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Dominicans against Cuba, and Colombia to battle Puerto Rico in Semifinals



SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, July 6, 2023.- Defending champions Dominican Republic go against Cuba and Colombia will battle Puerto Rico in Women's Volleyball Semifinals at the 2023 San Salvador Central American Games to be played on Friday at the Sports Palace Carlos El Famoso Hernández. Defending champion Dominican Republic won Pool A over Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-19, 25-16, 22-25, 25-21) and both move into the semifinals.

Colombia finished first place in Pool B after beating El Salvador 3-0 (25-6, 25-11, 25-5) to reach the semifinal undefeated and Cuba second after beating Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-16, 25-17, 25-17).

Friday's Semifinals start at 5pm with Dominican Republic and Cuba, followed by Colombia and Puerto Rico at 8pm.

Earlier on Friday, in the classification round for positions 5 to 8, Mexico faces Trinidad & Tobago at 10:30am and host El Salvador will battle Central American rivals Costa Rica at 1:30pm.

Cuba 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0

Cuba beat Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-16, 25-17, 25-17) to improve their record 2-1 in Pool B. Cuba (2-1) is one step closer to reaching the semifinals, they must wait for the result between Colombia (2-0) and El Salvador (1-1). Trinidad & Tobago ends Pool B in fourth place and will play the classification round for positions 5 to 8. With a considerable improvement from their previous performances, Trinidad & Tobago was able to keep the score close to halfway in all three sets. Cuba was superior in attacking points by far (48-23), while finishing with slight advantages in blocks (6-5) and points from serves (4-3). Trinidad & Tobago committed fewer errors (17-19). Cuban opposite Yensy Kindelan, outside hitter Diaris Pérez and middle blocker Jessica Aguilera scored 10 points each for their teams' victory. Channon Thompson of Trinidad & Tobago led all scorers collecting 11 points (8 kills, 3 blocks).

Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico finished Pool A in third place after defeating Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-16, 25-13). Mexico earned their first tournament win to finish the preliminary round 1-2, Costa Rica 0-3. Both teams will play the classification round for positions 5 to 8. Mexico starts against Trinidad & Tobago and Costa

Rica will confirm if they face El Salvador. México had no difficulties in prevailing over the Central American team with a huge advantage in attacking points (37-19). The also led 6 to 4 in points from block and 7 to 1 in aces, handing out 16 points from unforced errors against 25. Team captain Andrea Rangel, alongside outside hitter Melanie Parra scored 10 points each for Mexico. Aimé Topete, who came from the bench in the first set added 7 points. Opposite hitter Tatiana Sayles of Costa Rica was the top scorer of the match with 13 points.

Dominican Republic Puerto Rico

Defending champion Dominican Republic won Pool A over Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-19, 25-16, 22-25, 25-21) and both move into the semifinals. Dominicans (3-0) undefeated and Puerto Rico (2-1) as first and second place of Pool A respectively reach the semifinals; it's most likely they will face Cuba and Colombia respectively (second and first place of Pool B) as there is still one match left of that pool. Dominican Republic used all its players while Puerto Rican setter Vilmarie Rivera and outside hitter Paola Santiago couldn't perform due to minor health issues. Dominicans outblocked Puerto Rico 15 to 9 and held a considerable 5-3 margin in aces. Puerto Rico finished with a slight 48 to 47 advantage in points from kills. Dominicans scored on 30 unforced opponent errors against 21. Middle blocker Jineiry Martinez led Dominicans offense over the net, scoring 6 blocking points from her overall 18 points, in addition to 11 points from kills and one ace. Outside hitter Yonkaira Peña and opposite hitter Gaila Gonzalez contributed with 13 points each. Yonkaira produced 11 kills, one block and one ace, while Gaila scored 8 points from kills, three on blocks and two aces. On Puerto Rico's side, Outside hitter Pilar Victoria led her team with 17 points on 15 kills, one block and one ace, alongside opposite hitter Génesis Collazo who tallied 10 points. Outside hitter Elaine Vazquez added 9 points on kills.

Colombia 3, El Salvador 0

Colombia beat El Salvador 3-0 (25-6, 25-11, 25-5) to reach the semifinal undefeated. Colombia topped Pool B with a 3-0 record to advance into the semifinals to face Puerto Rico who finished second in Pool A. Host El Salvador 1-2 finished third place and will play in the classification round for positions 5 to 8, starting against Central American rival Costa Rica. Colombia's serves were too much for El Salvador, totalizing with 12 aces to none. The South Americans also held a huge 32-16 advantage in attacking points and in points from blocks 7-0, while scoring on 24 opponent errors to six. Opposite Dayana Segovia of Colombia topped all scorers with 13 points on 11 kills and two points from serves. Middle blocker Melissa Rangel and outside hitter Laura Grajales added 7 and 6 points respectively. Outside hitters Gabriela Funes and Daniela López scored 6 points each for El Salvador.



