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# Newsletter

## United States and Mexico win direct ticket into semifinals

NOGALES, Mexico, May 26, 2023.- United States and Mexico won a direct ticket into semifinals finishing in first place of their pools at the U21 Women's NORCECA Pan American Cup in Nogales, Mexico.

United States won pool B after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-8, 25-9) and Mexico beat Belize 3-0 (25-11, 25-11, 25-15) to finish first of pool A.

In quarterfinals, Cuba will face Costa Rica and Dominican Republic go up against Puerto Rico.

### Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 0

Cuba scored their second win defeating Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-19, 25-17, 25-21). Cuba ends the preliminary round 2-1 and Puerto Rico 1-2 in pool A, both teams advance into the next round; Puerto Rico finishes third A and Cuba waits for Mexico's result against Belize. Cuba started off three sets slow but picked up the pace to finish in straight sets with a 45-40 advantage in kills, 9-7 in blocks and 3-1 in aces. Cuba limited their errors to 9 against 18 from Puerto Rico. Opposite hitter Lisania Grafort of Cuba led all scorers with 16 points all from kills. Outside hitter Thainalien Castillo ended with 13 points, this was her first performance in the tournament, and middle blocker Edisleydys Reyes added 11 points including a match-high of 5 blocks. On Puerto Rico's side, opposite Grace Lopez led with 15 points all on kills, followed by outside hitter Elena García with 9 points.

### United States 3, Costa Rica 0

United States won pool B after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-8, 25-9) to move into semifinals. United States reached the semifinals undefeated 3-0, semifinals are scheduled for Saturday. Costa Rica finished pool-play 1-2 and waits the result between Dominican Republic and Guatemala for their final position in pool B.



The Americans overpowered Costa Rica 41-14 in kills, 13-1 in blocks and 6-0 in serves. United States committed 13 unforced errors and Costa Rica a total of 15. USA's middle blocker Marianna Singletary scored a match-high of 13 points on 8 kills, three blocks and two aces. Also contributing to the win were outside hitters Mckenna Wucherer and Chloe Chicoine with 9 and 8 points respectively. Angelica Rodriguez led Costa Rica with 4 points.

### Dominican Republic 3, Guatemala 0

Dominican Republic beat Guatemala 3-0 (25-8, 25-13, 25-21) and will play quarterfinals against Puerto Rico. Dominicans finished pool B 2-1 for second place and will play quarterfinals against Puerto Rico who finished third in pool A. Guatemala 0-3 will play classification matches for positions 5-8. Guatemala pressured Dominican Republic leading the third set up to point 18, while Dominican Republic struggled to recover from a five-point deficit (6-11) early in the closing set. Dominican Republic managed to stop Guatemala mostly by an 11-2 margin in aces. They also held advantages in kills 32-24 and in blocks 7-4, scoring on 25 opponent errors against 12. The leading scorer of the match was Dominican Ariana Rodriguez with 15 points on 8 kills, two blocks and a match-high of 5 aces. Outside hitter Elsa Cuevas collected 11 points on 10 kills and one ace. Outside hitters Naomi Monney and Maria Santa Cruz led Guatemala with 8 and 7 points respectively.

### Mexico 3, Belize 0

Mexico beat Belize 3-0 (25-11, 25-11, 25-15) to reach the semifinals. Mexico concluded first place in pool A with a perfect record (3-0) to advance directly into Saturday's semifinals. Belize on the other hand will play classification matches for positions 5-8. Mexico's coach took the opportunity to use all his players and make several changes during the match where they dominated with 37-21 in attacks, 6-5 in blocks and 6-1 in aces. Mexico scored 26 points from Belizean errors and gave away 10. Mexico's attackers were led by opposite Katherine Ramirez (9pts), outside hitter Alexandra Goris (8pts) and team captain Aimé Topete (7pts). Team captain Camara Fatoumata once again led Belize scoring 8 points, followed by Khaya Gordon with 7 points and Nisaan Martinez with 6.