

BARRANQUILLA 2018

XXIII JUEGOS DEPORTIVOS
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Newsletter

Colombia aiming for first CACG title against champion Dominican Republic



BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, July 24, 2018. - Colombia is aiming for their first ever Central American and Caribbean title against defending champion Dominican Republic in the gold medal match of the twenty third edition Barranquilla 2018.

Colombia won their semifinal match to Mexico, securing their first ever podium in the history of the Games, while Dominican Republic arrives to their fifth consecutive title match after taking down Puerto Rico in the other semifinal.

In classification match for fifth position, Trinidad and Tobago surprised scoring a major victory over Cuba in straight sets.

Venezuela 3, Costa Rica 0

Venezuela defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-15, 25-12, 25-13) in a classification match for fifth place. It was a match with little intensity from both sides. Venezuela will play for fifth place against the winner between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. Venezuela

prevailed with little resistance from Costa Rica, with 36-23 margin in spikes, 4-2 in blocks and 9-1 in service points. The winners scored on 26 Costa Rican errors, allowing 14 points on their unforced errors. Wing spiker Nelmaira Valdez topped Venezuela with 13 points; teammates Yordalys Burguillos (9pts), Meriyen Serrano (8pts) and Winderlys Medina (8pts) accompanied her in the winning effort. Yuliana Gonzalez led Costa Rica with 9 points.

Trinidad and Tobago 3, Cuba 0

Trinidad y Tobago surprised scoring a major victory over Cuba 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-22) in a classification match for fifth place. It's a victory for the history books as it's the first time ever that Trinidad and Tobago beats Cuba in any category. Everything worked out for Trinidad and Tobago; they executed every skill with authority. On the other hand, Cuba had no physical or mental reaction from Trinidad and Tobago's dominant presence. On the last day of competition, Trinidad and Tobago will contest Venezuela for fifth place and Cuba meets Costa Rica for seventh.

Trinidad and Tobago subdued Cuba with 11-7 margin in blocks and 7-1 in aces. Cuba did better in attacks 35-32. Trinidad and Tobago committed fewer errors 14-25. Middle blocker Sinead Jack led Trinidad and Tobago with 14 points, 6 on blocks, followed by wing spiker Channon Thompson who scored 13 points, on 9 kills and 4 aces, and opposite Esdelle Krystle with 12 points. Cuban Regla Garcia scored a match-high of 19 points, on 18 kills and one ace.

Colombia 3, Mexico 1

Colombia reached for the first time ever in the history of women's volleyball at Central American and Caribbean Games, the title match after dominating Mexico in semifinals by 3-1 (25-14, 23-25, 25-18, 25-20). Colombia's historic victory in front of a noisy crowd, secures them their first medal ever while the wait the winner of the other semifinal between defending champion Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Host Colombia came out on top leading the offense with pounding spikes pocketing the first set with huge margin. Mexico's reaction in the next sets was quick only to win the second set while Colombia remained dominant. Colombia only led in spikes 59-48; both scored 9 points on blocks and 3 points on aces.

Mexico allowed 26 points in unforced errors while Colombia limited theirs to 16 points. Wing spiker Dayana Segovia led the home team with 24 points on 19 kills, 4 blocks and one ace, wing spiker Amanda Caneo contributed with 16 points on kills, middle blocker Melissa Rangel scored 14 points, including 5 blocks and wing spiker Margarita Martinez added 10 points. Mexico's offense was conducted by opposite Andrea Rangel with a match-high of 29 points on 24 kills, 3 blocks and 2 aces, Samantha Bricio chipped in with 11 points on 10 kills and one ace, and Melanie Parra scored 10 points.



Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 0

Dominican Republic will play their fifth consecutive women's volleyball tournament at the 2018 Barranquilla XXIII Central American and Caribbean title match after winning to Puerto Rico in semifinals by 3-0 (25-22, 25-15, 25-19).

Defending champion Dominican Republic will seek their fifth consecutive title and seventh overall, when they face host Colombia in their eighth gold medal match at the Games. Dominicans had a demanding first set on Puerto Rico's offense and blocking strategy, followed by no real danger to seal their victory in straight sets. Dominican Republic managed to control all the elements of the game, but specially the blocking category with 10-2 margin.

They prevailed over Puerto Rico with 43-35 advantage in kills and by a slim 3-2 margin in aces. In errors, Dominican Republic finished with 16 and Puerto Rico with 19. Opposite player Gaila Gonzalez of Dominican Republic topped all scorers with 17 points; wing spikers Brayelin Martinez and Prisilla Rivera contributed with 11 points for the win. Wing spiker Pilar Victoria scored 12 points as the only Puerto Rican player with double-figures.