



USA dominated Beach Volleyball in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, April 27, 2008. - The USA tandems dominated the 2008 NORCECA Beach Volleyball Circuit in El Salvador by sweeping the gold medals in both genders on Sunday.

Americans Ed Ratledge-David Fischer, also winners in the first stop in Boca Chica, took the men's gold medal with a clear 21-16, 21-14 triumph over the Puerto Rican duo of Orlando Irizarry-Roberto Rodriguez. They finished the event with 6-0 and 12-0 record in matches and sets respectively.

Fellow countrywomen Erin Byrd-Stephanie Chapek topped the women's side with a 21-19, 21-13 win over host Laura Molina-Ivonne Soler of El Salvador 1.

In the matches for the bronze medals, Geovanny Medrano-Rafael Vargas, of El Salvador 1, defeated Andres Lopez-Jose Suarez, of Costa Rica, by score of 21-19, 16-21, 15-10 in the men's side, while in the women's field it was Sheila Lopez-Maritere Ramos of Puerto Rico scoring an easy 21-14, 21-16 victory over Maria Jose Orellana-Anna Ramirez of Guatemala.

In their path to the gold medal match, Ratledge-Fischer defeated Medrano-Vargas (ESA 1) 21-17, 21-16 in the semi finals, and Irizarry-Rodriguez beat Lopez-Suarez (CRC) by score of 21-17, 21-17.

Byrd-Chapek won over Orellana-Ramirez 21-13, 21-18 in semi finals and Molina-Soler defeated Lopez-Ramos 21-19, 21-17. The Americans lost only one set during the weekend and finished with a 6-0 mark. They were extended to three sets by Orellana-Ramirez in pool play.

Women's Results

Semi finals: USA d. GUA (21-13, 21-18), ESA 1 d. PUR (21-19, 21-17). Bronze Medal: PUR d. GUA (21-14, 21-16). Gold Medal: USA d. ESA 1 (21-19, 21-13). Positions 9-12: SKN d. TTO (25-23, 16-21, 15-6), NCA d. ESA 3 (21-6, 26-24), ESA 3 d. TTO (19-21, 21-5, 15-7), NCA d. SKN (21-8, 21-11).

Men's Results

Semi finals: PUR d. CRC (21-17, 21-17), USA d. ESA 1 (21-

17, 21-16). Bronze Medal: ESA 1 d. CRC (19-21, 16-21, 15-10). Gold Medal: USA d. PUR (21-16, 21-14). Positions 9-14: ESA 2 (Bye), TTO (Bye), SKN d. ARU (14-21, 21-18, 15-10), ESA 2 d. GUA 2 (16-21, 21-15, 16-14), ESA 2 d. SKN (22-20, 21-10), ESA 3 d. TTO (21-9, 21-14).

Men's Final Ranking: 1. USA; 2. PUR; 3. ESA 1; 4. CRC; 5. DOM; 6. GUA 1; 7. HON; 8. NCA; 9. ESA 2; 10. ESA 3; 11. SKN; 12. TTO; 13. GUA 2; 14. ARU.

Women's Final Ranking: 1. USA; 2. ESA 1; 3. PUR; 4. GUA; 5. CAN; 6. CRC; 7. ESA 2; 8. LCA; 9. NCA; 10. SKN; 11. ESA 3; 12. TTO.

