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Dominican Republic and Colombia with ticket to Barranquilla Semis



BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, July 22, 2018. -Dominican Republic and Colombia tickets to the semifinals of the women's volleyball tournament of the 2018 Barranquilla Central American and Caribbean Games at Humberto Perea Coliseum.

Defending champion Dominican Republic was the first to arrive into the semifinals after winning pool A to Mexico, and then Colombia beating Puerto Rico in dramatic fashion to top pool B.

Mexico will meet Trinidad and Tobago and Puerto Rico faces Venezuela in the quarterfinals on Monday, to decide the other two semifinalists.

Trinidad and Tobago 3, Costa Rica 0

Trinidad and Tobago prevailed over Costa Rica 3-0 (25-18, 25-23, 25-16). The score was really close the entire match, sometimes Trinidad and Tobago led and sometimes Costa Rica. Trinidad and Tobago used a different made several line-up variations, improving their performance up to set three. Trinidad and Tobago prevailed mostly on huge 11-4 blocking advantage, with middle blocker Sinead Jack scoring five blocks, leading all scorers with 15 points. They also led in spikes 35-22 and service points 6-1.

Trinidad and Tobago allowed 23 points on errors and Costa Rica 30. Opposite player Esdelle Krystle

also contributed in the winning effort with 8 points and wing spikers Darlene Ramdin and Channon Thompson tallied 7 points each.

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Yuliana Gonzalez led Costa Rica with 8 points and Tannia Carazo scored 7 points. Trinidad and Tobago finishes pool-play with 1-2 record in third place and will play the quarterfinal round on Monday facing either Mexico or Dominican Republic. Costa Rica finishes with 0-3.

Venezuela 3, Cuba 2

Venezuela scored historic victory over Cuba in five sets 3-2 (30-28, 18-25, 25-21, 12-25, 17-15). Venezuela finishes third in pool A with 1-2 record and will play the quarterfinals; while Cuba finishes 0-3 and will not fight for medals. Venezuela will face in the next round the winner between Colombia and Puerto Rico.

The duel started off with an intense first set win for Venezuela by 30-28, the longest so far. It was a party of sets, with Cuba taking charge in the fourth with a huge 25-12 margin to force a tie-break. Cuba's 13-9 margin in blocking and powerful serving margin of 11-4 weren't enough to keep on moving towards the medals of the event. Cuba had a slim 63-62 margin in spikes and both teams allowed 27 points from unforced errors.

Dominican Republic 3, Mexico 1

Dominican Republic moved into semifinals beating Mexico 3-1 (22-25, 25-16, 25-19, 25-17). Defending champion Dominican Republic secured their ticket to the semifinals as top place in pool A and 3-0 winloss record. Mexico, second placed, will play against Trinidad and Tobago in quarterfinals. Mexico won the first set recovering from a seven point deficit (3-10) with dominant serves and solid blocks.

Dominican Republic won set two easily and thereon controlled the actions better. Dominicans prevailed in spikes with 48-39 margin and Mexicans held advantage in serves by 4-2.

Both scored 11 points on blocking and Dominican Republic benefited from 36 opponent errors, committing 23 of their own. Wing spiker Yonkaira Peña of Dominican Republic scored 15 points, on 12 kills, 2 blocks and one ace, and Brayelin Martinez also chipped in with 12 points in her team's victory. Samantha Bricio of Mexico scored a match-high of 17 points, Andrea Rangel contributed with 14 points and 14 points y Melanie Parra added 10 points.



Colombia 3, Puerto Rico 0

Colombia battled strongly for a fantastic win over Puerto Rico in straight sets 3-0 (25-20, 29-27, 25-21) for pool B top spot. Colombia advanced into semifinals with unbeaten 3-0 record; Puerto Rico, second in pool B will face Venezuela in quarterfinals. Host Colombia dominated Puerto Rico with consistent blocking in the first set. Colombia stopped Puerto Rico to score a set point in the second set, recovering from a deficit 21-24, sealing in dramatic fashion 29-27.

Colombia led in blocks 10-7 and in aces 4-1, while Puerto Rico dominated in kills 42-39. Colombia committed fewer errors 18-25. Colombia led in blocks 10-7 and in aces 4-1, while Puerto Rico dominated in kills 42-39. Colombia committed fewer errors 18-25. The home team distributed their offense between Dayana Segovia with 15 points, on 11 kills and 4 blocks; Margarita Martinez with 12 points and Amanda Caneo with 11 points.

Puerto Rico also had three players with doublefigures, Daly Santana topped with 13 points, including 12 kills; Neira Ortiz contributed with 12 points and Pilar Victoria with 11 points.

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