

Nicaragua keeps on winning and Costa Rica struggles in their debut



MANAGUA, Nicaragua, December 11, 2017. - Nicaragua kept their winning streak on day two of competition, while Costa Rica struggled to win in their first outing at the women's Volleyball tournament of the XI Central American Games Managua 2017.

The home crowd cheered while Nicaragua pocketed their second victory dominating Honduras 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-19) with a commanding performance. On the other hand, Costa Rica struggled to beat Belize 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 25-15) that surprisingly took the initiative in sets one and two.

Panama earned their first victory of the event prevailing over El Salvador in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 25-19).

Costa Rica (1-0) will play against Honduras (1-1) on day three of the event, followed by Panama (1-1) against Guatemala (1-0) and El Salvador (0-2) playing to Nicaragua (2-0). Belize has a rest day.

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Panama 3, El Salvador 0

Panama took control of El Salvador in straight sets 25-19, 25-22, 25-19. Actions were slow and Panama was able to seal their first win while recovering from a six point deficit in set two. Panama's players were patient in their performance without losing sight of their objective of improving their win-loss record to 1-1. El Salvador remains without wins with 0-2 record. Panama held an impressive 30-16 margin in kills and was more effective in blocking with 4-1 advantage. In serves, both teams scored on 6 aces, while Panama finished with 37 errors and El Salvador with 35. Outside hitter Joanna Arroyo led Panama with 12 points on 11 kills and one block; opposite Hashlyn Cuero and middle blocker Angela Evans contributed with 9 and 8 points respectively. El Salvador had in outside hitter Maria Jose Galeano and middle blocker Denisse Rogel their best scorers with 6 points each.

Costa Rica 3, Belize 0

Costa Rica struggled to beat Belize 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 25-15) in their first outing. Belize surprised Costa Rica while storming with the lead in both sets one and two. The Belizean gals performed firmly to prevail with a four point margin in set one and a spectacular six point lead in set two. It wasn't until point 12 in set one and point 16 in set two that Costa Rica managed to finish on top. Costa Rica controlled the actions in set three leaving Belize without options to recover. Costa Rica effectivity reflected mostly in their 29-17 margin in kills. They also did better in blocking (8-7) and serves (9-6) but not by much. Costa Rica scored on 29 opponent errors and allowed 27 on theirs. Middle blocker Mijal Hines led Costa Rica with 12 points including 7 impressive blocks and opposite Paola Ramirez scored 10. Opposite Shantell Arnold scored 15 points on the Belizean side.

Nicaragua 3, Honduras 0

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Nicaragua dominated Honduras 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-19) to remain unbeaten. Nicaraguan players were determined and strong over Honduras, earning their second victory of the event. Nicaragua's commanding presence was too much for Honduras that used different combinations in their attempt to stop the home team. Honduras committed a total of 34 unforced errors against 19 from Nicaragua. Nicaragua finished with 29-22 margin in attacks and 9-2 in blocks; Honduras was better in serves with 5-3 margin in aces. Outside hitter Valeska Hernandez and opposite Hellen Traña scored 11 and 10 points respectively to carry Nicaragua into the win. Outside hitter Hyxe Napky and opposite Cecille Johnson led Honduras with 7 points apiece.

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