

Canada and Dominican Republic move directly into semifinals

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, August 28, 2021. - Canada and defending Champion Dominican Republic move directly into semifinals of the Women's NORCECA Continental Championship, that grants two tickets to the 2022 FIVB World Championship.

All three teams in pool A finished with the same 1-1 win-loss record, with top-ranked Canada earning a direct spot into semifinals after defeating Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-17, 25-22, 24-26, 25-14), followed by United States and Puerto Rico respectively.

Defending champions Dominican Republic finished first in pool A over Mexico 3-1 (28-30, 25-19, 25-13, 31-29) and Costa Rica took third place over Trinidad and Tobago.

In Sunday's quarterfinals, United States plays Costa Rica and Puerto Rico faces Mexico.

Costa Rica 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Costa Rica will play the quarterfinal round after beating Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-13, 25-4, 25-10). Costa Rica (1-2) finished third place in pool B to move into Sunday's quarterfinal round, waiting to know their opponent. Trinidad and Tobago (0-3) finishes the event in seventh place. Costa Rica outnumbered Trinidad and Tobago with a huge 35-7 in attacks and 12-1 in serves; both teams scored one point on blocks; Costa Rica committed fewer unforced errors (18-27). Outside hitter Tatiana Sayles of Costa Rica led all scorers with 14 points on 11 attacks and

3 points from serves, followed by outside hitter Tamara Espinoza with 11 points on 8 attacks and also 3 serving points.

Canada 3, Puerto Rico 1

Canada won pool A defeating Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-17, 25-22, 24-26, 25-14) to reach the semifinals. All three teams in pool A finished with the same 1-1 win-loss record, with top-ranked Canada earning a direct spot into semifinals, followed by United States and Puerto Rico respectively. In quarterfinals, United States plays Costa Rica and Puerto Rico waits for the loser between Mexico and defending champions Dominican Republic. Canada jumped to an early lead in all four sets with a consistent performance; Puerto Rico was able to even score in the third set up to 14 all, the set they won, still struggling to contain Canada's middle blockers.



Las canadienses encabezaron todos los elementos de juego, ataques (56-42), bloqueos (10-6) y servicios (8-4), and giving away 27 points on unforced errors against 25 from Puerto Rico. Five players from Canada scored double-digits, led by outside hitter Hilary Howe with a match-high of 19 points, with 4 points as top server, outside hitter Vicky Savard followed with 16 points, middle blocker Alicia Ogoms added 13 points and outside hitter Kyra Van Ryk tallied 12 points. Puerto Rico's top scorers were outside hitters Stephanie Enright and Marie Victoria with 12 and 11 points respectively.



Dominican Republic 3, Mexico 1

Defending champion Dominican Republic beat Mexico 3-1 (28-30, 25-19, 25-13, 31-29) advancing to semifinals. Dominicans earned a direct spot into the semifinals of the event that gives two vacancies to the 2022 FIVB World Championship, after winning pool B with a perfect 3-0 win-loss record. Mexico will play (2-1) the quarterfinal round against Puerto Rico (1-1) that finished third in pool A. Mexico started aggressively while Dominicans never lost confidence to recover from a six-point deficit (15-21) in the first, but came off short, losing three set points. Dominican Republic came back with strength forcing a four set finish on five match points as Mexico attackers pressured stronger for an intense finish. Dominican Republic led their offense by a 61-49 advantage and a slim 3-2 margin in serves, both teams scored 9 points in the blocking category; Dominicans committed 31 unforced errors and Mexico a total of 36.

Dominican opposite hitter Gaila González led all scorers with 23 points on 18 kills, 2 blocks and 3 serves. Other three Dominicans also scored double-figures, outside hitter Bethania De La Cruz with 17 points, joined by middle blocker Jineiry Martínez and outside hitter Yonkaira Peña who registered 14 points apiece. Opposite hitter Andrea Rangel topped Mexico with 20 points; outside hitter Samantha Bricio scored 18 points and middle blocker Jocelyn Urías collected 13 points.