





FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE VOLLEYBALL

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Cuba and Dominican Republic book semifinals spots

TIJUANA, Mexico, May 1, 2012 – Three-time Olympic champions Cuba and world No. 9 Dominican Republic won their respective pools and earned direct tickets to the semifinals of the NORCECA Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament.

In the quarterfinals of Wednesday, Puerto Rico meets Costa Rica while Canada will play Mexico at the Tijuana Multi-Sports Gymnasium.

Cuba beat Mexico in straight sets and Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico and both teams will have two days of rest before they resume playing on Friday. The winless teams of Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago are scheduled to play for seventh place in early Friday's action.

Cuba v Mexico

Cuba beat Mexico 3-0 (25-17, 25-14, 25-9) to win Pool B while earning a direct ticket to the semifinals of the event. Mexico finished in second place and will play against Canada in the quarterfinals. Cuba had a huge 13-1 advantage in the serving aces department and also bested the opponents 8-5 in the blocking stats. Yanelis Santos, who had 9 aces, was the top scorer of the winners with 15 points while Wilma Salas and Rosanna Giel each contributed 11 points. Alejandra Isiordia was the only player of Mexico who finished the match in double figures with 11 tallies.

Dominican Republic v Puerto Rico

Dominican Republic earned a direct ticket to the semifinals following a 3-1 (22-25, 26-24, 25-19, 25-19) victory over Puerto Rico and first place in Pool A. Bethania De La Cruz, who was not included in the starting lineup, once again topped the scores of Dominican Republic with 18 points. Prisilla Rivera and Annerys Vargas finished with 17 and 14 points while Gina Mambru and Milagros Cabral added 8 and 7. Aury Cruz led Puerto Rico with 17 tallies and Sarai Alvarez recorded 13 points. Jetzabel Del Valle had 9 and Shanon Torregrosa and Yarimar Rosa charted 8 apiece. The blocking of Dominican Republic led by 8 from Vargas proved to be a big difference as they outscored their rivals 15-9 in that category.

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Canada v Honduras

Canada secured third place in Pool A following a 3-0 (25-9, 25-10, 25-8) victory against winless Honduras. The North American side composed mostly by bench players outscored their young Central American opponents both in serving aces 13-1 and in blockings 11-2. Kyla Richey was the best Canadian scorer with 16 points including two blocks and two aces while Tonya Mokelki served 7 aces among her 15 points and Marisa Field had 6 blocks and totaled 14 points.

Costa Rica v Trinidad and Tobago

Costa Rica saw off Trinidad and Tobago 3-1 (25-19, 25-22, 15-25, 25-13) to claim third place in Pool B and a quarterfinal spot. Verania Willis recorded 22 points to lead the offense of the Central American side. She was aided by Angela Willis and Karen Cope who charted 15 and 13 respectively. Krystle Esdelle and Rheeza Grant finished with 14 and 13 for the defeated team. The taller Trinidadians could not capitalize on their 18-11 advantage in the blocking stats. Jalicia Ross and Grant registered 8 and 5 respectively. Costa Rica had a 4-2 edge in the serving aces frame.



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