

## Cuba and Dominican Republic Advance to Semifinals

CHARLESTON, W.Va., USA (Sept. 8, 2023) – Cuba and Dominican Republic advanced to the semifinals of the NORCECA Men's Continental Championship defeating Mexico and Puerto Rico respectively on Friday at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.



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The Dominican Republic (2-1) will face the United States (3-0) in the first semifinal on Saturday and Cuba (3-1) will face Canada (2-0) in the second semifinal. Mexico and Puerto Rico will play in a classification match for positions 5 to 7.

In quarterfinals, Cuba beat Mexico 3-0 (25-20, 25-15, 25-23) and The Dominican Republic beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 32-30).

## Cuba 3, Mexico 0

Cuba advanced to the semifinals of the NORCECA Men's Continental Championship with a 3-0 (25-20, 25-15, 25-23). Cuba (3-1) will face Canada (2-0) on Saturday in the second semifinal at 7:30 p.m. ET. Mexico (0-3) will play for fifth place. Cuba led the match in kills (47-40) and aces (7-1) and scored 17 points on Mexico's errors while committing 11. Mexico led in blocks (6-1). Cuba outside hitter Osniel Mergarejo led all scorers with 15 points on 10 attacks, two blocks and a match-high three aces. Mexico outside hitter Josue De Jesus Lopez led his team with 13 points on 12 attacks and one block. Mexico opposite Luis David Baca added 12 points on 10 kills, one block and one ace.

## Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 0

The Dominican Republic will play in the semifinals of the NORCECA Men's Continental Championship after beating Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 32-30). The Dominican Republic (2-1) will face the United States (3-0) in the first semifinal on Saturday. Puerto Rico will play for fifth place. The Dominican Republic led the match in attacks (49-41) and blocks (9-7). The teams were tied in aces (3-3). The Dominican Republic scored 21 points on Puerto Rico's errors and gave up 19 points. Dominican Republic opposite Henry Omar Tapia led all scorers with 18 points on a match-high 16 attacks and two blocks. Middle blocker Moises Ortiz and outside hitter Hector Cruz each scored 14 points. Ortiz scored on nine attacks, a match-high four blocks and one ace. Cruz scored on 13 attacks and one block. Puerto Rico opposite Jamal Ellis led his team's scoring with 15 points on 15 attacks. Outside hitters Tristan Lawrence and Omar Hoyos each scored 10 points.

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