



Puerto Rico, Cuba and Canada undefeated at NORCECA Final Six

TEPIC, Nayarit, Mexico, July 12, 2022.- Puerto Rico and Cuba in five-set thrilling wins, and Canada remain undefeated after two days of competition at the Men's NORCECA Final Six Pan American Cup being held in Tepic, Nayarit.

Puerto Rico won another five-set match defeating Dominican Republic 3-2 (25-20, 25-22, 32-34, 22-25, 15-12), Cuba with an exciting five-set win 3-2 (25-20, 28-26, 20-25, 23-25, 15-11) over the United States and Canada beat the Mexico 3-1 (33-31, 22-25, 25-19, 25-21)

On day three of the event, Puerto Rico (2-0) faces the United States (0-2), Canada (2-0) plays Cuba (2-0) and Mexico (0-2) goes up against the Dominican Republic (0-2).

The five-day round-robin preliminary ends on Friday, with the four best teams advancing into Saturday's semifinals.



Puerto Rico 3, Dominican Republic 2

Puerto Rico won another five-set match in their second victory defeating Dominican Republic 3-2 (25-20, 25-22, 32-34, 22-25, 15-12). Puerto Rico also beat Mexico in five sets on Monday to stand with a 2-0 record and Dominican Republic drops to 0-2. Dominican

Republic had a remarkable recovery coming from a two-set deficit and snatching the third set in an extended 34-32 while Puerto Rico lost 8 match points to close in three sets. Puerto Rico held a 72-68 advantage in attacks and a slim 13-12 margin in blocks, Dominicans did better in the service line

with a 6-4 advantage. Dominican Republic committed one less unforced error than Puerto Rico (24-25). Four players from each team scored double-digits. Puerto Rico with outside hitters Klistan Vidal (25), Pedro Molina (24), Peligrin Vargas (18) and middle blocker Angel Rivera (12). On Dominican Republic's side, outside hitter Henry López (20), opposite hitter Henry Tapia (18), outside hitter Hector Cruz (12) and middle blocker Felix Romero (10) who led in blocks with 6 points.

Cuba 3, United States 2

Cuba with an exciting five-set win 3-2 (25-20, 28-26, 20-25, 23-25, 15-11) over the United States to improve 2-0. The United States came back strong after falling in the first two sets to extend the action to a tie-break won by Cuba. Cuba led 63-47 in attacks and 5-3 in aces. United States held a comfortable 14-8 margin in blocks. Cuba scored on 35 points from U.S. errors but handed out 43.

Opposite hitter Jesus Herrera of Cuba scored a match-high of 20 points on 18 kills and two blocks, outside hitter and team captain Miguel Angel Lopez followed with 19 points on 18 kills and once ace, and middle blocker Roamy Alonso contributed with 13 points. Opposite hitter Francesco Sani topped the United States with 17 points on 15 kills and two aces, outside hitter Kyle McCauley contributed with 15 points on 11 kills, three blocks and one ace; middle blocker Nyerovwome Omene and outside hitter Brett Wildman added 11 and 10 points respectively. On Wednesday Cuba will meet Canada and United States plays Puerto Rico.



Canada 3, Mexico 1

Canada beat the Mexico 3-1 (33-31, 22-25, 25-19, 25-21) in their second tournament victory. Canada improved their record 2-0 leading their win over Mexico with a 58-42 margin in kills and a one-point margin (7-6) in aces. Mexico held a slim 7-6 in blocks to drop to an 0-2 record. Canada committed 41 unforced errors and the host a total of 34. The first set was a party of points with both teams losing several set points to a thrilling 33-31 finish for Canada. In the third set, outside hitter Jesse Elser of Canada, suffered an ankle injury as he fell defending over the net. Outside hitter Brandon Koppers led Canada's scorers with 19 points on 15 kills, 3 blocks and one ace, followed by opposite hitter Jordan Canham with 13 points and outside hitter Logan House with 13 points all on kills. Two Mexican players scored double-figures; opposite player Diego Gonzalez with 18 points on 14 kills, 3 blocks and one ace, and middle blocker Axel Tellez scoring 11 points on 5 kills, 3 blocks and 3 aces.