

# Newsletter

## Colombia and Dominican Republic move directly into semifinals



HERMOSILLO, Mexico, August 25, 2022.- Colombia and Dominican Republic earned direct tickets into the 19<sup>th</sup> Women's Pan American Cup semifinals as top pool finishers at the Sonora Arena in Hermosillo.

Colombia with a solid 4-0 record topped pool B after beating Nicaragua 3-0 (25-8, 25-12, 25-12), while the Dominican Republic recovered from an 0-2 set-deficit winning pool A over the United States 3-2 (23-25, 24-26, 25-16, 25-22, 15-8).

Host Mexico outclassed Canada in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-21) to finish second in pool B and will face Puerto Rico in quarterfinals, who took third in pool A after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-12, 25-14, 25-12). Cuba, third in pool A, meets the U.S. in the other quarterfinal.

### **Puerto Rico 3, Costa Rica 0**

Puerto Rico defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-12, 25-14, 25-12) to advance to quarterfinals. Puerto Rico finished the preliminary round with a 2-2 win-loss record for third place in pool A, waiting for their opponent in the next round. Costa Rica will play classification matches for positions 7 to 10.

Puerto Rico outnumbered Costa Rica with a huge 41-17 advantage in attacks, 9-5 in blocks and 6-2 in aces, allowing 14 points from errors against 19. Outside hitter and team captain Pilar Victoria led Puerto Rico with 13 points on 10 kills, two blocks and one ace. Setter Wilmarie Rivera and opposite hitter Genesis Collazo tallied 10 and 9 points respectively. Opposite hitter Angelica Rodriguez topped Costa Rica with 11 points from 8 kills, two blocks and one ace.

### **Colombia 3, Nicaragua 0**

Colombia beat Nicaragua 3-0 (25-8, 25-12, 25-12) to top pool B and move directly into semifinals. Colombia with a solid 4-0 record in the preliminary round earned their semifinal spot of the competition. Nicaragua, fifth place of pool B will play classification matches for positions 7 to 10 starting with Costa Rica on Friday. The South Americans controlled the Central Americans in every skill of the game, attacks (37-22), blocks (14-2) and serves (12-0). In errors, Colombia committed 8 and Nicaragua 12. Middle blocker Melissa Rangel scored 12 points as Colombia's top scorer, from 9 kills, 2 blocks and one ace, joined by outside hitter Ana Karina Olaya with 11 points from 7 kills and a match-high of 4 aces; outside hitter Laura Grajales added 9 points. Opposite hitter Hellen Traña collected 11 points for Nicaragua, on 10 kills and one block.

### **Dominican Republic 3, United States 2**

Dominican Republic recovered from an 0-2 set-deficit winning pool A over the United States 3-2 (23-25, 24-26, 25-16, 25-22, 15-8) and heading into semifinals. The U.S. battled strong to win the first two sets, by close scores and

missing one set point before grabbing the second. Dominicans' reaction helped them jump to a comfortable four-point advantage in mid third set (14-10) and finished strong with a seven-point lead. The Dominican Republic forced the tie-break in a tough close fourth set, only to come out and dominate the fifth and final set. Dominican Republic concludes pool-play undefeated (4-0) for their semifinal ticket and the U.S. second in pool A will play in quarterfinals, waiting for the result between Mexico and Canada. Dominicans scored on 37 opponent errors against 12, while the United States led in attacks (67-62), blocks (14-11) and aces (4-2). Opposite hitter Gaila Gonzalez of Dominican Republic scored a tournament-high so far of 27 points on 24 kills, two blocks and one ace. Outside hitters Yonkaira Peña and Bethania De La Cruz added 17 and 14 points respectively. Outside hitter Danielle Drews led the United States with 24 points from 23 kills and one ace, Avery Skinner contributed with 21 points and opposite hitter Nia Reed registered 15 points, including a match-high of 5 blocks.

### **Mexico 3, Canada 0**

Host Mexico outclassed Canada in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-21) to finish second in pool B. Mexico, with an 3-1 overall record in the preliminary round, will face Puerto Rico in quarterfinals; Cuba, third place (2-2) goes up against the U.S. in the other quarterfinal match. Canada will play for classification matches for positions 7 to 10 starting against Peru. Mexico led in attacks 35-30 and committed 16 errors against 32. Canada led by a huge 10-4 advantage in serves and a slim 5-4 margin in blocks. Outside hitter Samantha Bricio once again led Mexico on a match-high of 12 points on 10 kills and two aces and Aime Topete tallied 11 points on 8 kills, two blocks and one ace. Middle blocker Karina Flores contributed with 8 points. Canadian opposite hitter Sydney Grills scored 10 points from 6 kills and four aces, while outside hitter and team captain Melissa Langegger chipped in with 8 points.

