



United States and Mexico qualify to the FIVB World Championship

LA PAZ, Baja California, June 10, 2022.- The United States and Mexico qualified to the 2023 FIVB World Championship as the top two NORCECA finishers at the Women's U21 Pan American Cup with Argentina and Chile winning in quarterfinals.

Argentina dominated Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-13) and Chile outplayed Cuba in a dramatic finish 3-0 (26-24, 25-22, 27-25) to move into the semifinals of the event. United States and Chile will clash in the first semifinal, while host Mexico and Argentina meet in the other semifinal.

Dominican Republic 3, Costa Rica 0

Dominican Republic beat Costa Rica in straight sets 3-0 (25-11, 25-15, 25-18) in a classification match for positions 7-10. Dominican Republic will play for seventh place in the tournament against the winner between Canada and Honduras, while Costa Rica plays the loser for ninth place. The Caribbean team had some complications in the third set but quickly came out to win their first match of the event prevailing over Costa Rica with 36-21 margin in attacks, a slim 5-4 margin in blocks and a comfortable 12-3 advantage in serves. Three Dominicans scored double-figures, led by setter Ariana Rodriguez with 14 points on 9 kills, one block and 4 aces, outside hitter Marcelly Perez scored 12 points on 10 kills and 2 aces, and middle blocker Alanae Margartha scored 12 points. Costa Rica's top scorer was opposite hitter Angelica Rodriguez with 6 points.

Canada 3, Honduras 0

Canada will face Dominican Republic for seventh place after defeating Honduras 3-0 (25-17, 25-15, 25-9) in a classification match for 7-10 places. On Saturday, Canada (2-2) goes up against Dominican Republic (1-2) who beat Costa Rica earlier. A Central American battle between Honduras (0-3) and Costa Rica (0-4) will decide ninth place. Honduras had some exciting digs mostly in the first and second sets, but nothing to get Canada out of their game system. Canada overwhelmed Honduras with a huge 35-10 margin in attacks and 18-3 in serves, they also did better in blocks 8-6. Canada committed more errors than Honduras (22-14). Outside hitter Maryn Boldon of Canada led all scorers

with 14 points on 7 kills, 3 blocks and 4 aces, followed by outside hitter Madyson Saris with 13 points on 10 kills and 3 aces, and opposite hitter Lucy Borowski contributed with 11 points on 8 kills and three points from serves. Outside hitter Genesis Oyuela scored 8 points from 6 kills and 2 aces for Honduras.

Argentina 3, Puerto Rico 0

Argentina dominated Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-13) to move into the semifinals. Argentina (3-1) will play against the host Mexico in Saturday's semifinals. Puerto Rico (1-2) will face the loser of the other quarter final match between Cuba and Chile. The tournament qualifies the two top teams of NORCECA to the 2023 FIVB World Championship. Argentina won their quarter final pushed by Puerto Rico only in the first set, then they went forward with no complications grabbing their semifinal spot. The South Americans held a huge 42-19 advantage in attacks and a comfortable 8-3 margin in both blocks and aces. Puerto Rico committed fewer errors (17-20) than Argentina. Opposite hitter Valentina Vaulet and middle blocker Avril Garcia scored 12 points apiece as Argentina's leading scorers. Vaulet with 10 kills and two aces, and Garcia with 7 kills and 5 blocks. Outside hitter Milena Margaria added 9 points. Outside hitter and team captain Valeria Flores led Puerto Rico with 8 points on 7 kills and one block, joined by outside hitter Grace Lopez with 6 points on 4 kills and 2 serves.

Chile 3, Cuba 0

Chile outplayed Cuba 3-0 (26-24, 25-22, 27-25) and will clash with the United States in the semifinals. With Chile's victory over Cuba, United States and Mexico won the two berths for the 2023 FIVB World Championship as the top two NORCECA finalists of the event. Chile will face the United States in one of the semifinals, while Argentina meets Mexico in the other semifinal. Cuba will play Puerto Rico for fifth place, a rematch of pool-play won by Cuba. In the third set, the South American team missed two match points in a dramatic finish before celebrating their win in straight sets. Chile had a spectacular night outplaying Cuba in serves 9-5 and committing fewer errors (15-24). Cuba led 45-40 in attacks and finished with a slim 6-5 margin in blocks. Outside hitter Florencia Giglio topped Chile with 15 points on 14 kills and one ace, Dominga Aylwin followed with 14 points on 10 kills, one block and three aces, while opposite hitter Petra Schwartzman tallied 10 points on 7 kills, one block and two aces. Opposite hitter Yalain De La Peña led Cuba with 15 points on 10 kills, 2 blocks and 3 aces, accompanied by setter Beatriz Lopez with 11 points on 10 kills and one block, and by Lisania Grafort with 10 points on 9 kills and one block.