

Newsletter



Cuba and Dominican Republic claim their spot in semifinals

NOGALES, Mexico, May 26, 2023.- Cuba and Dominican Republic claimed their spot in semifinals of the U21 Women's NORCECA Pan American Cup winning their quarterfinal matches on Friday in Nogales, Mexico.

Cuba made it into the semifinals with a dramatic 3-0 (25-20, 29-27, 31-29) win over Costa Rica in quarterfinals.

In Saturday's semifinals, Cuba will play against the United States and Dominican Republic faces host Mexico.

Cuba 3, Costa Rica 0

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Costa Rica battled hard in exciting three sets, in which the Central Americans blocked Cuba with power. Cuba recovered from a seven-point deficit (12-19) in the third set to a thrilling 31-29 win, the highest set of the tournament. Cuba led 48-38 in attacks, while Costa Rica mastered a 12-8 margin in blocks and 6-2 in serves. Cuba committed fewer unforced errors than Costa Rica (20-27). Outside hitters Thainalien Castillo and Hhitney James collected 14 points each in Cuba's victory; Castillo on 11 kills, two blocks and one ace, and James on 13 kills and one ace. Middle blocker Yensy Kindelan added 12 points on 10 kills and two blocks.

Costa Rica's team captain Angelica Rodriguez led all scorers with 17 points on 15 kills and two blocks. Middle blocker Nhya Barley tallied 10 points on 7 kills and 3 blocks, while outside hitter Joselyn Moraga contributed with 9 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 1

Dominican Republic claimed their spot in semifinals after beating Puerto Rico in four sets 3-1 (25-17, 28-26, 18-25, 25-19). Dominican Republic commanded the first set, but Puerto Rico recovered from a seven-point deficit (4-11) in the second set which set the intensity of the rest of the game that ended in four sets.

Dominicans used their blocking advantage (12-8) and scoring on 23 Puerto Rican errors to win; they also held a slim margin 7-6 in serves. Puerto Rico prevailed in attacks 57-54.

Dominican Ariana Rodriguez led all scorers with a tournament-high of 24 points, on 18 kills, three blocks and three aces. Outside hitters Elsa Cuevas and Katielle Alonzo also contributed to the win with 16 points apiece. Team captain Marcelle Baez led Puerto Rico with 18 points on 16 kills, one block and one ace, joined by opposite Grace Lopez with 17 points and middle Alana Guibert chipped in with 14 points.