



Pan Am Cup
Girls Youth U 18
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Newsletter

Colombia claim gold medal at U18 Pan Am Cup



Havana, Cuba, April 3, 2017 – Colombia swept Cuba 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-19) to claim the gold medal at the U18 Girls' Pan American Cup in Havana on Sunday.

Colombia, Cuba and the fifth placed Mexico sealed their tickets to next age-group FIVB World Championship to be held in Rosario and Santa Fe, Argentina from August 18 to 27. Argentina, as host country, and NORCECA champions Dominican Republic were already qualified among the ten countries competing in the cup.

Emelys Martinez and Manuela Ibarquen were the best offensive players for Colombia in the gold medal match with 12 and 11 points. Valerin Carabalo, named the most valuable player of the tournament, contributed five blocks. Cuba's Ailama Cese had a match-high 14 points in the loss.

"We came here looking to earn a berth to the world championship and thinking about finishing better than Chile to achieve that goal," said Antonio Rizola, the Brazilian coach of Colombia. "To take back home the gold medal means our preparation was good. I feel proud about coaching again and working for Colombia. This is a great start."

"We couldn't repeat our victory over Colombia in the preliminary round," said Cuban coach Juan Carlos Cruz. "Maybe the little experience of my team caused the players to be overconfident and our rivals didn't give us any chance today."

In the match for the bronze medal, the Dominican Republic recovered to defeat Argentina 3-1 (22-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-23).

Madeline Guillen, the top scorer of the competition, led the Dominican offensive reaction with 24 points, including three blocks of the tournament-high 16 blocks recorded by the winners. Yaneiry Rodriguez was next with 13 points while Geraldine Gonzalez and Erika Asencio each contributed 12 points in the victory.

Colombia's Candela Salinas and Sofia Meinardi registered 15 and 13 points, respectively, in the losing cause.

In the first match of Sunday, Mexico swept Chile 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-15) to claim the fifth position.

Mexico's Uxue Guereca and Grecia Castro each had 13 points in the victory while Beatriz Novoa finished with 14 points for Chile.

