

Canada and Cuba to play for the Pan Am Cup NORCECA Final Six Gold Medal



TEPIC, Nayarit, Mexico, July 16, 2022.- Canada and Cuba will play for the Men's Pan American NORCECA Final Six Gold after winning the semifinals at the Amado Nervo Auditorium of Tepic, Nayarit.

In semifinals, Canada beat the United States in exciting five sets 3-2 (25-21, 23-25, 25-21, 18-25, 15-9) and Cuba won over Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-16).

This is the second title match in a row for Canada, in last year's edition of the Pan Am Final Six they fell to Mexico. In the bronze medal match, United States will meet Puerto Rico.

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Mexico 3, Dominican Republic 1

Mexico finished fifth place at defeating Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-20, 21-25, 25-18, 26-24). Host Mexico ends the event with 2-4 record and the Dominican Republic with 0-6; Mexico also beat Dominican Republic in four sets in the

preliminary round. Mexico held a comfortable advantage of 55-49 in attacks and a 6-3 margin in serves. Dominicans finished with one point more in blocks (8-7). Mexico scored on 29 Dominican errors and handed out 27. Outside hitter Mauro Fuentes led Mexico's offense scoring 22 points on 19 kills, one block and two aces, followed by opposite hitter Luis Hernandez with 13 points from 12 kills and one block. Also scoring double-digits was outside hitter Josue Lopez and middle blocker Jonathan Martinez with 11 and 10 points respectively. Leading Dominican scorers was opposite hitter and team captain Henry Tapia with 22 points on 17 kills, 3 blocks and 2 aces, outside hitter Wilfredo Hernandez tallied 17 points on 14 kills, 2 blocks and one ace, and outside hitter Hector Cruz contributed with 14 points on 13 kills and one block.

Canada 3, United States 2

Canada beat the United States 3-2 (25-21, 23-25, 25-21, 18-25, 15-9) to play for the Men's Pan American Cup NORCECA Final Six title. This is the second title match in a row for Canada, in last year's edition of the Pan Am Final Six they won the silver medal falling to Mexico and the United States won the bronze over the Dominican Republic. Canada will face the winner of the other semifinal between Cuba and Puerto Rico. This was the second occasion in the event that Canada beat the United States, but in straight sets in their first outing. The roller coaster semifinal match was led by Canada on a 59-45 advantage in kills and 5-2 in serves. The U.S. led in blocks with a 10-6 margin and committed fewer errors than Canada (36-44). Opposite hitter Jordan Canham topped Canada with 19 points on 18 kills and one ace, while outside hitters Brandon Koppers and Logan House registered 18 and 10 points respectively. From the United States, opposite hitter Francesco Sani scored a match-high of 20 points on 19 kills and one ace, followed by outside hitter Brett Wildman with 11 points.

Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 0

Cuba won their semifinal match to Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-16). Cuba will face Canada who earlier defeated the United States in the other semifinal in five exciting sets. Puerto Rico will play for the bronze medal against the United States. Both matches happening on Sunday. Cuba came from a four-point deficit (14-18) in the first set, keeping Puerto Rico on the edge to get the lead. The next two sets Cuba's offense inhibited Puerto Rico to perform like they did in the beginning. Cuba controlled every element of the game, with a 39-25 advantage in kills, 8-7 in blocks and 7-4 in service points. Cuba committed one less error than Puerto Rico (20-21). Cuba's offense was topped by outside hitter Osniel Mergarejo with 13 points on 6 kills, 2 blocks and the most aces with 5 points. Opposite hitter Jesus Herrera scored 11 points on 10 kills and one ace, accompanied by outside hitter Julio Cardenas and middle blocker Simon Robertlandy who added 9 and 8 points respectively. Outside hitters Klistan Lawrence and Pedro Molina tallied 7 points each led Puerto Rico.