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Newsletter

Grace Lopez scores 26 points in Puerto Rico's victory over Dominican Republic



States had no difficulties in beating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-12) to lead pool A.

In the last day of the preliminary round, United States (2-0) and Mexico (2-0) will battle for first place in pool A and a direct ticket into Saturday's semifinals, and Costa Rica (0-2) faces U.S. Virgin Islands (0-2) to move into quarterfinals.

In pool B, Dominican Republic meets with Canada, both 1-1 and the host Puerto Rico (2-0) closes against Honduras (0-2).

United States 3, Costa Rica 0

The United States beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-12) in their second strong win. United States is 2-0 and will close the preliminary round against Mexico for a direct ticket into Saturday's semifinals. Costa Rica goes against the U.S. Virgin Islands for a chance to advance into quarterfinals. The U.S. controlled the actions with their powerful serves 15-2 and a huge 30-11 advantage in attacks; they also led 7-4 in blocks. United States committed 21 unforced errors and Costa Rica a total of 28. Outside hitter Julia Blyashov scored seven points as the U.S. best scorer, followed by outside hitter Kaci Demaria and middle blocker Calissa Minatee with six points each. Opposite hitter Angélica Rodríguez led Costa Rica with five points and outside hitter Joselyn Moraga added four points.

Mexico 3, U.S. Virgin Islands

Mexico defeated the U.S. Virgin Islands 3-0 (25-15, 25-14, 25-17) in their second victory. On the last day of the preliminary round, Mexico (2-0) will face United States (2-0) for first place of pool A and to advance into semifinals. The U.S. Virgin Islands (0-2) plays against Costa Rica (0-2) to move into the quarterfinals. Mexico depended on their serves with a huge 12-3 advantage to come out on top; they also led 31-23 in kills and 5-4 in blocks. Mexico scored 27 points from opponent errors and handed out 19. Outside hitter Aime Topete led Mexico with 12 points on 10 kills, one block and one ace. Also contributing in Mexico's victory were middle blocker Arieth Marquez with 9 points and opposite hitter Luz Solano with 6 points. Outside hitter Anna Gillens of the U.S. Virgin Islands led all scorers with 15 points on 13 kills, one block and one ace.



Canada 3, Honduras 0

Canada scored their first win after defeating Honduras 3-0 (25-10, 25-7, 25-13). Canada will close the preliminary round on Thursday against the Dominican Republic to secure a spot in the quarterfinal round, and Honduras will face host Puerto Rico.

Canada overwhelmed Honduras with advantages in every skill, 34-2 in attacks, 15-1 in serves and 5-2 in blocks, but Honduras committed fewer errors (21-25). Outside hitter Mary Healy topped Canada's scorers with 9 points, team captain Taylor de Boer chipped in 8 points and middle blocker Ella Piskorz tallied 7. Middle blocker Natalia Aguilar scored two points for Honduras.

Puerto Rico 3, Dominican Republic 1

Opposite hitter Grace Lopez scored a tournament-high of 26 points in Puerto Rico's victory over Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-20, 19-25, 26-24, 25-12) to improve their record 2-0 in pool B. Grace Lopez ended the match scoring four aces in a row to finish with a match-high of 5 points in that category.

Grace was the only Puerto Rican with double figures.

Outside hitter Katielle Alonza was the best Dominican player with 18 points joined by opposite hitter Ariana Rodriguez with 10 points. Puerto Rico dominated with a 41-30 advantage in attacks and 16-10 in serves, while Dominican Republic held a 9-7 margin in blocks. Both committed a similar number of unforced errors, Puerto Rico (32) and Dominican Republic (31). Puerto Rico leads group B with a 2-0 win-loss record and will face Honduras to end the preliminary round and secure a direct ticket into Saturday's semifinals. Dominican Republic will meet Canada, both stand 1-1.