

Favorites claim victories on opening day

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, April 19, 2015 – Opening day of the U20 Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup went through with no surprises as the top favorites came up with victories at Ricardo Arias Pavilion of Santo Domingo on Sunday.

Chile, Argentina and Dominican Republic breezed past Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua, respectively, prevailing in straight sets.

Dominican Republic 3, Nicaragua 0

Hosts Dominican Republic rolled past Nicaragua in straight sets (25-3, 25-7, 25-5) in the third and last match on opening day. The strong services of the Dominicans proved to be too strong for the Nicaraguans as the winners held a 20-0 margin in aces, led by a record-tying eleven shots from Natalia Martinez, who led all the scorers in the match with 16 points. Martinez equaled the record of most aces in a single match established by Puerto Rican Daly Santana against Costa Rica in 2013. Gaila Gonzalez had 14 points in the winning cause followed by 8 from Jineiry Martinez.

Chile 3, Costa Rica 0

Chile beat Costa Rica in straight sets (25-15, 25-14, 25-12) in the first match of Sunday. The Chileans relied on their more aggressive serves and a better organized game plan to claim the victory in the six-team round robin competition that runs until April 24. The Costa Ricans admitted to be nervous as the reason to fail in their receptions. "It is a good start but we had to work for it," Chilean captain Catalina Melo said after the match. "At the beginning we were a little bit anxious playing the first match but then we calmed down and got the win."

Argentina 3, Mexico 0

Argentina defeated Mexico 3-0 (25-23, 25-19, 25-17) in the second match of opening day. The strong blocking of Argentina, led by Candelaria Herrera who notched six blocks, was one of the keys to the victory of the South American side. Argentina held a 9-4

advantage in the blocking category and also bested the opponents in serving aces 5-3. Maria Corbalan and Herrera led the winners with 14 and 12 points, respectively, while Agostina Beltramino and Anahi Tosi chipped in with 9 apiece. Mexico's Maria Rodriguez finished with 13 points.



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