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Dominican Republic wins Sixth Title in a row at Central American and Caribbean Games

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, July 8, 2023.- Dominican Republic beat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-16) to win their Sixth Women's Volleyball consecutive Title in a row in Central American and Caribbean Games at the 24th edition of San Salvador 2023 at the Sports Palace Carlos El Famoso Hernández.

This is "Las Reinas del Caribe" overall eighth title, with a winning streak of sixth in a row that started here in San Salvador in 2002. Dominican Republic is now tied in the historical record of gold medals at the CAC Games with Cuba.

This is Puerto Rico's sixth silver medal, having lost to Dominican Republic on five occasions and one to Mexico.

Dominican Republic outplayed Puerto Rico with a comfortable 43 to 35 margin in attacks and a huge advantage of 13 to three in blocks. Both teams scored one point on serves. Dominicans handed out 15 points on unforced errors and Puerto Rico totalized 18.

Bronze Medal Cuba 3, Colombia 0

Cuba beat Colombia 3-0 (25-22, 28-26, 25-22) to win the Bronze Medal. Cuba with a 3-2 record won their second bronze medal in the history of the event, their first was during the 2014 Veracruz Games. Cuba won a battled first set and then went on to win the second coming from a two-point deficit the entire set in a thrilling party of points, with Ailama Cese scoring the winning point 28-26 on a kill. Cuba again came from behind in the third set, recovering from a six-point deficit (12-18) and reaching an even 21, with Diaris Perez scoring the match point on a block. Cuba led on a huge 56 to 33 attacking point advantage and on a comfortable 10 to 6 margins in blocks.

Colombia did better in points from serves (5-1) and limited their errors to 11 against 26. Three players scored double digits in Cuba's bronze medal win, outside hitters Diaris Perez and Ailama Cese with 16 points each, and middle blocker Dezirett Madan who contributed with 13 points. Colombia's offense was led by outside hitter Ana Karina Olaya with 16 points, followed by Melissa Rangel and Valerin Carabali with 9 and 7 points respectively.

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Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-14, 25-23, 25-18) to finish fifth place. Mexico finished with a 3-2 record and Costa Rica with 1-4 for fifth and sixth place respectively.

Middle blocker Jocelyn Urias led Mexico with 14 points (11 kills, one block, two aces), followed by outside hitter Melanie Parra who added 13 attacking points. Costa Rica's leading scorers were outside hitter Tamara Espinoza with 13 points (12 kills, one ace) and opposite Tatiana Sayles with 10 points from kills.

Mexico held advantages in every element of the game, kills (49-33), blocks (8-0) and points from serves (7-1). Costa Rica limited their errors to 11 against 21 from Mexico.

Trinidad & Tobago 3, El Salvador 1

Trinidad & Tobago took seventh place after defeating El Salvador 3-1 (23-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-23). Both teams end the event with 1-4 win-loss record, Trinidad & Tobago seventh and host El Salvador eighth.

Trinidad & Tobago faced off El Salvador in their opening match, but today was a different outcome.

Trinidad & Tobago overwhelmed El Salvador with a huge 12 to 4 points from blocks and 11 to two in aces. They also held a 56 to 41 advantage in attacks but handed out 36 points from unforced errors against 19. Outside hitter Channon Thompson of Trinidad & Tobago led all scorers with 23 points on 18 kills and five impressive aces.

Opposite Krystle Esdele joined in the victory with 19 points, followed by middle blocker Kaylon Cruickshank with 12 points, including a match-high of 6 blocks. Outside hitter Gabriela Funes and team captain Adriana Flores led El Salvador with 15 and 11 points respectively.

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