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Newsletter

Dominican Republic and Mexico to battle for the U23 Women's Pan American Cup title



HERMOSILLO, Mexico, July 22.- Dominican Republic and Mexico will battle for the title of the fifth edition of the U23 Women's Pan American Cup after winning in semifinals to Argentina and Peru respectively at the Sonora Arena in Hermosillo, México. In the first semifinal, four-time reigning champion Dominican Republic beat Argentina 3-1 (20-25, 25-18, 25-13, 25-19), followed by Mexico's semifinal victory after beating Peru 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-21), reaching their first-ever championship match in the history of the event.

Dominicans and Mexicans qualified to the 2025 Junior Pan American Games.

On Sunday, the competition kicks off with Honduras against Costa Rica for seventh place, followed by Canada battling Cuba for fifth place, and the medal matches with Argentina vs Peru for bronze and the Dominican Republic vs Mexico for gold.

Mexico 3, Peru 0

Mexico beat Peru in Saturday's semifinals 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-21) to reach their first-ever championship match and a ticket to the next Junior Pan American Games. Mexico will battle in Sunday's title match against four-time reigning champions Dominican Republic, who earlier prevailed in four sets over Argentina. Mexico also won a berth to the 2025 Junior Pan American Games. Peru will face Argentina in the bronze medal match. Despite of the close scores, Mexico held the advantage in all three sets, that had battled rallies. The crowd at the Sonora Arena cheered for their team enjoying their dominant force in every skill. Mexico edged Peru with 43-37 advantage in attacks, 6-3 in blocks and 5-2 in aces. The host scored 20 points on Peruvian errors and while giving up 17. Outside hitter Sofia Maldonado led all scorers with 19 points on 15 kills, three blocks and on ace point. Middle blocker Arleth Marquez followed with 11 points and outside hitter Alexandra Goris chipped in with 7 points. Aixa Vigil was the only player of Peru to score double digits, with 10 points on 9 kills and one ace. Opposite Maria Paula Rodriguez and team captain Alondra Alarcon produced 9 and 7 points respectively.

Dominican Republic 3, Argentina 1

Four-time champion Peru in Saturday's semifinals beat Argentina 3-1 (20-25, 25-18, 25-13, 25-19) in semifinals to move into their fifth U23 Women's Pan American Cup championship match in a row and qualified to the Junior Pan American Games. Dominicans have dominated the event since its inception and are seeking their fifth title. Dominican Republic earned a berth to the 2025 Junior Pan American Games as one of the top two ranked NORCECA teams of the event. In Sunday's gold medal match, Dominicans will face the winner of the semifinal between host Mexico and Peru, while the loser will play for the bronze medal against Argentina. Argentina controlled the actions of the first set, jumping to a comfortable 13-8 lead, scoring on several opponent errors, and dominating in blocks. The second set was balanced but Dominicans carried with the win and then they moved into the third set to an 8-0 point lead, their best set of the match. The fourth set was balanced up to an even 18, when Dominicans used their strength in attacks and block-defense for the victory. The defending champions led Argentina in attacks 51 to 46, in blocks 14 to 11. Both teams scored three points on serves. Dominicans scored 28 points on Argentina's errors while handing out 14 points from their own errors. Outside hitter Madeline Guillen led all scorers with 23 points on 21 kills and four blocks. Her teammate Flormarie added 21 points on 16 kills, four blocks and one ace. Middle blocker Florangel also contributed to the semifinal win with 10 points. Outside hitter Milena Margaria and middle blocker Avril Garcia led Argentina with 14 points each. Garcia scored a match-high of seven blocks. Outside hitter Nicole Perez collected 10 points.

Cuba 3, Costa Rica 0

Cuba beat Costa Rica in straight sets 3-0 (25-18, 25-21, 25-20) to play for fifth place against Canada. Sunday's fifth place between Cuba and Canada will be a rematch of the preliminary round of the tournament where Canada topped Cuba in four sets. Costa Rica and Honduras will play for seventh place, who also met in the preliminary round won by the Costa Rican squad. Cuba struggled to close all three sets. Cuba lost three set points before moving on top. In the second set, Costa Rica recovered from a seven-point deficit (12-23) edging Cuba up to a close 25-20 set finish for Cuba. Once again Costa Rica pressed hard in the final and third set but came off short. Cuba's serves were definitely a key element to beat Costa Rica, leading by a huge 11 to 3 advantage. The Caribbean team also led in attacks 38-34 and in blocks 9-5. Both teams scored on 17 opponent errors. Middle blocker Edisleidy Reyes led Cuba with 13 points on 11 attacks and two blocks. Opposite hitter Alejandra Gomez contributed with 12 points on 6 kills, two blocks and five impressive points on service aces. Costa Rican team captain Lkysha Thompson was the leading scorer of her team with 12 points, scoring on 10 attacks and two blocks.

Canada 3, Honduras 0

Canada defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-12) and will battle for the fifth place. Canada will face the winner between Cuba and Costa Rica on Sunday and the losers go up against Honduras will go for seventh. Canada outperformed Honduras in every skill, 46 to 15 in points from attacks, 5-3 in blocks and 7 to none in serves. Honduras committed fewer errors than Canada 17-20. Outside hitters Jane Austin and Raya Surinx led Canada's offense with 15 and 13 points respectively; Austin with 11 kills, two blocks and two aces, and Surinx all on kills. Middle blocker Kaylee Plouffe added 10 points on 9 kills and one ace. Rocío Duron was once again Honduras top scorer with 6 points.