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# Newsletter

## NORCECA Boys U19 Pan Am Cup opens in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 13, 2023.- The NORCECA Boys U19 Pan American Cup opened in Guatemala with victories from United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico and host Guatemala.

All participating teams are qualified and eligible to participate in the NORCECA U19 Continental Championship 2024, the qualifying event to the FIVB U19 World Championship.

In pool A, United States started with a straight set win 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-22) over Belize and Mexico won the battle to Costa Rica 3-0 (25-23, 25-20, 25-16).

In pool B, Puerto Rico recovered from falling in the first set to beat Nicaragua 3-1 (21-25, 25-19, 25-16, 25-20) and Guatemala opened with a strong 3-0 (25-19, 25-8, 25-14) victory over Suriname.

Day two of the event, opens with Puerto Rico (1-0) against Suriname (0-1), followed by the United States (1-0) facing Mexico (1-0), and then two Central American duels with Costa Rica (1-0) vs. Belize (0-1) and Guatemala (1-0) vs. Nicaragua (1-0).

### United States 3, Belize 0

United States started with a straight set win 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-22) over Belize. The U.S. recovered from a three-point deficit (11-14) in set two and struggled to get back on track in the third after Belize pushed harder getting into a better rhythm of play. United States led by a huge 33-10 margin in attacks and 10-3 in serves; Belize held a slim 6-5 margin in blocks, while committing fewer errors (27-35). Opposite hitter Finn Kearney of United States led all scorers with 13 points on 11 kills, one block and one ace; followed by outside hitter



Sean Kelly with 10 points on 7 kills, two blocks and one ace. Outside hitter Eleazar Mejía and opposite hitter Daniel Musa scored 6 and 5 points respectively for Belize.

### Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico won the battle to Costa Rica 3-0 (25-23, 25-20, 25-16). Costa Rica surprised Mexico in the opening, evening the score on several occasions up to point 23, but a service error gave Mexico the advantage to take the win and control the rest of the game, earning their first win in pool A.

Mexico led in every skill, 37-28 (attacks), 9-7 (blocks) and 3-0 (serves); and committed fewer unforced errors (24-26). Outside hitter Antonio Vargas and opposite hitter Julio Cesar Serrano led Mexico attackers; Vargas with 17 points on 12 kills, 2 blocks and 3 aces; and Serrano with 14 on 12 kills and two blocks. Two players also led Costa Rica's offense, outside hitter Stanley Grant with 15 points on 14 kills and one block, while opposite hitter Yulius Brown added 10 points on 9 kills and one block.

### Puerto Rico 3, Nicaragua 1

Puerto Rico recovered from falling in the first set to beat Nicaragua 3-1 (21-25, 25-19, 25-16, 25-20). Nicaragua had a remarkable first set, taking Puerto Rico off balance, forcing the match to go to overtime. Puerto Rico gained confidence ending with a 51-43 advantage in attacks, 10-4 in blocks and 5-2 in serving points. Both teams committed a similar number of errors, Nicaragua committed one less error (30-31). Three players led Puerto Rico scorers, starting with opposite hitter Dylan Velásquez with a match-high of 20 points (17 kills, 3 blocks). Outside hitter Franco Roark added 17 points (11 kills, 2 blocks, 4 aces) and outside hitter Victor Torres contributed with 14 points (12 kills, 2 blocks). Outside hitter Evans Solis scored 15 points all on kills, the only player with double figures from Nicaragua.

### Guatemala 3, Suriname 0

Host Guatemala opened with a strong 3-0 (25-19, 25-8, 25-14) victory over Suriname. Guatemala had no complications in their tournament debut in pool B, especially in set two, leaving Suriname with little opportunities to respond. The home team led by a 27-21 margin in attacks, 6-3 in blocks and a huge 10-0 advantage in serves. Guatemala benefited from 32 opponent errors against 17 on their side. Middle blocker Sergio Paz led Guatemala with 13 points on 9 kills, two blocks and two aces while opposite hitter Meson Anakaba led Suriname with 12 points on 11 kills and one block.

Go beyond your limits!



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