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Y DEL CARIBE



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CARIBE  
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# Newsletter

## Dominican Republic surprised Mexico in Men's Volleyball opening at the 2023 CAC Games

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, June 28, 2023.- Dominican Republic took Mexico by surprise in the opening of the Men's Volleyball tournament of the 2023 San Salvador Central American and Caribbean Games on Wednesday at the Sports Palace Carlos El Famoso Hernandez.

Dominican Republic beat Mexico 3-1 (25-17, 31-29, 20-25, 18-25) in Pool A on the first day of competition. In the same Pool, Cuba started their 2023 CAC Games campaign defeating Suriname in straight sets 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-19).

In Pool B, defending champion Puerto Rico began with a 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-18) win over the team of Centro Caribe Sports (Guatemala). Host El Salvador defeated Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-23) in their opening match.

Day two starts with Pool B matches between Puerto Rico (1-0) and Trinidad & Tobago (0-1) and host El Salvador (1-0) against Centro Caribe Sports (0-1), followed by Mexico (0-1) facing Surinam (0-1) and closing with Cuba (1-0) against Dominican Republic (1-0).



### Dominican Republic 3, Mexico 1

Dominican Republic beat Mexico 3-1 (25-17, 31-29, 20-25, 18-25) to open the Men's Volleyball tournament. Dominican Republic started off strong jumping to a four-point lead (4-0) that went on growing the entire first set. Mexico came back to take the second set but with difficulties while Dominican Republic reached set point on four different occasions until Mexico won by a thrilling 31-29. It was Dominican Republic who kept their rhythm to beat Mexico in four sets. Dominicans scored

on Mexico's 41 unforced errors against 16. Blocking also made a difference with Dominicans leading 14-6, in addition to a 4-2 margin in aces. Mexico led in kills 62-45. Dominican Hector Cruz emerged as the leading scorer in the match with 22 points. The outside hitter scored on 17 kills, 3 blocks and two aces. Other standout players were opposite hitter and team captain Henry Tapia with 16 points (15 kills, one block) and outside hitter Henry López with 14 points, including a match-high of five blocks. Outside hitter Mauro Fuentes topped Mexico with 18 kill points, followed by opposite hitter Diego Gonzalez with 16 points (15 kills, one block) and outside hitter Josué López with 11 kills points as well.

### Cuba 3, Surinam 0

Cuba started their 2023 CAC Games campaign defeating Suriname in straight sets 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-19) in Pool A. Cuba, who finished week 2 at the Volleyball Nations League, rested some key players in their first performance while Suriname battled stronger in the first and third sets. Cuba outplayed Suriname with 30 points from kills against 21, with a 9-6 advantage in blocks and a 5-0 margin in points from serves. Cuba allowed 31 points from unforced errors and Suriname 24. Opposite Miguel Gutierrez and team captain Osniel Mergarejo led Cuba's offense with 13 and 10 points respectively. Gutierrez scored from 10 kills and 3 aces, while Mergarejo had 8 kills, one block and one ace.

### Puerto Rico 3, Centro Caribe Sports (Guatemala) 0

Defending champion Puerto Rico began the 2023 San Salvador CAC Games with a win 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-18) over the team of Centro Caribe Sports (Guatemala). Puerto Rico was in control of the action in their first Pool B performance, still, the team of Centro Caribe Sports (CCS) jumped to a 10-7 lead in the second set and reached the third to an even 18 score.

The CAC title holders produced 38 points from kills, against 24 and were more consistent in blocking (10-2) and in aces (8-1). CCS benefited from Puerto Rico's 24 unforced errors, while committing 14. The leading scorer of the match was Puerto Rican opposite hitter Klistan Lawrence with 18 points on 12 kills, three blocks and three aces. Team captain Pedro Vargas followed with 12 points on 9 kills, one block and two aces. Opposite Erik Flores led CCS with 10 points from 8 kills and 2 blocks.



### El Salvador 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0

Host El Salvador defeated Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-23) in their opening match. After winning a strong first set, the home team El Salvador had a stronger resistance from Trinidad & Tobago who pulled off three match points (20-24) before their three-set finish in their first match of Pool B. Both teams scored 34 points from attacks. El Salvador held a 5-0 advantage in serves, while Trinidad & Tobago led by a one point (5-4) in blocks. Trinidad & Tobago's 33 unforced errors definitely made a difference against 17 from El Salvador. The two players who finished with double digits were outside hitter Rodrigo Chavez who topped El Salvador with 14 points on 13 kills and one ace; and opposite Ryan Stewart from Trinidad & Tobago on a match-high of 17 points from 16 kills and one block. El Salvador (1-0) meets on Thursday with Central American rival of team Centro Caribe Sports (Guatemala) 0-1, and Trinidad & Tobago (0-1) goes against defending champion Puerto Rico (1-0).