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Dominican Republic and Peru join USA and Cuba in semifinals

Tijuana, Mexico.- Dominican Republic and Peru joined USA and Cuba as teams qualified to next year's FIVB World Grand Prix by reaching the semifinal round of the Ninth Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup.

For the Dominican Republic, a familiar team in the annual premier women's competition will be their eighth consecutive participation in the twelve-team event while Peru will be returning for the first time since 1994.

In the quarterfinals phase of the Pan Am Cup, Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico in straight sets and Peru overcame Argentina in four frames. The Dominicans will meet USA and Peru will play against Cuba.

In other matches for the 5-10 positions, Canada and Brazil beat Trinidad & Tobago and Mexico respectively by score of 3-0.

Dominican Republic v Puerto Rico

Dominican Republic advanced to the semifinals and also earned a ticket to next year's FIVB World Grand Prix by defeating Puerto Rico in straight sets (25-21, 25-23, 25-23) on Thursday. Prisilla Rivera and Annerys Vargas paced Dominican Republic with 13 and 11 points respectively. Milagros Cabral added 9 and Altagracia Mambru and Lisvel Eve contributed with 8 points. Puerto Rican Sarai Alvarez led all the players with 22 points.

Peru v Argentina

Peru became the fourth and last team to claim a ticket to next year's FIVB World Grand Prix by completing the round of semi finalists following a 3-1 (16-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-21) victory against Argentina. Next match for Peru will be against Cuba on Friday. Veteran Leyla Chihuan and Jessenia Uceda led the winners with 17 and 16 points while Georgina Pinedo had a match-high 19 points for the defeated side.

Canada v Trinidad & Tobago

Canada defeated Trinidad & Tobago in straight sets (25-19, 25-18, 25-15) in an eliminatory match for the 5-10 positions.Sarah Pavan led Canada with 11 tallies and Tonya Mokelki and Tammy Mahon added 9 and 8 points to the winning effort. Channon Thompson topped the defeated side with 10 points and Rheeza Grant charted 8 points.

Brazil v Mexico

Brazil beat Mexico 3-0 (25-11, 25-10, 25-23) in a contest for the 5-10 positions. Isabella Da Silveira and Ana Beatriz Silva each recorded 11 tallies to lead the winners while Sthefanie Tiele added 10 points. Mexican Samantha Bricio carried most of the load for Mexico with a match-high 20 points.

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