



# USA claims Gold and Merritt Beason MVP at Women's U21 Pan American Cup

LA PAZ, Baja California, June 12, 2022.- United States claimed the gold medal of the sixth edition of the Women's U21 Pan American Cup over Argentina 3-1 (25-20, 21-25, 25-22, 25-14) and Merritt Beason selected MVP at La Paz Arena in Baja California Sur.

United States finished undefeated with a 5-0 record. This is the second title for the United States in the history of the event, also beating Argentina in the 2017 edition. Argentina ended with a 4-2 record (both losses to USA), winning their third silver medal (2015, 2017).

Mexico downed Chile 3-0 (26-24, 25-11, 25-19) to win the bronze medal. The hosts finished third place with a 3-2 record; this is their second medal in the history of the event, they reached the podium winning gold in 2013.

Opposite hitter Merritt Beason of the U.S. selected the Most Valuable player of the tournament, along with other individual awards: **1<sup>st</sup> Best Spiker** Chloe Chicoine (USA), **2<sup>nd</sup> Best Spiker/Server** Madyson Saris (CAN), **1<sup>st</sup> Best Blocker** Avril Garcia (ARG), **2<sup>nd</sup> Best Blocker** Marcelle Baez (PUR), **Best Setter** Regina Perez (MEX), **Best Opposite/Scorer** Valentina Vaulet (ARG), **Best Libero/Receiver/Digger** Cassandra Simental (MEX).

## Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 2

Cuba finished the Women's U21 Pan American Cup in fifth place beating Puerto Rico 3-2 (17-25, 25-15, 25-13, 18-25, 15-11). Cuba concluded the event with a 3-1 record and Puerto Rico with 1-3 for fifth and sixth position. Cuba also beat Puerto Rico in pool-play but in four sets. The Cuban team prevailed 60-56 in attacks, 8-7 in blocks and 6-4 in serves. Cuba committed 22 unforced errors and Puerto Rico 26. Cuban Outside hitter Hhitney James scored a match-high of 26 points on 22 kills, 2 blocks and 2 aces, followed by outside hitter Claudia Tarin and middle blocker Lisania Grafort with 15 and 14 points respectively. Outside hitter and team captain Valeria Flores led Puerto Rico with 21 points on 20 kills and one block, joined by middle blocker Mileidy Paret with 20 points on 16 kills, one block and 3 aces; and middle blocker Marcelle Baez added 10 points.

## Bronze Medal Mexico 3, Chile 0

Mexico downed Chile 3-0 (26-24, 25-11, 25-19) to win the bronze medal. Mexico snatched the first set from Chile, recovering from a four-point deficit 20-24 in a dramatic 26-24 finish and onward to dominate the next two sets. Mexico also beat Chile with a sweep in pool-play. Besides winning bronze, Mexico qualified to the 2023 FIVB World Championship. The hosts finished third place with a 3-2 record; this is their second medal in the history of the event, they reached the podium winning gold in 2013. Chile in fourth place ends with 2-3 record. Mexico held a 44-33 advantage in attacks and an overwhelming 10-2 margin in serves; both teams scored 6 points from blocks. Mexico limited their errors to 13 and scored on 16 points from Chilean errors. Mexican team captain Aime Topete scored a match-high of 23 points on 19 kills, one block and three aces. The other player with double-figures was opposite hitter Katherine Cruz with 11 points on 7 kills, two points on blocks and two on serves. Opposite hitter Petra Schwarzman led Chile with 15 points on 13 kills and two blocks.



## Gold Medal United States 3, Argentina 1

United States claimed the gold medal over Argentina 3-1 (25-20, 21-25, 25-22, 25-14). United States finished undefeated with a 5-0 record. This is the second title for the United States in the history of the event, also beating Argentina in the 2017 edition. United States also qualified to the 2023 FIVB World Championship as one of the two top finishers from NORCECA. Argentina ended with a 4-2 record (both losses to USA), winning their third silver medal (2015, 2017). United States led 53-42 in attacks while Argentina held advantages in blocks (12-9) and points from serves (6-5). United States committed 21 errors and Argentina 30. Opposite hitter Merritt Beason topped the U.S. scorers with 17 points on 14 kills and three blocks, joined by middle blockers Rebekah Allick and Breanna Kelley with 14 and 10 points respectively. Argentina's leading attacker was outside hitter Milena Margaria with 17 points and opposite hitter Valentina Vaulet added 13 points.