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Newsletter

United States wins back to back NORCECA U19 Pan American title



GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 18, 2023.- United States beat Mexico 3-0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-20) to win back to back Boys U19 Pan American title on Saturday in Guatemala City.

United States won their second gold medal in a row undefeated (5-0) against Mexico; in 2011 they won a bronze medal also over Mexico. This is Mexico's third silver medal in a row and in 2017 they beat Chile for the gold; Mexico ended the event 4-2.

The U.S. held a 47-33 advantage in attacks and a huge 10-4 margin in blocks; both teams scored two points from serves. United States committed 16 unforced errors against 26 from Mexico.

Outside hitter Sean Kelly of United States scored a match-high of 16 points on 14 kills and two blocks. Outside hitter Sterling Foley added 12 points on 9 kills, two blocks and one ace, followed by opposite hitter Finn Kearney collecting 11 points on 10 kills and one ace.

Outside hitter Ines Vargas and opposite hitter Julio Serrano topped Mexico's scores with 12 points each.

Bronze medal Puerto Rico 3, Costa Rica 2

Puerto Rico battled five sets against Costa Rica 3-2 (24-26, 25-22, 18-25, 25-22, 15-12) to win the bronze medal. After the five grueling sets, Puerto Rico celebrated their second consecutive bronze medal, third bronze medal in the history of the event. They also have a silver medal in 2011. For Costa Rica, this is the first time a Central American team plays for a place in the podium. Puerto Rico bounced back from a nail-biting first set loss only to keep on battling strong in the next party of sets, in which Costa Rica showed a formidable performance. Puerto Rico came out on top with a 69-52 advantage in kills and a 5-1 margin in aces; Costa Rica dominated held a slim 10-9 margin in blocks. Puerto Rico committed a sizeable amount of 44 unforced errors against 24 from Costa Rica. Outside hitter Victor Torres led Puerto Rico with 22 points on 19 kills and three blocks, accompanied by outside hitter Franco Roark who

produced 17 points on 16 kills and one ace, while team captain Ramon Rosado added 13 points on 11 kills, one block and one ace. Costa Rican opposite hitter Yulius Brown scored a match-high of 24 points on 22 kills and two blocks. Also contributing to Costa Rica's campaign was outside hitter Stanley Grant with 16 points on 15 kills and one block, followed by Julian Araya who tallied 12 points.

5th place Guatemala Nicaragua

Hosts Guatemala took fifth place over Nicaragua 3-0 (26-24, 25-21, 25-22). Guatemala ends with a 4-2 record in fifth place and Nicaragua 2-4 in sixth.

This was the second time Guatemala beat Nicaragua in the tournament. Despite the straight set win, it was a close win for Guatemala who recovered from a three point deficit (21-24) stealing from Nicaragua's hands the first set. Guatemala held a 39-33 advantage in attacks and a 2-0 margin in aces. Nicaragua prevailed in blocks by a huge 15-6 margin.

Guatemala scored on 29 Nicaraguan errors and handed out 19. Outside hitter Pedro Villatora led Guatemala with 12 points on 11 kills and one block, middle blocker Sergio Paz and outside hitter Roberto Recinos chipped in with 9 and 8 points respectively. Middle blocker Angelo Guadamuz was Nicaragua's top scorer with 12 points on 7 kills and 4 blocks, followed by outside hitter Evans Solís and middle blocker Wesly Rugama with 9 points each.

7th place Belize 3, Suriname 0

Belize finished seventh place after defeating Suriname 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 25-18). Belize finished the tournament with a 1-4 win-loss record and Suriname 0-5.

Belize prevailed over Suriname in every skill, attacks (36-25), blocks (6-4) and serves (9-2).

Suriname committed fewer errors than Belize (24-28). Outside hitters Preston Smith and Eleazar Mejía led Belize, Smith with 15 points on 14 kills and one block, Mejía with 14 points all from kills. Suriname's opposite hitter Meson Anakaba scored 14 points on 12 kills, one block and one ace as their leading scorer.