



Mayo - May- 2023 / Año - Year. 21 - No. 08



# Newsletter

## United States and Puerto Rico are the first semifinalists



JUANA DIAZ, Puerto Rico, May 11, 2023.- United States and Puerto Rico are the first semifinalists in the U19 Girls' NORCECA Pan American Cup taking place at Dolores Martinez Coliseum in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico.

On Thursday United States won first place in pool A to Mexico 3-0 (25-14, 25-11, 25-17) and Puerto Rico advanced as pool B winner after earning their third win against Honduras 3-0 (25-10, 25-12, 25-9). Semifinals will be played on Saturday.

In Friday's quarterfinal matches, Mexico against Canada who finished third in pool B, followed by the clash between Dominican Republic, second in pool B, against Costa Rica, third place in pool A.

### Costa Rica 3, U.S. Virgin Islands 0

Costa Rica moved into the quarterfinals of the U19 Girls' NORCECA Pan American Cup after defeating the U.S. Virgin Islands 3-0 (25-16, 25-13, 25-15). With the win, Costa Rica finished the preliminary round 1-2 for third place in pool A and advanced to tomorrow's quarterfinals. U.S. Virgin Islands 0-2 will play for positions 5 to 8. Costa Rica held a comfortable 30-17 lead in attacks, 5-3 in blocks and 8-2 on points from serves. The Central American team scored on 32 opponent errors and allowed 22. Angelica Rodriguez, team captain of Costa Rica, led all scorers with 17 points on 14 kills and three blocks. Also contributing to the win, outside hitter Joselyn Moraga collected 9 points. Anna Gillens once again was the U.S. Virgin Islands top scorer with 10 points on 9 kills and one block.

### United States 3, Mexico 0

United States claimed their place in the semifinals beating Mexico 3-0 (25-14, 25-11, 25-17). USA finished the preliminary round first place in pool A and undefeated (3-0), earning a direct ticket into the semifinals. Mexico 2-1 will play the quarterfinal round. The Americans kept control, scoring on a 32-19 margin in kills, a huge 15-2 advantage in blocks and 9-3 in serves. They committed one less error than Mexico (18-19). Outside hitter and team captain Julia Blyashov led the US with 12 points on 9 kills, one block and one ace. Middle blocker Calissa Minatee, playing the first and second sets, scored 9 points. On Mexico's side, middle blocker Arleth Marquez topped with six points.

### Dominican Republic 3, Canada 0

On a new tournament-high of 29 points, opposite hitter Ariana Rodriguez carried Dominican Republic over Canada 3-0 (25-17, 29-27, 25-14). Ariana's 29 points came from 15 kills, six blocks and eight impressive aces, where Dominicans missed two set points before a dramatic second set win. Outside hitter Katielle Alonzo added 11 points to the win. Mary Healy and Taylor De Boer led Canada with 11 points each; Healy on 9 kills, one block and one ace, and De Boer on 8 kills and 3 blocks. Dominicans prevailed on their powerful serves 14-5 and a comfortable 10-6 margin in blocks. The Caribbeans also led in attacks 33-24 and committed 23 unforced errors against 22. Dominican Republic (2-1) and Canada (1-2) both advance into the quarterfinal round to face Costa Rica and Mexico respectively.



### Puerto Rico 3, Honduras 0

Host Puerto Rico beat Honduras 3-0 (25-10, 25-12, 25-9) on Thursday to reach the semifinals undefeated. Puerto Rico finished the preliminary round 3-0 and first place in pool B to advance into Saturday's semifinals. Honduras 0-3 will play for positions 5 to 8.

The home girls were stronger outnumbering Honduras 36-8 in attacks, 16-2 in aces and 2-1 in blocks, committing 20 unforced errors against 21. Outside hitter Chareika Carrion of Puerto Rico was the only player with double digits, scoring 14 points on 8 kills and 6 aces. Outside hitter Destiny Skerrett and opposite hitter Gabriela Machin, both coming off the bench for the second and third sets, contributed with 9 points apiece. Outside hitter Monica Vasquez of Honduras scored four points.

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