

USA against Mexico for U19 Pan Am title and a Central American team will qualify to Worlds

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, May 27, 2022. - The United States will face Mexico in the title match of the fourth edition of the Boys' U19 Pan Am Cup and a Central American team, Costa Rica or Guatemala will qualify to the 2023 FIVB World Championship, all happening on Saturday.

The United States reached the gold medal match defeating Chile 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-20) in the first semifinal and Mexico won their semifinal to Puerto Rico in five dramatic sets 3-2 (25-19, 25-19, 20-25, 18-25, 17-15).

Costa Rica and Guatemala beat Dominican Republic and Honduras respectively and will engage in a Central American classic for the last berth towards the FIVB World Championship.

Costa Rica 3, Dominican Republic 1

Costa Rica will play for the last berth to the 2023 FIVB U19 World Championship after beating Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-15, 25-13, 25-27, 25-19). Costa Rica held comfortable advantages in the first and second sets, but recovered from a four-point deficit (14-18) in the third set reaching 24 all but Dominican Republic extended the match to a fourth and final set. Costa Rica progressed to play for fifth place of the event with a 48-36 advantage in kills, an 8-2 in serves and committing 32 unforced errors. Dominican Republic held a 4-2 margin in blocks and committed 42 errors. Outside hitter Stanley Grant led Costa Rica with 24 points from 19 kills and five aces; middle blocker David Cordoba and outside hitter Kevin Parra added 11 points apiece. Opposite hitter Franklyn De Jesus Reyes scored 23 points as Dominican Republic 's leading scorer, on 22 kills and one ace.

Guatemala 3, Honduras 0

Guatemala defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-13, 26-24, 25-15) to play for the fifth place of the fourth edition of the Boys U19 Pan Am Cup against Costa Rica and the last berth to the 2023 FIVB World Championship. A Central American team will be the fourth NORCECA representative to go to Worlds; USA and Puerto Rico qualified in pool-play and Mexico won their quarterfinal match.

Guatemala and Costa Rica will play Saturday at 2:00 pm (local time). Honduras goes up against Dominican Republic for seventh place. Guatemala overwhelmed Honduras with a 30-19 advantage in attacks; they also led 9-3 in blocks and 4-2 in serves, while committing fewer errors (28-33).

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Opposite hitter Ferdinando Gonzalez topped Guatemala with 10 points, followed by outside hitter Jesus Hernandez with 9 points and middle blocker Marco Motta with 7 points including a match-high of 4 blocks. Honduras leading scorer was outside hitter Leonardo Villegas with 9 points.

United States 3, Chile 0

The United States reached the U19 Pan American Cup Gold Medal Match defeating Chile 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-20). The United States will play the title match against the winner between Puerto Rico and Mexico on Saturday at 6:00pm (local time).

This was the second time the U.S. beat Chile in the event, they met in poolplay with a 3-0 (26-24, 25-16, 25-11) victory. The U.S. beat Chile with a huge 36-16 margin in attacks, a 9-6 advantage in blocks and an 8-0 in serves.

Chile allowed fewer points (22-34) from unforced errors than the United States. Outside hitter Sean Kelly led the American team with a match-high of 21 points on 16 kills and a match-high of 5 blocks. Outside hitter Sterling Foley contributed with 11 points on 6 kills and a match-high of 5 aces.

Mexico 3, Puerto Rico 2

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Mexico won their semifinal to Puerto Rico in five dramatic sets 3-2 (25-19, 25-19, 20-25, 18-25, 17-15). Mexico will face the U.S. in the gold medal match.

This is Mexico's third consecutive title match in the history of the U19 Pan Am Cup; they won in 2017 to Chile and lost in the past edition to Cuba. Puerto Rico's remarkable performance recovering from a two-set deficit was a dramatic closing for the fifth day of competition. Both teams missed one match point before Mexico's semifinal victory.

Mexico led by a slim 53-51 margin in attacks and 17-14 in blocks, while Puerto Rico did better in serves with a 9-4 advantage. Mexico's opposite player Julio Cesar Serrano scored a tournament-high of 28 points, on 20 kills, a match-high of 6 blocks and 2 aces; outside hitter Ines Antonio Vargas collected 20 points, on 19 kills and one block, and outside hitter Victor Miranda added 10 points.

On Puerto Rico's side, outside hitter Victor Torres topped with 22 points, on 19 attacks, 2 blocks and one ace, middle blocker Ramon Rosado contributed with 16 points, on 12 kills, 2 blocks and 2 aces, and outside hitter Diego Lopez added 12 points, on 10 kills and 2 blocks.

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