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Newsletter

United States and Puerto Rico earn tickets to semifinals



GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 15, 2023.- United States and Puerto Rico earned a ticket to the semifinals at the NORCECA Boys U19 Pan American Cup winning their respective pools.

Both teams finished with 3-0 record, United States defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-17) in pool A and Puerto Rico won pool B beating Guatemala 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-16) who took second place.

In other matches, Mexico defeated Belize 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-15) and Nicaragua beat Suriname 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-22).

In Friday's quarterfinal round, Mexico faces Nicaragua and Guatemala goes up against Costa Rica.

United States 3, Costa Rica 0

United States earned a ticket into semifinals winning pool A after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-17) at the NORCECA Boys U19 Pan American Cup on Wednesday in Guatemala City.

United States topped pool A undefeated (3-0) to play in Friday's semifinals. Costa Rica finishes (1-2) and waits for the result between Mexico and Belize to learn their final pool A position. The Americans had the opportunity to use new players on the court, finishing with a huge 46-23 margin in kills, 8-1 in blocks and 6-0 in aces. They scored on 31 opponent errors against 15 of their own. Outside hitter Victor Loiola led the U.S. with 15 points on 13 kills, one block and one ace. Also contributing to the win were opposite hitter Marek Turner and Joshua Aruya with 10 points each. On Costa Rica side, outside hitter Stanley Grant led with 11 points all on kills.

Mexico 3, Belize 0

Mexico defeated Belize 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-15) and finished second in pool A. Mexico finished pool-play with a 2-1 win-loss record and will play in Thursday's quarterfinals. Belize ends with 0-3 and will play for positions 5-8. Mexico prevailed over Belize with a 26-20 advantage in attacks, 10-4 in blocks and 6-1 in aces. In errors, Mexico committed 17 against 33 from Belize. Opposite hitter Julio Serrano topped Mexico attackers with 10 points on 6 kills and 4 blocks, followed by middle blocker Diego Hernández and outside hitter Brandon Ramírez with 8 and 6 points respectively. Outside hitter Eleazar Mejía of Belize led all scorers with 15 points on 14 kills and one block.

Nicaragua 3, Suriname 0

Nicaragua finished third in pool B beating Suriname 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-22) and will face Mexico in quarterfinals. Nicaragua with 1-2 record in pool B finished third to move into the quarterfinal round to face Mexico that finished second in pool A. Suriname ended the preliminary round 0-3 and will play for positions 5-8. Nicaragua controlled the attacks with a 36-31 margin and Suriname held a slim 8-7 advantage in blocks. Both teams scored one ace. Nicaragua committed 22 errors and Suriname a total of 31. Opposite hitter Victor Bermudez and outside hitter Evans Solis led Nicaragua with 14 points each; Bermudez on 12 kills and two blocks, Evans on 13 kills and one block. Outside hitter Anfernee Lee led Suriname scoring 12 points on 11 kills and one block, joined by opposite hitter Meson Anakaba who tallied 11 points on 9 kills and two blocks.

Puerto Rico 3, Guatemala 0

Puerto Rico won a semifinal spot at the NORCECA U19 Pan American Cup beating Guatemala 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-16). Puerto Rico topped pool B 3-0 reaching Friday's semifinals, while the host Guatemala finished second 2-1 and will face Costa Rica in the quarterfinal round on Thursday. Puerto Rico blocked Guatemala the entire match by a huge 12-4 margin, they also led 34-24 in kills and 3-1 in aces. Both committed a similar number of errors, Puerto Rico 24, and Guatemala 26. Opposite hitter Dylan Velazquez led Puerto Rico with 16 points on 13 kills and 3 blocks, followed by outside hitter Victor Torres with 11 points and outside hitter Franco Roark chipped in with 7 points. Guatemala's leading scorer was middle blocker Sergio Paz with 8 points.