

Argentina and **Brazil a step** closer to semifinals at Lima 2019 Pan Am Games

LIMA, Peru, August 1, 2019. - Argentina and Brazil are one step closer of moving into the Lima 2019 Pan American Games semifinals keeping their unbeaten mark one day ahead of the preliminary round wrap up.

Defending champion Argentina stayed unbeaten in pool A after a thrilling 3-0 (25-16, 27-25, 26-24) victory over host Peru and Brazil followed in pool B collecting their second back to back win beating Chile 3-1 (25-18, 22-25, 25-16, 25-17).

In pool A Cuba and Puerto Rico with the same win-loss record (1-1) badly need to win their last preliminary match, with Cuba facing host Peru (0-2) and Puerto Rico playing against unbeaten Argentina (2-0) with one foot in the next round.

United States improved to 1-1 record in pool B and will face Brazil (2-0) in their last preliminary match; Mexico win-less closes with Chile (1-1).

Argentina 3, Peru 0

Argentina stays unbeaten in pool A after a thrilling 3-0 (25-16, 27-25, 26-24) victory over host Peru. Argentina struggled in sets two and three to keep their unbeaten mark while Peru's offense consistency improved leveling the scores on several occasions for an overtime finish in both sets. Argentina held 43-35 advantage in attacks, 5-2 in blocks and 5-3 in service points. Both teams allowed 25 points on unforced errors. Nicolás Bruno once again led Argentina's attackers with



15 points on 12 kills and 3 aces, middle blocker Joaquin Gallego followed with 12 points on 9 kills and 3 blocks, and finally Jan Martinez added 10 points all on kills. Eduardo Romay with 14 points all on kills, was the only player with double-figures for Peru.

Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 1

Cuba defeated Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-18, 25-19, 25-27, 25-20) in their first victory in pool A. Puerto Rico's rebound in the third set came from hard blocking and a good offense strategy, but still they came off short to remain with undefeated record in pool A. Cuba on the other hand, keeps their hopes of moving into semifinals with only one match left of the preliminary round. Cuba's towering blockers stopped Puerto Rico's offense with a huge 17-8 margin. Cuba finished with a slim 3-2 margin in aces and allowed 26 points on errors, while Puerto Rico held a slim 48-47 margin in attacks, committing 33 unforced errors. Outside hitter Osniel Mergarejo scored 14 points on 12 kills and 2 aces as Cuba's top scorer; joined by Miguel Angel López also with 14 points on 13 kills and one block; and Yohan León added 13 points. Puerto Rico's offense was led by Pablo Guzman with 14 points of 31 attacks; Sequiel Sánchez scored 13 points on 11 kills and 2 blocks, while Jonathan Rodríguez tallied 10 points.

United States 3, Mexico 0

United States dominated Mexico 3-0 (25-24, 25-22, 25-23) for their first win in pool B. United States and Mexico engaged in a neck to neck battle, with Mexico leading 43-40 in kills; however the US came out on top with 8-3 margin in blocks and scoring on 23 opponent errors against 18. Both teams finished with 5 points in the service category. Three players of United States scored double-figures, with David Wieczorek and Brenden Sander scoring 15 points apiece as leading hitters, followed by Kyle Ensing with 11 points. Jorge Barajas and Ridl Garay were in charge of Mexico's offense with 12 and 11 points respectively.

Brazil 3, Chile 1

Brazil collected their second back to back win in pool B defeating Chile 3-1 (25-18, 22-25, 25-16, 25-17). Brazil ongoing attacking offense subdued Chile's remarkable set two comeback, finishing with a considerable 60-44 margin. Brazil also prevailed with 9-6 blocking advantage and a 6-3 margin in aces, while Chile committed one less error (22-23) than Brazil. Brazil secured their way into semifinals. Middle blocker Matheus Bispo dos Santos led Brazil with 18 points including 13 kills and 4 blocks, while Aboubacar Dramé scored also 18 points on 17 kills and one block. Rodrigo Leao joined the winning effort with 16 points. With a match-high of 20 points on 18 kills and 2 blocks, Vicente Parraguirre again topped Chile, followed by captain Dusan Bonacic with 11 points.







