



# Newsletter



## Dominican Republic and Mexico win their pools at Women's U23 Pan Am Cup

AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico, August 13, 2021. - Dominican Republic and Mexico finished first in their respective pool at the Women's U23 Pan American Cup being held at the Olympic Gymnasium of Aguascalientes.

Defending champion Dominican Republic topped pool A defeating Suriname 3-0 (25-18, 25-12, 25-14) while host Mexico downed Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-10, 25-14, 25-15) winning pool B.

The cross over semifinals features Dominican Republic against Puerto Rico and Mexico facing Suriname.

### Dominican Republic 3, Suriname 0

Defending champion Dominican Republic defeated Suriname 3-0 (25-18, 25-12, 25-14) and wins pool A. Suriname struck hard in the first set, taking Dominican Republic by surprise. Dominicans slow beginning was brief, only to damage Suriname's game structure to easily win pool A and will play the loser between Mexico and Puerto Rico. Both teams had already moved into semifinals and qualified to the 2021 Cali Junior Pan American Games. Dominican Republic was dominant in all categories, attacks (35-17), blocks (14-2) and aces (2-0); they committed 25 errors and Suriname a total of 30. Outside hitter Madeline Guillen led Dominican Republic with 10 points and Samaret Jailene Caraballo followed with 7 points; setter Camila De La Rosa and outside hitter Vielka Peralta scored 6 points each. Margaret Katura of Suriname topped all scorers with 12 points.

### Costa Rica 3, Guatemala 0

Costa Rica won the Central American clash to Guatemala 3-0 (25-17, 25-21, 25-17) and will play for fifth place.

After yesterday's impressive display from Costa Rica against Puerto Rico, today's performance lacked their usual explosion. Costa Rica finishes third place in pool B with 1-2 record to play for fifth place on Sunday; Guatemala with 0-3 record plays for placement against Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday.

We could a Central American clash again if Guatemala defeats Trinidad and Tobago. Costa Rica held a comfortable margin in attacks 28-17 and led in blocks 3-1, while both teams scored one ace. Costa Rica scored on 21 opponent errors and allowed 16. Outside hitter María Sofía Arroyo scored 8 points as Costa Rica's best scorer, followed by middle blocker Lakysa Thompson and opposite Ana Victoria Rojas with 7 points apiece; middle blocker Mariana Rodríguez added 6 points. On Guatemala's side, middle blocker Ivana Sopegno led with 7 points, outside hitter Jimena Castellanos contributed with 6 points and middle blocker Mariangel Padilla chipped in with 5 points.

### Mexico 3, Puerto Rico 0

Host Mexico topped pool B defeating Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-10, 25-15). Once again Coach Luis Alberto Leon had the opportunity to use his entire roster in a match dominated by Mexico.

The home team finishes the preliminary round with 3-0 record and will meet Suriname in semifinals, while Puerto Rico (1-2) plays against defending champion Dominican Republic.

Mexico edged Puerto Rico by huge margins in attacks 33-16 and serves 11-1; Puerto Rico did better in blocks 3-1. Mexico benefited by 30 Puerto Rican errors while limiting to 18 their own.

With 8 points apiece, opposite Marian Ovalle and Karen Paola Rivera led Mexico's attackers, joined by middle blocker Cindy García and outside hitters Grecia Castro alongside Atenas Gutierrez with 7 points all. Puerto Rico's offense was led by Karolina Rodríguez with 6 points, outside hitter Nahirka Malpica and opposite Ana Beatriz Fuentes added 5 points each.