



MEN FINAL SIX
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Newsletter

Canada earns another win at the Final 6

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA. Sept 20, 2023: Canada is now 2-0 at the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six Cup, held September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar at the Edmonton Expo Centre.

Canada defeated the Dominican Republic 3-1 (21-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-22) in the evening match. Canada led in attack, 61 to 42 points, while blocking (11-11) and service points (2-2) were even. Dominican Republic capitalized on Canada's errors (21-16).

Dominican Adrián Figueroa Lantigua led all scoring with 16 points; Canada's Isaac Heslinga led his team with 16 points, follow by Isaiah Mamer with 15 on the score sheet.

The young Dominican Republic team is 0-2 so far in the tournament.

Isaac Heslinga, Team Captain of Canada: "The big thing coming in for us for figuring out our hand pass; we knew they are a big float serve team, so it took a bit to warm up to that. After we figured that out, I think we had the win... Consistency is important for us. We are still learning to work together and find our team dynamic. I feel we are coming together slowly, and I'm excited to see what we can do for the rest of the week."

Alexander Gutierrez, head coach of Dominican Republic: "Every match is a different story for us, but the most important thing is that today we played much better than yesterday. And we improved in all our actions. ...I think our organization is good and every match we will try to improve our performance. Losing, sometimes you win ... for us every match is a win as we improve and learn."



Cuba beats Puerto Rico on day 2 of round robin play

EDMONTON, CANADA. Sept. 20, 2023: Cuba defeated Puerto Rico in the second day of round-robin play at the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six, September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar (Expo Centre), in Edmonton, Canada. Puerto Rico fought hard to keep the contest going, but in the end it was Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 1 (25-22, 19-25, 26-24, 25-18).

Cuba led in attacking (59-41) and serves (5-3). Puerto Rico earned more blocking points (9-7) and Cuba made more errors (32-21) Cuban Alejandro González Rodríguez led all scoring with 26 points

(23 attacks, 1 block and 2 aces). Klistan Lawrence led Puerto Rico's effort with 17 points for the losing side. Cuba's record is 1-1, and Puerto Rico is 0-2.

Manuel Espinosa, head coach of Cuba: "Well in this match we were motivated. Our players were able to follow what we had discussed in our technical meeting and pull through."

I think Puerto Rico is not a lower-level team, it is a team that fights and battles for a victory, but we got the win this time. Congratulations to all of our players that have earned this win today."

Gerardo de Jesus Sanchez, head coach of Puerto Rico: "Well, we had great match, against a Cuban team that has the strength and height."

Our athletes are a little shorter in height but play volleyball well and this is what we use during the matches. We got a little desperate in the fourth set and that was the difference in there, we started really well but we were not able to keep the advantage."

USA captures its second win at the Final 6

EDMONTON, CANADA: Sept. 20, 2023. USA defeated Mexico 3-0 (25-19, 25-17, 25-19) at the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six, held September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar (Expo Centre), in Edmonton, Canada. USA attack was strong, gaining 43 points (compared with 29 for Mexico).

The U.S. also led in blocking 8-3 and service aces, 3-1. Errors were almost even, with (21-22) in favor of Mexico. Outside hitter Jordan Ewert led all scoring with 17 points for USA. Josué López Rios was top producer for Mexico with nine points.

USA is 2-0; Mexico is 1-1 on day 2 of the tournament.

Jorge Azair, head coach of Mexico: "Today we made a lot of mistakes. Our sideout didn't produce and our setting was not connecting well with our attacking. But it's a long tournament, so we put today behind us and look ahead to the next match with the Dominican Republic."

Jordan Ewert, player #4 USA : "We came to win today and that's we did. Serving and passing made the difference – we had a couple of spurts where our serve kind of struggled, but we stayed aggressive and forced them out of system a lot. When they (Mexico) are out of system, we've got a good block and defense team, and we were able to get a lot of break points and pull away. We are learning that we are not always clean, but we are getting more comfortable in chaotic situations.... Our goal is to get better as the tournament goes along and be prepared for the finals on Sunday."