



Newsletter

Suriname, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Dominican Republic book tickets to Cali



Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 26-24) in pool A; while Puerto Rico had a hard time beating a combative Costa Rica in five thrilling sets 3-2 (34-32, 25-19, 17-25, 20-25, 16-14) and Mexico stormed past Guatemala 3-0 (25-14, 25-16, 25-12) in pool B.

Pool-play resumes on Friday starting with Dominican Republic (1-0) facing Suriname (1-0) to decide first place in pool A; Costa Rica (0-2) and Guatemala (0-2) play for third place in pool B, and Mexico (2-0) goes up against Puerto Rico to top pool B.

Suriname 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Suriname swept Trinidad and Tobago (25-17, 25-18, 26-24) in their first outing. With the victory Suriname (1-0) is set to face Dominican Republic (1-0) on Friday to decide first place of pool A, both teams move into semifinals and qualify to the Cali Junior Pan American Games. Trinidad and Tobago concludes pool-play with 0-2 record. When it seemed that Trinidad and Tobago was going to extend the actions, Suriname recovered from a five point deficit 15-20 to finish with the straight set win. Suriname led 21-18 in attacks and 4-2 in blocks; both teams scored 6 points in serves. Suriname committed 33 unforced errors and Trinidad and Tobago finished with 45. The top scorers finished with 11 points, outside hitter Margaret Ketura led Suriname and middle blocker Destiny Leon led Trinidad and Tobago. Suriname's team captain Cabriella Bouterse contributed with 8 points; on the opponent's side, middle blocker Afiya Alexander added 7 points.

Puerto Rico 3, Costa Rica 2

Puerto Rico had a hard time defeating Costa Rica in five thrilling sets 3-2 (34-32, 25-19, 17-25, 20-25, 16-14). Puerto Rico improved their record 2-0 in pool B and will conclude pool-play on Friday against Mexico. Costa Rica faces Guatemala. From the beginning Puerto Rico and Costa Rica

battled strong; after Puerto Rico won an exhausting first set they gained confidence edging Costa Rica in the second set.

Costa Rica stormed past Puerto Rico in set three leading by a nine point margin (14-5) and improving their energy into the tie-break.

Puerto Rico took away three match points from Costa Rica leading 11-14 to finish 16-14. Puerto Rico led in attacks 64-52 and serves 9-6, committing 46 errors; Costa Rica led in blocks by huge margin 11-4 and committed 35 errors. Four players of Puerto Rico scored double digits, outside hitter Nahirka Malpica (19), middle blockers Karolina Rodriguez (17) and Paola Martell (12), and outside hitter María Verrier (10).

For Costa Rica, Tamara Espinoza led with 19 points and María Sofía Arroyo scored 14 points.

México 3, Guatemala 0

Mexico improved 2-0 beating Guatemala in straight sets 3-0 (25-14, 25-16, 25-12) and qualified to the Junior Pan American Games to be held in Cali, Colombia. Mexico (2-0) will meet with Puerto Rico (2-0) to decide pool B winner on Friday; both secured their way into semifinals and qualified to the 2021 Cali Junior Pan American Games.

Host Mexico was stronger and all players had a chance to perform overpowering Guatemala in every skill by huge margins, attacks (31-16), blocks (8-1) and serves (11-0).

Both teams allowed 25 points on unforced errors. Mexico's top scorers were middle blocker Christian Dianne Alvarez with 9 points, including 4 aces, opposite Marian Aylin Ovalle and outside hitter Daniela Siller chipped in with 8 points apiece and Atenas Gutiérrez scored 7 points. Jimena María Castellanos led Guatemala with 7 points.