

# Newsletter



## United States and Mexico advance to semifinals

HERMOSILLO, Mexico, August 26, 2022.- The United States and Mexico advanced into the semifinals of the 19<sup>th</sup> Women's Pan American Cup winning their quarterfinal matches in dramatic five sets on Friday night at the Sonora Arena of Hermosillo.

The U.S. will face Colombia and host Mexico meets the Dominican Republic in the semifinals.

The United States beat Cuba 3-2 (27-29, 22-25, 25-22, 25-16, 19-17) in a comeback win and Mexico won a dramatic five setter over Puerto Rico 3-2 (25-17, 25-19, 18-25, 20-25, 15-12).

### Costa Rica 3, Nicaragua 2

Costa Rica bounced back from an 0-2 set-deficit to beat Nicaragua 3-2 (19-25, 20-25, 25-14, 25-22, 15-13). Costa Rica will play for seventh place against the winner between Canada and Peru, while Nicaragua plays the loser for ninth place. Costa Rica had a formidable comeback after falling in two closed sets and taking control of the third set jumping to an early eight-point lead (10-2); still they had difficulties overcoming Nicaragua missing two set-points in the third, three in the fourth set and coming from behind (8-10) in the fifth. Costa prevailed 69-57 in attacks, 11-7 in blocks and 4-3 in aces. Nicaragua committed fewer errors (20-32). Opposite hitter Angelica Rodriguez of Costa Rica led all scorers with 23 points on 20 kills, two blocks and one ace, followed by outside hitter Tamara Espinoza with 21 points and middle blocker Lakysa Thompson added 17 points including a match-high of 4 blocks. Three players scored double-figures for Nicaragua, outside hitter and team captain of Nicaragua Ericka Calero with 15 points, middle blocker Brittany Forbes with 14 points and opposite hitter Hellen Traña with 12 points.

### Peru 3, Canada 0

Peru defeated Canada 3-0 (25-22, 25-22, 25-18) to play for seventh place. Peru will play for seventh place against Costa Rica and Canada goes head-to-head against Nicaragua for ninth place. After two battled sets, Peru finally found their way to force their game strategy and rhythm of play, leading 46-29 in attacks and scoring on 25 opponent errors against 20. Canada was better in blocks 10-3 and in aces 3-1. Outside hitter Karla Ortiz topped Peru's attackers, with 13 points on 9 kills, three blocks and one ace, accompanied by middle blocker Ginna Lopez and outside hitter Ysabella Sanchez with 10 points apiece (all from kills). Middle blocker Avery Heppell led Canada with 10 points on 6 kills and a match-high of 4 blocks, outside hitter Melissa Langerger and middle blocker Allyssah Fitterer followed with 9 and 8 points respectively.

### United States 3, Cuba 2

The United States beat Cuba 3-2 (27-29, 22-25, 25-22, 25-16, 19-17) in a comeback win to claim a semifinal spot. The U.S. will play in semifinals to either Colombia or Dominican Republic depending on the result of the other semifinal between Mexico and Puerto Rico. The United States and Cuba challenged each

other the entire quarterfinal match, with the U.S. missing four-set points in the first set which only predicted the tough battle ahead. The U.S. reached a comfortable seven-point lead (11-4) in the third set with Cuba catching up to even the score to seventeen points. The Americans won the fourth with a comfortable margin, and then captured a thrilling fifth set after Cuba let it slip away, losing two match-points and later the U.S. missing three. The United States led 64-62 in attacks and scored from 36 Cuban errors against 24. Cuba did better in blocking points 16-13. Outside hitter Avery Skinner scored 18 points as the U.S. leading scorer, from 14 kills, two blocks and two aces. Middle blocker Rhamat Alhassan contributed with 16 points, including 6 stuff blocks; and opposite Stephanie Samedy tallied 14 points. Cuban Greisy Fine was the top attacker of the match with 20 points on 16 kills, three blocks and one ace, joined by outside hitter Claudia Tarin collected 19 points and outside hitter Ailama Cese added 11 points. Middle blocker Dayana Martinez topped in blocks with 7 points.

### Mexico 3, Puerto Rico 2

Mexico won a dramatic quarterfinal five setter over Puerto Rico 3-2 (25-17, 25-19, 18-25, 20-25, 15-12) to advance into semifinals. Host Mexico will face the Dominican Republic in semifinals and Puerto Rico will play for fifth place against Cuba. In the other semifinal, the United States goes up against Colombia. Puerto Rico's big comeback in the third set took Mexico by surprise, struggling to get back on track only to extend the match to a decisive fifth set. Mexico overcame Puerto Rico with a consistent 67-49 advantage in attacks and a 4-3 margin in aces. Puerto Rico controlled 13-7 from blocking points and committed fewer errors (25-33). Middle blocker Jocelyn Urias topped Mexico with 20 points on 16 kills, three blocks and one ace. Also contributing to Mexico's victory were outside hitters Aime Topete and Samantha Bricio with 18 and 13 points respectively. Opposite Genesis Collazo led Puerto Rico's attackers with 20 points on 16 kills and 4 blocks, followed by outside hitters Genesis Miranda and Pilar Victoria with 17 and 15 points respectively.