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and was followed by Ismael Guerrero with 14.

"I am very glad because the doors are open for the first time to a Dominican team to play in the World League," Dominican Republic's coach Osiel Vasquez said. "We prepared for this moment because in the last two matches with Mexico the team lost after winning the first two sets."

Brazil advanced to the semifinal round after prevailing in four sets against Canada on Thursday. The South Americans were able to recover from a shaky start to win by scores of 23-25, 25-16, 25-18, 25-13.

Tiago Gatiboni led the winners with 14 points, followed by Mauricio Borges (13), Alan Souza Ferreira (12) and Henrique Rodriguez (11), while only the opposite Dane Pischke (10) reached the double digits for Canada.

Brazil's coach Leonardo Carvalho considered the match a very tough one, especially in the first set. "The Canadian team is very young but they have a very strong blocking and good defense, which created many difficulties to us."

Lawrence McKay, coach of Canada, praised his team which showed progress during the first four matches. "This one was better than the others and I just hope they continue to develop and gain experience."

resistance against a local team that didn't slow down after losing the first set, and claimed a victory that earned the right to play in the qualification playoffs for the annual men's event of FIVB.

The other semifinalists –Brazil, United States and Argentina- are already qualified to next year's FIVB World League based on their positions at this year's event.

Backed by a partisan crowd, the stellar Elvis Contreras and Jose Miguel Caceres each scored 24 points while the experienced Elnis Palomino contributed 10 tallies. Mexico's Daniel Vargas topped his side with 16 points

Dominican Republic seal ticket to World League playoffs

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, July 12, 2012 – Dominican Republic secured a ticket to the playoffs of the FIVB World League after outdueling Mexico 3-1 (23-25, 25-19, 25-21, 30-28) in an exciting match of the VII Men's Pan American Cup in Santo Domingo on Thursday.

The young Mexico team offered strong

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