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Newsletter

Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Colombia remain undefeated at CAC Games



SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, July 5, 2023.- Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Colombia remain undefeated in Women's Volleyball at the 2023 San Salvador Central American and Caribbean Games being held at the Sports Palace Carlos El Famoso Hernández.

Puerto Rico defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-9) improving 2-0 in Pool A. Puerto Rico unbeaten will meet defending champion Dominican Republic (2-0) who beat Mexico 3-0 (25-23, 25-19, 25-13) to decide Pool A winner. Colombia leads Pool B 2-0 after their strong win over Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-9, 25-9, 25-6), while Cuba claimed their first tournament win defeating El Salvador 3-0 (25-19, 25-6, 25-10).

The first and second place of each pool advance into semifinals. The third and fourth will play a classification round for positions 5 to 8. The preliminary pool-play round ends Thursday, starting at 10:30 with Cuba (1-1) vs Trinidad & Tobago (0-2), followed by Mexico (0-2) against Costa Rica (0-2) at 13:30, Dominican Republic (2-0) at 17:00 meets with Puerto Rico (1-1), and El Salvador(1-1) closes the day against Colombia (2-0) at 20:00.

Colombia 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0

Colombia beat Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-9, 25-9, 25-6) in their second win in a row in Pool B. Colombia is 2-0 leading Pool B and will finish the preliminary round on Thursday against host El Salvador, and Trinidad & Tobago is 0-2, they will play Cuba. Colombia was dominant with advantages in every element of the game; in attacks (32-16), in blocks (3-1) and in points from serves (7-0), in addition to scoring on 33 opponent errors against seven. The South Americans used all their players where middle blocker Melissa Rangel led 9 points and outside hitter Ana Karina Olaya followed with 8. Middle blocker Kaylon Cruickshank led Trinidad & Tobago with 6 points, opposite Alexis Aaliyah and outside hitter Desiree Donald added 5 points each.

Puerto Rico 3, Costa Rica 0

Puerto Rico defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-9) improving 2-0 in Pool A. Puerto Rico unbeaten (2-0) will meet defending champion Dominican Republic in their last preliminary round match on Thursday. Costa Rica is set to face Mexico. The Caribbean team, with variations in their line-up, had no complications

in prevailing over the Central American squad 38 to 20 in attacking points, 6 to 4 in points from blocks and a slim 4-3 margin in aces. Puerto Rico benefited from scoring 27 points from opponent errors while limiting their own to eight. Puerto Rico's scoring offense was led by three players with double digits.

Opposite Genesis Collazo and outside hitter Pilar Victoria with 13 points each, and outside hitter Karla Santos tallied 10 points. Costa Rica's leading scorer was opposite hitter Tatiana Sayles with 7 attacking points.

Dominican Republic 3, Mexico 0

Dominican Republic remained undefeated after their 3-0 (25-23, 25-19, 25-13) victory to Mexico. First place in Pool A will be decided on Thursday between defending champion Dominican Republic 2-0 and Puerto Rico 2-0; Mexico 1-1 faces Costa Rica 0-2. Mexico took advantage of Dominicans unforced errors in the first set and had momentum keeping the score close.

Dominican Republic went on to lead the second set from start to finish and in the third came from a two-point deficit to perform their best set in the match. Dominicans' best skill was their blocking, with a 13 to 7 advantage; they also led 4-2 in points from serves. The match was balanced in points from attacks, with Dominican Republic leading 36 to 32.

The winners committed fewer unforced errors (14-22). Outside hitters Yonkaira Peña and Brayelin Martinez led Dominican Republic with 13 points each. Yonkaira on 12 kills and one block and Brayelin on 9 kills, one block and three aces. Middle blocker Jineiry Martinez, who only played in the first two sets, scored a match-high of six points on blocks.

Outside hitter Melanie Parra, making her return to the Mexican national team, was the leading attacker in the match with 14 points on 10 kills, 3 blocks and one ace. Her teammate Andrea Rangel contributed with 10 attacking points.

Cuba 3, El Salvador 0

Cuba claimed their first tournament win defeating El Salvador 3-0 (25-19, 25-6, 25-10). Cuba with a 1-1 record in Pool B will end the preliminary round on Thursday against Trinidad & Tobago 0-2. Host El Salvador 1-1 will face Colombia who stands first place with 2-0.

Cuba stormed past El Salvador with a huge 34 advantage in attacks against 18, an impressive blocking advantage of 17 to one and a 9-1 margin in points in serves. Opposite Dezirett Madan led Cuba on a match-high of 13 points on 9 kills, three blocks and one ace, followed by middle blocker Jessica Aguilera with 10 points on 5 kills, the most blocking points with 4 and one ace.

Outside hitter Ailama Cese with 9 points. Team captain of El Salvador, outside hitter Adriana Flores scored 6 attacking points and middle blocker Fabiola Venegas added 5 points.