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Newsletter

Reigning champs Dominican Republic to face Brazil for Santiago 2023 Gold



SANTIAGO, Chile, October 25, 2023.- Reigning champions Dominican Republic will face Brazil for the 2023 Santiago Pan American Games Gold after winning their semifinal matches at the Arena Parque O'Higgins on Wednesday.

Dominican Republic defeated Argentina 3-1 (16-23, 25-19, 25-20, 25-17) in semifinals, to reach their second consecutive Pan Am Games title match.

Brazil advanced to the final match with a tie-break victory 3-2 (25-17, 22-25, 27-25, 22-25, 15-13) over Mexico.

Both teams are undefeated, with Brazil seeking its fifth title in the history of the Games, while the Caribbean Queens are aiming for their second title.

Mexico will compete for their fourth bronze medal in Pan American Games, facing Argentina, who won the bronze in Lima 2019, their only medal in the history of the Games.

Brazil 3, Mexico 2

Brazil advanced to the final match of the 2023 Santiago Pan American Games with a tie-break victory 3-2 (25-17, 22-25, 27-25, 22-25, 15-13) over Mexico. Brazil will face reigning champions, the Dominican Republic, in the gold medal match. Both teams are undefeated, with Brazil seeking its fifth title in the history of the Games, while the Caribbean Queens are aiming for their second title. Brazil hadn't reached a final since 2015 when they lost to the United States in Toronto. Meanwhile, Mexico will compete for their fourth bronze medal in Pan American Games, facing Argentina, who won the bronze in Lima 2019, their only medal in the history of the Games. Mexico didn't make it easy for Brazil, especially in the third set when Brazil came from behind with a six-point deficit (8-14) for a dramatic 27-25 win. In battled fourth set, Mexico lost two set points (24-20) before forcing the tie-break, where the Brazilians were the ones to fail three match points (14-10) before their thrilling victory. Brazil dominated in blocking, with a significant 20-10 advantage, and committed fewer unforced errors, 34 to 38. Mexico held advantage in attacks, 53 to 50, and in service points, 8 to 3. Brazilian Sabrina Machado was the leading scorer in the match with 27 points (20 attacks, 4 blocks). Lorena Viezel contributed 17 points in the win, including a match-high of 7 points in blocks, and Maira Basso added 10 points. Grecia Castro and Karen Rivera led Mexico with 16 points each, and Aimé Topete added 15 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Argentina 1

Reigning champions Dominican Republic defeated Argentina 3-1 (16-23, 25-19, 25-20, 25-17) in semifinals and is headed to the 2023 Santiago Pan American Games title match undefeated.

This is Dominicans second consecutive semifinal win over Argentina at Pan American Games to progress into the gold medal match. Dominican Republic remains undefeated with a 4-0 record. Dominican Republic will face the winner of the semifinal between Brazil and Mexico. Argentina will play their second consecutive bronze medal match at the Games against the loser. In addition to Argentina's consistent offense in serves, alongside effective serves, they took advantage of Dominican Republic's defense errors to win the first set. Dominicans visibly improved in blocking to stabilize their defense and then charged over Argentina into the next three sets for the final four-set win. Outside hitter Brayelin Martinez guided Dominican Republic with 20 points on 18 kills and two blocks. Opposite Gaila Gonzalez joined in with 15 points on 11 kills and a match-high of four blocks. Outside hitter Yonkaira Peña collected 13 points on 11 kills, one block and one ace. Team captain Daniela Bulaich topped Argentina with 14 points on 13 kills and one ace. Candela Salinas and Maria De La Paz Corbalan contributed with 11 points each.

Chile 3, Cuba 0

Chile beat Cuba 3-0 (25-15, 28-26, 25-17) and will face Colombia for the fifth place. Chile will compete against Colombia for the fifth place of the event, while Cuba will face Puerto Rico for the seventh position.

Chile dominated the first and third sets by blocking Cuba's offense, but in the second set, they recovered from a five-point deficit (15-20) and even snatched a set point (23-24) from Cuba for a dramatic 28-26 finish. The hosts led in attacks 47-37, in blocks 10-7, and in serves 5-3. Chile scored 16 points from Cuba's errors and handed out 11. Three Chilean players reached double digits in scoring, with Petra Schwartzman (17), Beatriz Novoa (14), and Karen Morales (11). Yalain De La Peña was the top scorer for Cuba with 12 points.

Colombia 3, Puerto Rico 2

With impressive 39 points from Sofía Cuartas, Colombia defeated Puerto Rico 3-2 (19-25, 22-25, 25-22, 25-21, 15-8) and will battle for the fifth place. Sofía Cuartas' 39 points pushed Colombia to recover from a two-set deficit and clinch the victory in a thrilling five-set match against Puerto Rico.

Cuartas improved the 32 points scored by Amanda Coneo in the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima when Colombia defeated Peru. Colombia awaits the winner of the match between Cuba and Chile for the fifth place in the Games. Cuartas' 39 points included 34 attacks, 3 blocks, and 2 aces. Juliana Guardado contributed 20 points on 19 attacks and one block. Neira Ortiz was the top scorer for Puerto Rico with 21 points on 13 attacks, 7 blocks, and one ace. Destiny Skerrett Walker and Ivania Ortiz added 19 and 18 points, respectively. Colombia ended with an advantage of 69 to 64 in attacks, 11 to 10 in blocks, and committed fewer errors, 18 against 22. Puerto Rico prevailed in direct serves, 9 to 4.

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