



NORCECA WOMEN'S OLYMPIC QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

Dominican Republic and Cuba go for the gold



Dominican Republic will face Cuba in the gold medal match of the NORCECA Women's Olympic Qualifier on Sunday after defeating Canada in straight sets by score of 25-23, 25-21, 25-20.

Yudelkis Bautista led the host team with 16 points and Milagros Cabral and Kenia Moreta had 11 and 9 respectively. Sarah Pavan scored 15 for Canada and Amy Tutt contributed with

10. "Our team went out determined to be more aggressive and it was fighting every point," said Jorge Garbey, the Dominican coach. "There is no doubt in my mind that this one has been our best match of the tournament. The team played as an unit and did it good in the blocking and the defense also," he added.

About the match against Cuba for the championship and a trip to the 2004 Olympic Games, Garbey said:

"We know each other very well. It is a very powerful team but also have some weakness. Both teams have a very similar style of play. We have to give our best effort like we did tonight and see what happens."

Lorne Sawula, the Canadian coach, said: "It is dissapoint for us but for the Dominicans a joyful victory. They showed their experience in the tight situations and I wish the best in the next round or in South America if that is the case."

Cuba is one step away of the Olympics

"It was ugly in the first set when Puerto Rico had a near perfect blocking and our reception failed," said Luis Felipe Calderon, the Cuban coach.

"We could not respond and it was a tough situation. Then we made the much needed adjustments and in the next three sets our better physical condition was a key ingredient," he added.

David Aleman, the Puerto Rican coach, said: "We went out to play hard and battle during some time. We did our best relying on our good fundamental execution but at th end the power of Cuba gave them the victory."

The Puerto Rican Cruz considered the amount of mistakes as the key factor. "We minimized our mistakes in the first set and ad the begining of the second, but then our errors were piling up and the Cubans came back strongg and played as the world class team they are."

