

Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic win FIVB World Championship berth and will clash for NORCECA Gold



GUADALAJARA, Mexico, August 30, 2021. - Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic win 2022 FIVB World Championship berth and will clash for the NORCECA gold medal after winning their semifinals at the Women's NORCECA Continental Championship in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Puerto Rico dominated Canada 3-1 (25-18, 19-25, 25-23, 25-20) and defending champion Dominican Republic beat United States 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-20) in semifinals.

This is the sixth time Dominican Republic battles for the Women's Volleyball NORCECA title, winning on two occasions, during the past edition in 2019 against United States when both presented their A-teams, and in 2009, beating Puerto Rico who they meet again on Tuesday. Puerto Rico has never won a gold medal, they have earned one silver and three bronze. United States will face Canada in the bronze medal match, which they have won on three occasions and Canadians a total of nine.

5th place Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-15, 25-10, 25-15) taking the fifth position. Mexico's overwhelming 15-2 advantage in serves was too much for Costa Rica; they also held a 42-21 margin in attacks and 5-2 in blocks; Mexico committed 15 errors and Costa Rica finished with 13. Outside hitter Lizbeth Sainz along with middle blocker Jocelyn Urias led Mexico's attackers with 11 and 10 points respectively.

Opposite hitter Andrea Rangel, outside hitter Grecia Castro and middle blocker Karina Flores contributed with 7 points each. Outside hitter Nicole Mata scored 7 points for Costa Rica, outside hitters Tamara Espinoza and Tatiana Sayles collected 6 points each.

Puerto Rico 3, Canada 1

Puerto Rico dominated Canada 3-1 (25-18, 19-25, 25-23, 25-20) in semifinals and qualifies to the 2022 FIVB World Championship. Puerto Rico moved into their second NORCECA title match in the history of the event with 58-48 advantage in attacks and a 5-1 margin in serves, despite Canada's impressive blocking advantage of 11-5. They committed similar amount of errors, Puerto Rico 25 and Canada 26. Opposite hitter

Brittany Abercrombie of Puerto Rico scored a match-high of 22 points on 21 kills and one block. Also contributing in Puerto Rico's semifinal win was outside hitter Marie Victoria with 16 points, joined by Stephanie Enright with 13 points and middle blocker Neira Ortiz with 10 points. On Canada's side, four players hit double figures, middle blocker Alicia Ogoms led with 15 points on 13 kills, 3 blocks and one ace, outside hitter Kiera Van Ryk followed with 12 points, outside hitter Hilary Howe led on 5 blocks from her 11 points and middle blocker Jennifer Cross added 11 points.

Dominican Republic 3, United States 0

Defending champion Dominican Republic reached the NORCECA Women's Continental title match beating United States 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-20) in semifinals and qualified to the 2022 FIVB World Championship.

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Puerto Rico has never won a gold medal, they have earned one silver and three bronze.

United States will face Canada in the bronze medal match, which they have won on three occasions and Canadians a total of nine. Dominican Republic, with a combination of experienced players and under 23 players, controlled the United States B team with a 46-32 margin in attacks, a slim 6-5 in blocks and a 3-0 advantage in serves; they committed 17 unforced errors against 20 from the United States.

Outside hitter Bethania De La Cruz led Dominicans' offense with 17 points, as well as opposite hitter Gaila González; outside hitter Prisilla Rivera added 14 points.

Opposite hitter Veronica Perry of United States scored 8 points, followed by opposite player Danielle Cuttino, coming off the bench in the second set, and outside hitter Alexandra Frantti with 6 points each.