

## Cuba against CCS, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic to battle in CAC Seminfinals

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, 30 de junio de 2023.- Cuba will face the representatives of Centro Caribe Sports CCS -Guatemala- and Puerto Rico against Dominican Republic in the Men's Volleyball semifinals at the 2023 San Salvador Central American and Caribbean Games.

Cuba won Pool A undefeated after their 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 19-25, 25-18) win to Mexico. Puerto Rico, also undefeated, took Pool B with their closing victory to El Salvador 3-0 (25-20, 28-26, 25-17).

Saturday's schedule starts with classification matches for positions 5 to 8 with Mexico against Trinidad & Tobago and El Salvador against Suriname, followed by first Semifinals between Cuba and CSC, and then Puerto Rico vs. Dominican Republic.



Dominican Republic 3, Suriname 0

Dominican Republic defeated Suriname 3-0 (25-12, 25-16, 25-21) to finish Pool A with a 2-1 win-loss record. Dominicans with 2-1 will wait for the result between Cuba (2-0) and Mexico (1-1) to learn if they advance into Saturday's semifinals, while Suriname (0-3) ends in fourth place. The winners jumped to huge advantages in the first and second sets. In the third set, Suriname jumped to an early threepoint lead 10-7 which Dominicans battled to recover up to an even 16-16 and closed 25-21. Dominican Republic

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gave a rest to its starters during the match, where both teams scored similar points from kills, 37 to 32 for the winning side. Dominicans also held advantage in blocks (3-1) and scored on 35 opponent errors against 14. Suriname led in points from serves (0-2). Opposite Gerson Toribio of Dominican Republic led all scorers with 12 kill points. Also contributing to the win were outside hitters Henry Lopez and Wilfrido Hernández with 8 and 7 points respectively. Suriname's middle blocker Ethan Asimia led his team with 9 points, followed by opposite hitter Meson Anakaba with 5.

## Centro Caribe Sports 3, Trinidad & Tobago 1

The representatives of Centro Caribe Sports -Guatemala- earned their second victory after defeating Trinidad & Tobago 3-1 (25-23, 25-27, 25-19, 25-21). CCS (Guatemala) won their last outing in Pool B to finish the preliminary round 2-1 with great possibilities of moving into the semifinals. Trinidad & Tobago with 0-3 will play for positions 5 to 8. Both teams battled strongly but set two was the most competitive one with CCS pressing in the closing points which Trinidad & Tobago dominated but missed three set points before their 27-25 set win. The representatives of Centro Caribe Sports finished with a huge 72-54 advantage in attacking points. They also led 5-4 in blocks and 2-1 in aces. Trinidad & Tobago handed out 21 points from unforced errors and Guatemala totalized 31. Team captain and outside hitter Carlos López was the most productive player in the match, with 24 points for CCS on 22 kills, two blocks and one ace. Middle blocker Brandon Chinchilla joined in scoring 12 points on 9 kills, two blocks and one ace. Outside hitter Daynte Stewart finished with 23 points (21 kills, two blocks) as Trinidad & Tobago's top scorer. Mikheil Hoyte (Zebra) added 12 points (11 kills, one block).

## Cuba 3, Mexico 1

Cuba defeated Mexico 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 19-25, 25-18) to win Pool A and move into the Men's Volleyball semifinals. Cuba undefeated 3-0 will play in Saturday's semifinals against second place in Pool B, most likely the representatives of Centro Caribe Sports, as there's still one match left of that

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pool. Mexico with 1-2 record will play for positions 5 to 8. Mexico was more effective winning the third set, the only occasion they were on top of Cuba and kept momentum while playing longer rallies to force a fourth set. Cuba's advantage in blocking (13-2) and points from serves (7-1) made the difference to come out on top. Both teams scored a similar number of points from attacks, with Mexico leading 47 to 43. Cuba committed 29 unforced errors and Mexico 31. Middle blocker Javier Concepción led Cuba with 12 points, leading in blocks with 4 points, as well as in points from serves with 3. Outside hitter Marlon Yant contributed with 10 points and opposite Jesus Herrera, performing only in the first two sets, added 8 points. Mexico's top scorer was middle blocker Victor Parra with 11 attacking points. Outside hitter Josué López and opposite Luis Hernández score 9 points each.



## Puerto Rico 3, El Salvador 0

Puerto Rico beat El Salvador 3-0 (25-20, 28-26, 25-17) and will face Dominican Republic in semifinals. The defending champions of Central American Games won Pool B undefeated and will face Dominican Republic, who finished second in Pool A, in Saturday's semifinals. El Salvador (1-2) will play for positions 5 to 8, starting Suriname. In the second set, El Salvador reached a four-point advantage with good defense over the net and on the court, forcing Puerto Rico to commit consecutive errors. Puerto Rico eventually tied at point 18 to extend the set to a 28-26 finish. Puerto Rico finished with a huge advantage of 52 points from attacks against 32, as well as in blocks 6-1 and a 5-2 margin in aces but allowing 24 points from unforced errors against 15 from El Salvador. Opposite Klistan Lawrence led Puerto Rico with 18 attacking points, joined by outside hitter Peligrin Vargas who added 16 points on 12 kills and a match-high of 4 points from serves. Omar Hoyos added 11 points. Two players of El Salvador finished with double digits, outside hitter Rodrigo Chávez with 11 points in kills and opposite Gustavo Ortiz with 10 points from kills.

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