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Cuba keeps unbeaten record at NORCECA Final Six Pan Am Cup

TEPIC, Nayarit, Mexico, July 13, 2022.- After three days of competition, Cuba kept their unbeaten at the Men's NORCECA Final Six Pan American Cup at the Amado Nervo Auditorium of Tepic, Nayarit.

With two days left of the preliminary round, Cuba leads the event 3-0 after beating Canada 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 25-21). The United States and Mexico earned their first victory; the U.S beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 27-25) and Mexico came back to down Dominican Republic 3-1 (21-25, 25-12, 25-23, 25-21).

On Thursday Canada (2-1) faces Dominican Republic (0-3), Cuba (3-0) goes against Puerto Rico (2-1) and Mexico will play the United States, both with 1-2 record.



United States 3, Puerto Rico 0

United States beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 27-25) for their first win. The U.S. were challenged by Puerto in the final set, missing four match points before celebrating the first tournament win and serving Puerto Rico their first loss. The United States

improved their record 1-2 and Puerto Rico dropped to 2-1. United States' advantage in blocking (9-1) and in serves (5-0) definitely worked to overcome Puerto Rico who came from winning to exhausting five-setters entering day three of the event. The Americans also held a slim 38-37



margin in kills. Puerto Rico committed one less error (25-26) than the U.S. Outside hitter Kyle McCauley of the United States led all scorers with 13 points on 7 kills, 5 blocks and one ace, followed by middle blockers Nyerovwame Omene and Merrick Mchenry who tallied 11 and 10 points respectively. Puerto Rico's top scorer was outside hitter Pelegrin Vargas with 8 points.

Cuba 3, Canada 0

Cuba kept their undefeated record after beating Canada 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 25-21). Cuba is the only team of the competition that remains undefeated with a solid 3-0 record, with two days left of the preliminary round. Canada stands with a 2-1 win-loss record. Cuba dominated all the categories with 34-27 margin in attacks, 4-2 in blocks and 6-2 in aces. Cuba finished with 25 unforced errors and Canada committed 31. Two Cuban players were the only players that scored double-digits; outside hitter Osniel Mergarejo with 12 points all from kills and outside hitter and team captain Miguel Angel Lopez collected 10 points from 7 kills, one block and two aces. Middle blockers Fynnian McCarthy and Jordan Schnitzer led Canada with 9 and 6 points accordingly.



México 3, Dominican Republic 1

Mexico came back to down Dominican Republic 3-1 (21-25, 25-12, 25-23, 25-21) in their first victory. After falling in the first set, Mexico battled tough to even the scores and finish earning their tournament win to improve to a 1-2 record. Dominicans' strong effort recovering from a four-point deficit (8-12) in the fourth set wasn't enough and dropped to an 0-3 overall record. Mexico out blocked Dominican Republic with a 13-7 margin; they also outnumbered with a huge 8-1 advantage in aces and a 51-42 margin in attacks. Mexico had 31 scoring errors while Dominican Republic had 24. Opposite hitter Diego Gonzalez led Mexico with a match-high of 20 points on 17 kills, 2 blocks and one ace. Two other Mexican players scored double-digits, middle blocker Axel Tellez Rodriguez with 19 points on a match-high of 4 blocks and serves, and middle blocker Jonathan Martinez tallied 11 points.

Dominican outside hitter Wilfrido Hernandez topped with 15 points, opposite hitter Henry Tapia added 12 points and outside hitter Hector Cruz chipped in with 10 points.