



United States and Puerto Rico join NORCECA Semifinals

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, August 29, 2021. - United States and Puerto Rico joined the semifinals winning their quarterfinals against Costa Rica and Mexico respectively at the Women's NORCECA Continental Championship in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Puerto Rico and Canada meet in Monday's first semifinal and defending champion Dominican Republic faces United States in the closing match. Winners will qualify to the 2022 FIVB World Championship and advance to NORCECA's title match.

In the first quarterfinal, United States beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-17, 25-10), followed by Puerto Rico's close victory against the host Mexico 3-1 (25-22, 25-19, 25-27, 25-23).

United States 3, Costa Rica 0

United States moves into the Women's NORCECA semifinals winning their quarterfinal match to Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-17, 25-10) in Guadalajara, Mexico. The U.S. team will face defending champion Dominican Republic in Monday's semifinal for not only a chance to move into the title match but to earn one of the two spots available for the 2022 FIVB World Championship.

United States had the opportunity to use their full team, leading by a huge 45-19 margin, 11-3 in blocks

and 7-1 in service points, while scoring on 12 Costa Rican errors and giving away 15 points.

Opposite hitter Veronica Perry was the only player of the U.S that performed the entire match, scoring a match-high of 14 points on 10 kills, one block and 3 aces; followed by middle blocker Rachael Kramer and outside hitter Lindsay Stalzer with 8 points each. Costa Rica's leading scorer was outside hitter Tamara Espinoza with 7 points.

Puerto Rico 3, Mexico 1

Puerto Rico defeated host Mexico in a close 3-1 (25-22, 25-19, 25-27, 25-23) to play in semifinals. Puerto Rico will face Canada in Monday's semifinals; the winners earn a ticket to the 2022 FIVB World Championship and will play for NORCECA gold.

Puerto Rico and Canada played in the preliminary round, with Canada winning in four sets to top pool A.

The other semifinal features defending champion Dominican Republic against the United States.

Puerto Rico led in kills with a 54-48 margin and in serves with 6-2 advantage; Mexico did better in blocks 11-8 and committed fewer unforced errors (30-32). Outside hitter Marie Victoria topped Puerto Rico's attackers with 16 points all in kills.

Middle blocker Neira Ortiz along with outside hitter Stephanie Enright joined the winning campaign with 11 points each.

Mexican Samantha Bricio led all scorers with 20 points and opposite hitter Andrea Rangel contributed with 18 points for Mexico.