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Newsletter

Dominicans remain U23 Women's Pan American Champions



HERMOSILLO, Mexico, July 23, 2023.- Dominican Republic remains the U23 Women's Pan American Champions winning the gold medal match to Mexico 3-1 (25-18, 23-25, 25-12, 26-24) on Sunday at the Sonora Arena in Hermosillo, Mexico.

This was the second consecutive time that Dominican Republic beat Mexico in the championship match of the event. Dominicans won first place undefeated (5-0), earning their sixth U23 Pan American Cup title and Mexico (4-1) won their second silver medal. Dominicans led in blocks by a huge 14 to 5 advantage, a comfortable 8 to 4 margin in points from serves and scored on 28 unforced opponent errors while giving up 14. Mexico did better in attacking points 51 to 49.

The dramatic match point came from Ariana Rodriguez, whose service dropped over the net.

Outside hitter Flormarie led Dominican Republic with 18 points (17 kills, one ace), followed by outside hitter Madeline Guillen who produced 16 points (14 kills, two blocks) and opposite hitter Alondra Tapia with 13 points (9 kills, three blocks, one ace).

Mexico's outside hitter Sofia Maldonado was the top scorer of the match with 21 points (20 kills, one ace) and opposite hitter Katherine Ramirez added 15 points (13 kills, one block, one ace).

Argentina won the bronze medal match after defeating Peru 3-1 (24-26, 25-19, 25-21, 25-21).

Argentina 3, Peru 1

Argentina defeated Peru 3-1 (24-26, 25-19, 25-21, 25-21) to win the Bronze Medal. Argentina ended the event in third place with 4-2 record and Peru in fourth with 3-3. This Argentina's second bronze medal in the history of the event, they finished third in 2012 and in 2016 they won the silver medal. Argentina recovered from losing the first set to win the second coming from a four-point deficit (15-19) to win the set 25-19 scoring 10 consecutive points. Peru trailed in the third 16-24 but came off short with Argentina finishing 25-21. Argentina won the fourth and final set 25-21. Argentina led 53-48 in attacking points. They held a slight 10-9 margin in blocks and finished with a comfortable 11-6 advantage in points from serves. Argentina committed 24 unforced errors and Peru 25. Middle blocker Avril Garcia of Argentina led all scorers with 24 points, on 17 attacks, five blocks and three aces. The other Argentinian player who scored double digits was outside hitter Milena Margaria who contributed with 13 points. Three players from Peru finished with double digits, led by opposite Maria Paula Rodriguez (17 points), team captain Alondra Alarcon (15 points) and outside hitter Aixa Vigil (12 points).

Canada 3, Cuba 0

Canada beat Cuba 3-0 (25-18, 25-9, 25-20) for fifth place. Canada ended the event with a 3-3 record for fifth place and Cuba with 1-4 record in sixth. Canada also beat Cuba in the preliminary round in four sets. Canada outperformed Cuba in every skill of the game, in attacks (33-22), in blocks (11-3) and points from serves (9-0). Both teams gave away 22 points from unforced errors. Canada's leading scorers were middle blockers Kaylee Plouffe and Jessica Andrews with 13 and 10 points respectively. Plouffe on 11 kills and two blocks and Andrews on 6 blocks and 4 aces. Opposite Lucy Borowski added 10 points on 6 kills, one block and three aces. Opposite hitter Claudia Tarin led Cuba with 7 points, and outside hitter Thainalien Castillo with 6 points.

Honduras 3, Costa Rica 2

Honduras finished seventh place at the U23 Women's Pan American Cup with a five-set win 3-2 (13-25, 25-18, 25-23, 19-25, 15-13) over Costa Rica. Honduras (1-4) previously lost to Costa Rica (1-5) in the preliminary round. Honduras led in blocks 11 to 8 and scored 35 points on opponent errors, giving up 28. Costa Rica held advantage in points from attacks 56-45 and in points from serves 12-6. Opposite Rocio Duron of Honduras. led all scorers with 27 points, producing 24 points on kills, two blocks and the final match point on an ace. Team captain, middle blocker Natalia Reyes and outside hitter Andrea Aceituno collected 13 points each; Reyes on 5 attacks, a match-high of 6 points on blocks and two aces, while Aceituno on 10 kills, two blocks and one ace. Costa Rican team captain, middle blocker Lakysa Thompson led her team with 17 points (12 kills, four blocks, one ace), followed by outside hitter Nicole Mata with 15 points (11 kills, two blocks, two aces) and middle blocker Melina Abarca with 12 points (9 kills, one block, two aces).