



USA wins the U21 Women's Pan American Cup

NOGALES, Mexico, May 28, 2023.- The United States won the gold medal match of the U21 Women's NORCECA Pan American Cup defeating host Mexico 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-21) on Sunday night in Nogales, Mexico.

The United States won the gold medal match undefeated and without dropping a set. This is their second title in a row, third overall, they won the 2017 edition.

This is Mexico's third U21 Pan American medal, their first silver. Mexico won gold in the 2013 edition and the bronze medal last year.

Cuba downed Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-22, 25-20, 14-25, 26-24) to capture the Bronze Medal. This is the fourth occasion that Cuba has reached the podium, they won gold in 2019, and bronze in the 2011 and 2017 editions.

Guatemala 3, Belize 0

Guatemala finished seventh place after defeating Belize 3-0 (25-19, 25-11, 25-22). Guatemala held a 37-24 advantage in kills, 9-5 in blocks and 7-3 in aces. Guatemala committed 20 unforced errors and Belize committed 22. Opposite hitter Naomi Monney scored a match-high of 15 points for Guatemala, on 13 kills, one block and one ace. Outside hitter Maria Santa Cruz

contributed with 13 points on 11 kills and two blocks; middle blocker Ivana Sopegno added 8 points. Outside hitter Khaya Gordon led Belize with 11 points on 8 kills, one block and two aces. Opposite hitter Nisaan Martinez and outside hitter Gareth Bruce added 9 and 5 points respectively.

Puerto Rico 3, Costa Rica 0

Puerto Rico beat Costa Rica in straight sets (25-17, 25-21, 25-21) for the fifth place. Puerto Rico finished the event with a 3-3 win-loss record and Costa Rica 2-4. Puerto Rican opposite hitter Grace Lopez topped all scorers with 19 points on 17 kills, one block and one ace.

Outside hitter Elena Garcia produced 10 points on 7 kills, two blocks and one ace. Aurora Moctezuma also scored 10 points. Outside hitter Joselyn Moraga led Costa Rica with 13 points on 10 kills, one block and two aces. Team captain Angelica Rodriguez alongside middle blocker Nhya Barley chipped in with 8 and 6 points respectively.

Cuba 3, Dominican Republic 1

Cuba downed Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-22, 25-20, 14-25, 26-24) to capture the Bronze Medal. This is the fourth occasion that Cuba has reached the podium, they won gold in 2019, and bronze in the 2011 and 2017 editions.

Cuba ended the tournament with a 4-2 record and the Dominican Republic 3-3. Dominicans dominated the third set reaching a sizeable advantage (20-9) to extend the match to a vibrant fourth set won by Cuba after losing two match points (26-24). Cuba led only in attacks 50-48 while Dominican Republic held advantages in blocks (11-9) and aces (7-6).

Both teams committed 25 unforced errors. Outside hitter Claudia Tarin led Cuba's attackers with 16 points on 13 kills, two blocks and one ace. Opposite Lisania Grafort added 13 points on 12 kills, one block and one ace. Middle blocker Edisleidys Reyes contributed with 11 points on 4 kills, 3 blocks and 4 aces. Dominican Katielle Alonzo scored a match-high of 21 points on 19 kills, one block and one ace. Opposite Ariana Rodriguez scored 12 points on 8 kills, 3 blocks and one ace.

United States 3, Mexico 0

The United States won the gold medal match defeating host Mexico 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-21). The United States won the gold medal match undefeated and without dropping a set. This is their second title in a row, third overall, they won the 2017 edition. This is Mexico's third U21 Pan American medal, their first silver. Mexico won gold in the 2013 edition and the bronze medal last year. The Americans held a huge 46-27 advantage in kills, 13-4 in blocks and 6-3 in aces, while committing 10 unforced errors against 16 from Mexico. Cloe Chicoine led team USA with 19 points on 12 kills, a match-high of 5 blocks and two aces. The other American with double figures was opposite Devin Kahahawai who scored 14 points from 12 kills and two blocks. Aimé Topete was the leading scorer for Mexico with 8 points.