15, 14 and 13 respectively.

USA v Trinidad & Tobago

USA crushed Trinidad & Tobago 25-17, 25-9, 25-11 in a Pool B match between unbeaten teams. The Americans stand at 3-0 while the Trinidadians are now at 2-1. Jordan Larson paced USA with 10 points while Cynthia Barboza, Heather Bown and Christa Harmotto chipped in 9, 8 and 7 points respectively. Trinidadian Kelly-Anne Billingy scored a match-high 12 points and Krystle Esdelle added 8.

Peru v Puerto Rico

Peru improved its Pool B record to 2-1 following a straight-sets (25-21, 25-22, 25-14) victory over Puerto Rico. The losers dropped to a 1-2 mark. Jessenia Uceda paced Peru with 12 points and Patricia Soto and Leyla Chihuan contributed with 8 apiece. Puerto Rican Sarai Alvarez had 13 points while Tatiana Encarnacion, Stephanie Enright and Alexandra Oquendo each charted 8 points.

Argentina v Brazil

Argentina outlasted Brazil 3-0 (25-13, 25-15, 25-22) to claim its second victory without losses in Pool A. The young Brazilians are winless in three outings. The fans at Reforma Gym were delighted with a great performance by the Argentinean ladies who had Lucia Fresco (15 points), Georgina Pinedo (12) and Florencia Carloto (10) as their best scorers. Ana Beatriz Silva led Brazil with 11 tallies.

Mexico v Costa Rica

Mexico recorded its first victory in Pool B by defeating Costa Rica 3-1 (25-17, 15-25, 25-14, 25-14) on Sunday. Samantha Bricio paced the Mexican offense with 20 points and Andrea Rangel added 16 tallies. Karla Sainz charted 10 while Claudia Rodriguez and Zaira Orellana each compiled 8 points. Verania Willis was the top Costa Rican scorer with 16 points.