

## Argentina outplay Chile in South American duel at Pan Am Cup

HAVANA, Cuba, March 30, 2017 – Argentina won the South American duel against Chile and Cuba held off a tough Colombia in the most exciting matches of day two at the U18 Girls' Pan American Cup taking place in Havana.

Meanwhile, Mexico and Dominican Republic scored their second cruising victories to set up a clash for the top position in the four-team Pool C of the tournament offering three tickets to the age-group FIVB World Championship to be held in Argentina from August 18 to 27.

Argentina, already qualified as host country, debuted with a 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 26-28, 25-18) victory over their neighbors Chile in Pool A.

The Chilean side finished with a 1-1 win-loss record and their fate depends on Thursday's match between Argentina and Puerto Rico (0-1).

Sol Salinas topped the winners with 19 points, followed by Martina Delucchi and Sofia Meinardi who contributed 14 and 11 points, respectively. Chile's Beatriz Novoa had a match-high 21 points and Maike Bertens added 18 in the loss.

Ailama Cese and Elizabeth Vicet landed 25 and 20 points, respectively, as Cuba defeated Colombia 3-1 (25-22, 25-21, 22-25, 25-21) to conclude Pool B with a 2-0 mark. The Colombians need a victory over Costa Rica to secure a spot in the quarterfinals.

Emelys Martinez scored 13 points for Colombia while Manuela Ibarguen and Valerin Carabali added 11 and 10, respectively, including a tournament-high 6 blocks by Carabali.

In the first match of Wednesday, Mexico trounced Uruguay (0-2) in a lopsided 3-0 (25-12, 25-9, 25-20) victory to improve to a 2-0 record and 10 points.

Uxue Amaya Guereca had 10 points in the well balanced Mexican offense, while Karka Mireles and Grecia Esther Castro each contributed 9 points. Uruguay's Melissa Paez charted 9 points in the defeat.

Dominican Republic continued with a one-sided 3-0 (25-10, 25-10, 25-12) victory over Guatemala. Lilianis Feliz and Madeline Guillen scored 13 and 12 points, respectively, as the top contributors for the winners.

The Dominican Republic, already with a spot in the world championship as NORCECA champions, improved to 2-0 and 10 points, the same record of Mexico.

The pool winners with the two best records after the completion of the preliminary round on Thursday get direct tickets to the semifinals. The pool winner with the lowest record will join the second placed teams in the quarterfinals.

The top two NORCECA teams and the top South American teams will get tickets to the event in Argentina.





