

# Canada and United States take an important step closer to semis

TEPIC, Nayarit, Mexico, July 14, 2022.- Canada and the United States took an important step closer to semifinals claiming victories over Dominican Republic and Mexico respectively on Thursday at the Men's Pan American Cup NORCECA Final Six in Tepic, Nayarit.

Canada's victory over Dominican Republic 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-20) and the United States win over Mexico 3-0 (25-18, 25-23, 25-19) were crucial. Canada improved 3-1 and will face Puerto Rico (2-2) in the last day of the preliminary round while the U.S. (2-2) plays against Dominican Republic (0-4).

Cuba scored their fourth victory in a row after defeating Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-17, 23-25, 25-20, 25-20), securing first place of the first phase with 4-0 record and plays Mexico (1-3) in their last round-robin performance.

## Canada 3, Dominican Republic 0



Canada improved their record 3-1 after defeating Dominican Republic 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-20). It was a crucial victory for Canada to being a step closer to the semifinals, while

as for Dominican Republic with 0-3 will play for fifth place in the event. Canada blanked Dominican Republic with an overwhelming 42-25 advantage in attacks and 10-2 in serves. Canada scored on 27 opponent errors and limited theirs to 17. Canadians also held a slim 7-6 margin in blocks. Outside hitter Brandon Koppers led Canada's scorers with 11 points on 9 kills, 2 blocks and aces, followed by also outside hitter Logan House and middle blocker Xander Ketrzynski scored 10 points apiece. Team captain, opposite hitter Henry Tapia, was the only Dominican player with double-digits, scoring 13 points on 11 kills and two blocks.

## Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 1



Cuba scored their fourth victory in a row after defeating Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-17, 23-25, 25-20, 25-20). Cuba with a 4-0 record will finish the preliminary round in first place even if they fall to Mexico on Friday.

Puerto Rico with a 2-2 record will end the first phase of the event against Canada (3-1).

Cuba held huge margins in attacks (52-38) and blocks (11-5), and a comfortable 7-3 advantage in serves. Puerto Rico committed fewer errors than Cuba (28-36).

Outside hitter Julio Cesar Cardenas was Cuba's leading scorer with 15 points, middle blocker Javier Concepcion and opposite hitter Jesus Herrera followed with 11 points each. Puerto Rican Klistan Lawrence scored a match-high of 19 points.

## United States 3, Mexico 0



The United States claimed an important victory over Mexico 3-0 (25-18, 25-23, 25-19) taking a step closer to semis. A 27-minute delay due to a power outage in the third set, didn't keep the

U.S. form improving their record 2-2; they will face Dominican Republic (0-4) in their final round-robin performance on Friday. Mexico dropped to 1-3 and will finish the preliminary round against Cuba (4-0).

The United States prevailed 38-28 in attacks and 5-2 in aces; Mexico was more effective in blocks by a slim 5-4 margin. The U.S. handed out 25 points from errors and scored on 25 from Mexico. Outside hitter Brett Wildman led the United States with 14 points on 11 kills, 2 blocks and one ace.

Middle blocker Nyerovwome Omene contributed with 8 points, while opposite hitter Francesco Sani and middle blocker Merrick McHenry added 7 points each. Opposite hitter Diego Gonzalez scored 11 points in Mexico's campaign, joined by outside hitters Josue Lopez and Mauro Fuentes who collected 9 points each.