



## NORCECA WOMEN'S OLYMPIC QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

### Barros and Ruiz lead Cuban victory over Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic tie with Cuba in first place

Veterans Zoila Barros and Yumilka Ruiz led Cuba in its victory over Puerto Rico 3-0 to keep an unbeaten record in two outings during the NORCECA's Women Olympic Qualifier in Santo Domingo.

Barros had 15 points and Ruiz 12 with a display of powerful services and spikes as the Cubans overwhelmed the Puerto Ricans with a score of 25-18, 25-18, 25-20. Yaima Ortiz and Nancy Carrillo added 9 and 9 points respectively.

"We had problems with the reception against the strong services of Cuba," said David Aleman, the Puerto Rican coach. "In order to beat Cuba or play at its level you have to reduce the amount of mistakes."

"But we have to keep it going and our goal is to be in the semifinals. I think that we have played against the best team of this tournament and I don't expect to face another team of this caliber."

Karina Ocasio and Eva Cruz were the top scorers for Puerto Rico with 12 and 10 points respectively.

"Our team have improved a lot since the Pan American Games," said Ruiz, the Cuba's captain. "We have been together for several months and we are seeing the results."

### Dominicans tie with Cuba in first place

The Dominican Republic got its second victory in as many days tying with Cuba in the first place of the NORCECA's Women Olympic Qualifier. The host team came back from one set down to beat Canada 3-1 (25-27, 25-17, 25-21, 25-20).

"We played with a lot of up and downs but made the good plays at the right time," said Jorge Garbey, the Dominican coach. "After the first set, we established the tempo of the match and our blocking was also a factor." The offensive of Yudelkis Bautista was a key in the fourth set



when she took charge and scored five of the last nine points of the Dominicans with superb spiking.

She led all the scorers with 15 points, followed by Cosiris Rodriguez (13), Kenia Moreta (12), Milagros Cabral (11) and Annerys Vargas (9).

"It was a good fight, both teams played very hard and at the end the team that made less mistakes came out the winner," said Lorne Sawula, the Canadian coach.

Sarah Pavan and Amy Tutt both scored 14 points to share the lead for the Canadians.

"We have to win the next two matches against Mexico and Puerto Rico in order to keep our chances alive, and I am confident that we are going to be in the semifinals," he added.