



Newsletter

USA, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico open with a win

NOGALES, Mexico, May 25, 2023.- United States, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico open the U21 Women's NORCECA Pan American Cup with a win in the event that begins the qualification to the 2025 FIVB World Championship.

United States opened the competition beating Guatemala 3-0 (25-8, 25-13, 25-14) in pool B, followed by Cuba's victory in pool A to Belize in straight sets 25-14, 25-12, 25-18.

Dominican Republic battled strong to beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-17) in their opening performance in pool B and host Mexico handled Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-21) in pool A.

Next matches on Thursday are Puerto Rico (0-1) vs Belize (0-1), followed by the Central American battle between Guatemala (0-1) and Costa Rica (0-1), United States (1-0) plays against Dominican Republic (1-0) and host Mexico (1-0) closes against Cuba (1-0).

United States 3, Guatemala 0

The United States beat Guatemala 3-0 (25-8, 25-13, 25-14) in the first match. United States opened pool B strong and used all its players to stay in command with a 34-21 advantage in attacks, a huge 12-2 margin in blocks and 8-3 in aces. The U.S. scored on 21 opponent errors and handed out 9. Middle blocker Gabrielle Essix of the United States scored 13 points on 8 kills and 5 blocks, joined by outside hitter McKenna Wucherer with seven points on 5 kills, one block and one ace. Outside hitter Eva Hudson added five points on 4 kills and one block. The U.S. scored on 21 opponent errors and handed out 9. Guatemala's leading scorer was outside hitter Naomi Monney with 10 points on 9 kills and one ace; middle blocker Camila Gonzalez contributed with 6 points on 5 kills and one block. On day two of the event the United States will face the Dominican Republic and Guatemala goes against Costa Rica.



Cuba 3, Belize 0

Cuba started the U21 Women's NORCECA Pan American cup defeating Belize in straight sets 25-14, 25-12, 25-18. Cuba earned their first victory in pool A

prevailing over Belize with a huge 40-21 advantage in attacks and a comfortable 10-4 margin in blocks. Belize held a 7-4 margin in aces. The winners committed fewer errors (12-21). Two players led Cuba with double figures, opposite hitter Lisania Grafort with 18 points on 15 kills, one block and two aces, and outside hitter Claudia Tarin scored 10 points on 9 kills and one ace. Opposite hitter Nisaan Martinez led Belize with 9 points on 5 kills, two blocks and two aces.

Dominican Republic 3, Costa Rica 0

Dominican Republic battled strong to beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-17) in their opening performance in pool B. Both teams battled hard to keep the scores close and tied on numerous occasions, but it was the Dominican Republic that set the match rhythm in the last two sets. Dominicans topped 39-29 in kills, 8-2 in blocks and 7-5 in points from serves. Dominican Republic scored 22 points from Costa Rica's errors and allowed 18.

Opposite hitter Ariana Rodriguez of Dominican Republic scored a match-high of 19 points on 16 kills, one block and two aces, followed by outside hitter Katielle Alonzo with 13 points on 11 kills, one block and one ace. Outside hitter Joselyn Moraga and team captain Angelica Rodriguez scored 9 and 8 points respectively for Costa Rica.

México 3, Puerto Rico 0

Mexico beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-21) in the closing match of day one. Mexico came from behind in all sets and recovered from a five-point deficit in the third (5-10) to open their campaign with a win.

The host held a 42-38 advantage in kills and Puerto Rico 6-4 in blocks, both teams scored 3 aces. Mexico committed 12 errors against 22 from Puerto Rico.

Mexico's captain Aime Topete led all scorers with 22 points on 20 kills and two blocks, while opposite hitter Grace Lopez led Puerto Rico with 21 points on 20 kills and one ace.