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Newsletter

USA and Dominican Republic open strong



JUANA DIAZ, Puerto Rico, May 9, 2023.- United States and the Dominican Republic opened the Girls' U19 NORCECA Pan American Cup strong with steady performances on Tuesday in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico.

The U.S. girls won 3-0 (25-6, 25-18, 25-12) against the U.S. Virgin Islands while Dominicans defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-10, 25-6, 25-9) in their opening match.

Mexico won 3-0 (25-19, 25-14, 25-15) over Costa Rica in their debut and host Puerto Rico also claimed an exciting straight set victory (25-20, 25-17, 25- 21) against Canada in day one closing match.

On the second day of competition, United States (1-0) faces Costa Rica (0-1), followed by Mexico (1-0) against the U.S. Virgin Islands (0-1), then Canada (0-1) plays with Honduras (0-1) and the Dominican Republic (1-0) closes the day against host Puerto Rico (1-0).

United States 3, U.S. Virgin Islands 0

United States opened the Girls' U19 NORCECA Pan American Cup with strength over the U.S. Virgin Islands 3-0 (25-6, 25-18, 25-12). The US squad had a strong opening performance leading 37-12 in kills, 8-1 in blocks and 11-2 in serves, but handed out 21 points from unforced errors against 19. With eight points each, opposites Olivia Babcock and Logan Parks, along with outside hitter Kaci Demaria led the US scorers. On the U.S. Virgin's side, outside hitter Anna Gillens led with 7 points and team captain Jala Dixon scored 6 points.

Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico won 3-0 (25-19, 25-14, 25-15) over Costa Rica in their debut. Costa Rica surprised Mexico jumping to an 11-8 lead in the first set, but quickly turned things in their favor to earn the win in



pool A. Mexico held a comfortable 33-19 advantage in attacks, as well as in aces with 10-5; in blocks they scored one point more 5-4. Mexico committed fewer errors than Costa Rica (20-27). Outside hitter Aime Topete of Mexico topped all scorers with 13 points from 11 kills and two aces. Opposite Luz Solano and middle blocker Naomi Ramos followed with 8 and 7 points respectively. Costa Rica's captain Angelica Rodriguez scored 8 points as their leading scorer, joined by outside hitter Joselyn Moraga with 7 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Honduras 0

Dominican Republic defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-10, 25-6, 25-9) in their opening match. Dominican Republic dominated Honduras in every skill of the game, with a huge 34-4 advantage and 17-5 in serves; they also held an 8-2 margin in blocks. Dominicans committed 14 errors and Honduras 16. Three Dominicans ended with double figures, led by opposite hitter Ariana Rodríguez with 14 points on 6 attacks and the highest service points with 8; outside hitter Yuseiry Ramirez and middle blocker Yalyn Flipo scored 11 points each.

Puerto Rico 3, Canada 0

Puerto Rico prevailed in straight sets (25-20, 25-17, 25- 21) against Canada in pool B. The home girls kept up with Canada's pressure to open the tournament with a win but on a rollercoaster performance, coming from behind in all three sets. Puerto Rico held a huge 42-24 advantage in kills and 11-3 in aces; Canada did better in the blocking 8-4 and committed fewer unforced errors 18-23. Puerto Rican opposite hitter Grace Lopez scored a match-high of 22 points on 19 kills and three aces, followed by team captain Elena García who added 13 points on nine kills and two from blocks and two on aces. Outside hitter Chareika Carrion contributed with 10 points on 8 kills, two blocks and two aces. Canada was commanded by outside hitter Mary Healy with 9 points.

Go beyond your limits!

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