



March / March- 2023
Año / Year. 21 - No. 02

Newsletter

Puerto Rico, USA and Guatemala undefeated at NORCECA U19 Pan Am Cup



GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 14, 2023.- Puerto Rico, United States and Guatemala remain undefeated at the NORCECA Boys U19 Pan American Cup.

Puerto Rico scored their second win beating Suriname 3-0 (25-17, 26-24, 25-19) while Guatemala picked up their second win defeating Nicaragua 3-1 (21-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-18); these two will decide pool B winner on Wednesday.

United States battled to down Mexico 3-1 (23-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-20) in pool A and Costa Rica won a five-set thriller 3-2 (25-14, 21-25, 30-32, 25-18, 15-11) over Central American rival Belize.

Pool-play finishes on Wednesday starting with pool A matches United States (2-0) facing Costa Rica (1-1) and Mexico (1-1) against Belize (0-2), followed by pool B with Suriname (0-2) meeting Nicaragua (0-2) and host Guatemala (2-0) vs. Puerto Rico (2-0).

Puerto Rico 3, Suriname 0

Puerto Rico scored their second win beating Suriname 3-0 (25-17, 26-24, 25-19). After a

closely contested second set, where Suriname thrilled with longer rallies and reaching an even 24, Puerto Rico came out on top in their second win in pool B. Puerto Rico led with a huge 40-20 advantage in attacks and 11-2 in serves, they also held a slim 5-4 margin in blocks. Suriname committed fewer errors (20-34). Outside hitter Victor Torres of Puerto Rico scored a match-high of 17 points on 12 kills, one block and 4 aces.

Outside hitter Franco Roark and opposite Dylan Velázquez contributed with 12 and 10 points accordingly. Opposite hitter Meson Anakaba led Suriname with 11 points on 10 kills and one block, joined by outside hitter Leong Lee with 9 points.

United States 3, Mexico 1



The United States battled to down Mexico 3-1 (23-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-20). In the first set Mexico remarkably recovered from an eight-point deficit (8-16) to win the first set, challenging the U.S. in every way. United States slowly gained control but still it was a one-on-one clash. This was the U.S. second tournament win (2-0) and Mexico's first loss (1-1). United States led 53-39 in kills, 9-6 in blocks and 4-3 in serves. Mexico had fewer errors (32-25). Opposite hitter Finn Kearney and outside hitter Sterling Foley led United States with 16 points each; Finn on 13 kills and three blocks, Sterling on 15 kills and one block. Outside hitter Sean Kelly also contributed in the win with 14 points on 10 kills one block and the most aces with 3. Mexico's leading scorer was outside hitter Ines Vargas with 15 points on 14 kills and one ace, followed by Victor Miranda with 11 points on 10 kills and one ace.

Costa Rica 3, Belize 2

Costa Rica won a five-set thriller 3-2 (25-14, 21-25, 30-32, 25-18, 15-11) over Central American rival Belize. This was Costa Rica's first win in pool A improving their record 1-1, while Belize stands with 0-2. Belize turned up the heat winning the second set but not before missing two set points. Brayden Richardson put an end to a marathon third set 32-30 with a monster block. Costa jumped to an early 8-0 advantage in the fourth and remaining on top to reach a tie-break finish. Costa Rica led in blocks 15-13, while Belize dominated 53-50 in kills and 3-2 in aces.

Costa Rica scored on 49 Belizean errors and handed out 31 points. Outside hitter Stanley Grant topped Costa Rica with 24 points on 20 kills and 4 blocks, joined by outside hitter Julian Araya with 13 points (12 kills, one ace) and opposite hitter Yulius Brown with 12 points (10 kills, 2 blocks). Belizean Eleazar Mejía led all scorers with 28 points, the most so far in the tournament, on 26 kills, one block and one ace. Opposite hitter Daniel Musa added 14 points on 9 kills, 4 blocks and one ace; and outside hitter Preston Smith scored 13 points on 11 kills and 2 blocks.

Guatemala 3, Nicaragua 1

Guatemala picked up their second win defeating Nicaragua 3-1 (21-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-18). Guatemala improved their record 2-0 to remain undefeated and will face Puerto Rico (2-0) to decide pool B winner. Nicaragua drops to 0-2 and will close pool-play against Suriname (0-2).

Guatemala recovered from falling in the first set, struggling to catch up from a three-point deficit in the second (15-18) and holding Nicaraguans better blocking to even the scores. From there on Guatemala controlled Nicaragua. The hosts held huge advantages in kills (50-39) and aces (11-3), while Nicaragua finished with a 10-2 blocking margin. Guatemala handed out 29 points in errors and Nicaragua a total of 33. Outside hitter Roberto Recinos and middle blocker Sergio Paz led Guatemala's attackers with 16 and 11 points respectively. Outside hitter Evans Solís once again topped Nicaragua's offense scoring a match-high of 18 points and middle blocker Edu Urbina added 12 points.

Go beyond your limits!



NORCECA Newsletter