# Newsletter

## **Cuba and Mexico battle strong at Barranquilla opening** day

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, July 20, 2018. - Cuba and Mexico battled strong at opening day of the women's volleyball tournament at the 2018 Barranquilla XXIII Central American Games at Humberto Perea Coliseum.

Mexico downed Cuba in exciting five sets, while Puerto Rico lost the first set to Trinidad and Tobago in a four set victory. Dominican Republic won the longest set so far (29-27) in their straight set win to Venezuela. Host Colombia crushed Costa Rica in overwhelming three sets.

Schedule on day two features Venezuela (0-1) against Mexico (1-0), Puerto Rico (1-0) plays to Costa Rica (0-1), Dominican Republic (1-0) against Cuba (0-1)and closing match of Colombia (1-0) facing Trinidad and Tobago (0-1).

### Puerto Rico 3, Trinidad and Tobago 1



Puerto Rico took down Trinidad and Tobago 3-1 (19-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-20) in pool B at opening match of the women's volleyball tournament. Trinidad and Tobago brought excitement winning the first set from different scoring positions. Puerto Rico's offense woke up in set two, dominating the actions on a comfortable 11-9 lead. It was only a matter of time for Puerto Rico to move ahead. Puerto Rico scored on 43 opponent errors while limiting there's to 26 points. Trinidad and Tobago led in attacks 40-37, and Puerto Rico held 9-8 and 5-4 advantage in blocking and aces respectively. Wing spiker Daly Santana of Puerto Rico scored 18 points all in kills as the best scorer of the match; opposite player Shirley Ferrer helped with 9 points, 6 on kills and two aces. Wing spiker Channon Thompson topped Trinidad and Tobago with 15 points on 13 kills and 2 blocks; setter Kelly-Anne Billingy came from the bench, completing only the fourth set, scoring 15 points; and opposite player Krystle Esdelle scored 12 points on 10 kills and 2 aces.

Dominican Republic 3, Venezuela 0

Dominican Republic beat Venezuela 3-0 (25-11, 29-27, 25-11) in pool A. Venezuela surprised defending champion Dominican Republic controlling set two but still falling by a tight 29-27 score. Dominicans did not perform with their accustomed energy, but with experience and firm feat earned their first victory in pool A. Dominicans led in all categories with 45-33 margin in attacks, 9-1 in blocks and 3-1 in service points. Dominican Republic finished with 22 errors and Venezuela with 15. Captain, Prisilla Rivera was the best scorer of the match with 15 points, followed by middle blocker Lisvel Eve Mejía with 12 points and opposite player Gaila Gonzalez with 10 points. On Venezuela's side, wing spikers Nelmaira Valez and Iberia Chourios led with 9 points and 8 points accordingly.

## Colombia 3, Costa Rica 0



Colombia dominated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-14, 25-9, 25-7) in pool B. The host Colombia was too much for Costa Rica, controlling the contest with effective serves from start to finish and with little resistance from their Central American counterpart. Colombia aced their way to prevail 9-0, with huge 39-19 advantage in spikes and 8-2 in blocks. Colombia

scored on 19 Costa Rican errors, limiting their own to 9. Wing spiker Amanda Coneo topped Colombia with 10 points, while wing spiker Giselle Perez contributed with 9 points and opposite Veronica Pasos registered 8 points. Opposite player Daniela Vargas scored 5 points for Costa Rica.



### Mexico 3, Cuba 2

Mexico won exciting five setter 3-2 (25-22, 21-25, 20-25, 25-19, 25-8) to Cuba. It was a well fought battle between strong spikers but Mexico's serves, along with Andrea Rangel and Samantha Bricio scoring audacity cashed in the victory holding off Cuba's Diaris Perez and Claudia Hernandez commanding presence. Mexico led 8-3 in aces, while Cuba held advantage in spikes by 52-48 and a slim 15-14 in blocking. Mexico handed out 29 points in errors and Cuba a total of 36. Wing spiker Andrea Rangel led Mexico's scorers with 21 points, including 15 kills and five blocks; Samantha Bricio joined in with 18 points and middle blocker Jocelyn Urias chipped in with 10 points. Also with 21 points, including 19 kills and one ace, Diaris Perez led Cuba's offense; wing spiker Claudia Hernandez added 18 points while middle blocker Laura Saurez scored 10 pints.







