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# Newsletter

## Mexico and United States to battle in the Gold Medal Match



GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 17, 2023.- Mexico and United States will battle in the Gold Medal Match of the NORCECA U19 Boys Pan American Cup on Saturday in Guatemala.

In semifinals Mexico outclassed Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-22, 25-14, 31-29) and United States arrived with perfect record after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-15). Puerto Rico and Costa Rica are in the

bronze medal match, Nicaragua and Guatemala will play for fifth place and Suriname goes up against Belize for seventh place.

### SF Mexico 3, Puerto Rico 0

Mexico outclassed Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-22, 25-14, 31-29) in semifinals to reach their second consecutive NORCECA U19 Pan American Cup finals. Mexico managed to advance in the finals with a straight set win after a highly contested and exciting third set. Puerto Rico took on a one-one battle at the end, their effort wasn't enough to extend the actions further. Mexico also beat Puerto Rico in last year's U19 Pan Am Cup semifinals here in Guatemala but in five sets. Mexico finished with a 54-41 advantage in attacks, a 3-1 margin in aces and committed fewer errors (19-21). Puerto Rico held a slim 4-3 margin in blocks. Outside hitter Ines Vargas scored an impressive 28 points (26 kills, one block, one ace) in Mexico's victory, while Brandon Ramirez contributed with 18 points (16 kills, one block, one ace). Team captain Ramon Rosado led Puerto Rico's offense with 12 points all on kills.



### SF United States 3, Costa Rica 0

The United States will play in the NORCECA U19 Pan Am Cup gold medal match with a perfect record after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-15) in Friday's semifinal. United States will battle Mexico in the final for the second time in a row. The U.S. beat Mexico in last year's title match here in Guatemala. Costa Rica and Puerto Rico will play in the bronze medal match. United States was successful with a 45-20 margin in

attacks, 8-2 in blocks and 6-0 in serves, but they handed out 31 points from unforced errors while Costa Rica only allowed 16. This was the second occasion in the tournament that the U.S. beat Costa Rica. Outside hitter Sterling Foley of USA led all scorers with 15 points on 14 kills and one block, joined by opposite hitter Finn Kearney with 11 points on 9 kills and two blocks. Opposite hitter Yulius Brown of Costa Rica scored 11 points all on kills.

### Nicaragua 3, Suriname 2

Nicaragua beat Suriname 3-2 (28-26, 20-25, 25-18, 19-25, 15-7) to play for fifth place. Nicaragua will play for fifth place against the winner between Guatemala and Belize; Suriname for seventh place. It was a party of points in the first set, won by Nicaragua where Suriname lost three set points (24-22), which set the rhythm for the continuing sets. Suriname held a huge advantage in the fourth set only to fall in the tie-break. The Central Americans held advantages in attacks (58-53) and aces (3-2), Suriname was better in blocking 10-8. In errors, Nicaragua finished with 36 and Suriname with 38. Opposite hitter Victor Bermudez led Nicaragua's scorers with 20 points on 18 kills and two aces, accompanied by middle blocker Angelo Guadamez and outside hitter Evans Solis with 15 points apiece. Suriname's top scorer was outside hitter Anfernee Lee with 20 points on 16 kills and four points from aces, followed by outside hitter Gianni Ritfeld with 19 points on 17 kills and two blocks, while opposite hitter Meson Anakaba chipped in with 13 points on 10 kills, two blocks and one ace.



### Guatemala 3, Belize 0

Hosts Guatemala downed Belize 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 25-17) to battle against Nicaragua for fifth place. Guatemala recovered from a four-point deficit (10-14) to start the first set and move on to control Belize the following sets. On the last day of the event, Guatemala plays against Nicaragua for fifth place and Belize faces Suriname for position seven. The hosts held a 31-26 margin in attacks and Belize 6-4 in the blocking category; both teams scored one ace. Guatemala scored on 39 Belizean errors and handed out 23. Guatemala's best attacker was middle blocker Sergio Paz with 14 points from 13 kills and one block. Outside hitter Eleazar Mejia led Belize with a match-high of 19 points on 18 kills and one block.