

BARRANQUILLA 2018

XXIII JUEGOS DEPORTIVOS
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Colombia upset Cuba to face Puerto Rico in CACG title match



BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, August 1st, 2018.- Colombia will face Puerto Rico in the men's volleyball tournament of the 2018 Barranquilla XXIII Central American and Caribbean Games at Humberto Perea Coliseum.

Puerto Rico advanced into their fifth title match in a row, looking to win their seventh overall gold after beating Mexico 3-1 (27-29, 25-23, 25-15, 25-22) in the first semifinal.

Colombia defeated Cuba in five demanding sets 3-2 (20-25, 25-11, 20-25, 30-28, 23-21). The challenging thriller clash moved Colombia to reach their first ever Central American and Caribbean title match.

Venezuela 3, Trinidad y Tobago 0

Venezuela beat Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-16, 25-16, 25-17) to play for fifth place. Venezuela's rhythm wasn't the same shown during the previous days but still they prevailed without setbacks in the classification match for 5 to 8 positions against Trinidad and Tobago. Venezuela waits for the winner between Guatemala and Dominican Republic. The winners scored with 42-31 advantage in attacks and 2-0 margin in aces. Both teams scored 7 points on blocks. Venezuela scored 23 points on Trinidad and Tobago's errors while limiting to 12 their own. Opposite players Luis Arias and Jesus Gomez of Venezuela, scored 16 and 11 points accordingly. Opposite Nicholas Prescott finished with 11 points for Trinidad and Tobago, accompanied by middle blockers Marc Honore and Kwesi Daniel with 8 points apiece.

Dominican Republic 3, Guatemala 0

Dominican Republic prevailed over Guatemala 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-20) and will face Venezuela for fifth place. Dominican Republic controlled Guatemala with powerful attacks and is set to face Venezuela on the last day of competition for fifth place; they faced each other in pool-play with Venezuela winning in five sets. Guatemala will meet Trinidad and Tobago for seventh place. Dominicans came out on top the Central Americans with huge 46-29 advantage in spikes, 9-5 in blocks and 6-1 in aces. Dominican Republic finished with 23 unforced errors and Guatemala with 14. Wing spiker Henry Lopez led Dominican's offense with 22 points including 18 kills and 2 blocks, and opposite Tapia Henry added 18 points including 14 attacks and 2 aces. Wagner Chacon with 9 points was Guatemala's best scorer.

Puerto Rico 3, Mexico 1

Puerto Rico advanced into their fifth title match in a row, after beating Mexico 3-1 (27-29, 25-23, 25-15, 25-22). Puerto Rico has won the Central American and Caribbean gold on six occasions of the total of eight title matches in the history of the event; this is their fifth title match in a row since 2002. Puerto Rico's recovery after losing a neck to neck first set was remarkable, improving on back to back three remaining sets. It seemed that Mexico would win the second set but Puerto Rico's rhythm and velocity went only to improve. Puerto Rico led in spikes 65-50 and aces 3-0, but Mexico held a 12-10 advantage in blocks. Puerto Rico allowed 27 points on errors and scored on 24 opponent errors. Wing spiker Sequiel Sanchez and opposite player Maurice Torres carried Puerto Rico into the title match with 25 and 24 points respectively. Sanchez scored on 22 kills and 3 blocks, while Torres pushed on 21 kills and 3 aces. Opposite Daniel Vargas of Mexico scored 22 points on 18 kills and 4 blocks and wing spiker Jorge Barajas registered 11 points.

Colombia 3, Cuba 2

Colombia defeated Cuba in five demanding sets 3-2 (20-25, 25-11, 20-25, 30-28, 23-21) to play for the first time ever a title match. It was a challenging thriller clash that excited all the supporters at the Humberto Perea Coliseum, after the hosts reached the historic title match. Colombia will face Puerto Rico in the gold medal match, having faced each other in pool-play where Puerto Rico took the win; while Cuba will play for bronze against Mexico. The nerves were high after Colombia lost the first set under Cuba's powerful scorers. In set two, Colombia was loud when they led 11-9 and the referees detected an improper player in Cuba's line-up, putting Colombia on top with a huge 12-0 advantage. Sets were equally distributed, but the fourth set was the longest of the event until now, because of numerous unforced serving errors. Colombia held a 70-60 advantage in attacks and Cuba led in blocks 15-11; both teams scored 5 points in serves. Colombia committed 30 unforced errors and Cuba a total of 31. Liberman Agamez once again took charge of Colombia's offense line with 36 points on 33 powerful kills, 2 blocks and one ace. Ronald Jimenez joined with 13 points and Kevi Carabali added 11 tallies. Miguel Lopez topped Cuba's scorers with 29 points, followed by Marlon Yant with 17 points, Osnel Mergarejo and Livan Osoria contributed with 11 points apiece.