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Mexico and Puerto Rico triumph at Cayman Islands

SEVEN MILES BEACH, Cayman Islands, March 25, Candelas/Garcia of Mexico-2 moved to the gold Bronze Medal Match: CAN-2 d. DOM 2-1 (18-2012 - Mexicans Bibiana Candelas and Mayra Garcia and Puerto Ricans Roberto Rodriguez and Erick Haddock took home the women's and men's gold medals respectively at the Cayman Islands Beach Volleyball Tournament, the first stop of the 2012 NORČECA Circuit.

In the final matches, Candelas/Garcia defeated countrywomen Martha Revuelta and Vanessa Vírgen 2-0 (21-6, 21-19) while Rodriguez/Haddock saw off Canada's Samuel Schachter and Maverick Hatch 2-0 (21-19, 21-15).

"The heat and sun were intense but we made a good job," Garcia said. "We've been training for the Olympic qualifier, and now we are headed to Brazil and China for the Swatch FIVB World Tour."

"The year is beginning great," Candelas added. "This will motivate us to work even harder and it was wonderful that the two Mexican teams made it to the finals."

"It feels wonderful to win," Rodriguez commented. "Puerto Rico won two silver medals in the past here at Cayman, and I'm proud to take home the gold."

medal match by defeating Puerto Rico's Yarleen Santiago and Yamileska Yantin 2-0 (21-17, 21-11) while Revuelta/Vírgen of Mexico-1 prevailed in a three-setter semifinal (21-19, 19-21 and 15-13) against Jennifer Snyder and Heather Hughes of

Rodriguez/Haddock scored a huge win in their semifinal match over Joshua Binstock and Martin Reader of Canada-2 by score of 2-1 (21-16, 20-22, 15-12). Schachter/Hatch downed Dominican Republic's German Recio and Luis Adames 2-0 (21-17, 21-10).

Santiago/Yantin won the bronze medal with a 2-0 (21-16, 21-19) victory over Snyder/ Hughes. Binstock/Reader claimed a come from behind victory (18-21, 21-15, 15-11) over Recio/Adames for the men's third place.

Women's Semifinals: MEX-2 d. PUR 2-0 (21-17, 21-11); MEX-1 d. USA-1 2-1 (21-19, 19-21, 15-13). Bronze Medal Match: PUR d. USA-1 2-0 (21-16, 21-19). Gold Medal Match: MEX-2 d. MEX-1 2-0 (21-6, 21-19).

Men's Semifinals: CAN-1 d. DOM 2-0 (21-17, 21-10); PUR d. CAN-2 2-1 (21-16, 20-22, 15-12).

21, 21-15, 15-11). Gold Medal Match: PUR d. CAN-1 2-0 (21-19, 21-15).

Women's Final Ranking: 1. Mexico-2, 2. Mexico-1, 3. Puerto Rico, 4. United States-1, 5. United States-2, 6. Canada-2, 7. Guatemala, 8. El Salvador, 9. Cayman Islands, 10. Dominican Republic, 11. Trinidad and Tobago, 12. Saint Kitts and Nevis, 13. Antigua, 14. Canada-1, 15. Jamaica-2, 16. Jamaica-1, 17. French Saint Martin, 18. U.S. Virgin Islands.

Men's Final Ranking: 1. Puerto Rico, 2. Canada-1, 3. Canada-2, 4. Dominican Republic, 5. United States, 6. Cayman Islands-1, 7. Trinidad and Tobago, 8. El Salvador, 9. Cayman Islands-3, 10. Saint Kitts and Nevis, 11. Guatemala, 12. Cayman Islands-2, 13. Antigua, 14. French Saint Martin, 15. Saint Lucia, 16. U.S. Virgin Islands.