



San Salvador  
**2023**  
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CENTROAMERICANOS  
Y DEL CARIBE



CENTRO  
CARIBE  
SPORTS



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# Newsletter



## Puerto Rico and Cuba undefeated at the 2023 CAC Games

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, June 29, 2023.- Puerto Rico and Cuba remain undefeated in Men's Volleyball at the 2023 San Salvador Central American and Caribbean Games after Thursday's matches at the Sports Palace Carlos El Famoso Hernández.

Defending champion Puerto Rico outplayed Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-19) in Pool B and Cuba after their 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-18) win over Dominican Republic. The team of Centro Caribe Sports -Guatemala- and Mexico earned their first tournament win; CCS beat El Salvador 3-1 (25-18, 25-22, 20-25, 25-18), while Mexico defeated Suriname 3-0 (25-13, 25-21, 25-13).

The preliminary round ends on Friday starting with the Pool A match between Dominican Republic (1-1) and Suriname (0-2), then Centro Caribe Sports (1-1) faces Trinidad & Tobago (0-2) in Pool B, followed by Cuba (2-0) vs Mexico (1-1) in Pool A and closing with Pool B with El Salvador (1-1) against Puerto Rico (2-0).

The winners of each Pool advance directly into Sunday's semifinals.

### **Puerto Rico 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0**

Puerto Rico outplayed Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-19). Defending champion Puerto Rico set the match pace to earn their second Pool B victory against Trinidad & Tobago who is 0-2. Trinidad & Tobago kept close in the first set 10-11, but Puerto Rico held the advantage the entire set. Puerto Rico quickly jumped to a seven-point lead (11-4) in the second set, keeping a comfortable distance as well as in the third, but Trinidad & Tobago had momentum scoring 4 points in a row (15-23) before their opponent could celebrate at 25-19. Puerto Rico held advantages in all the elements of the game, 44 to 26 in kills, 6-3 in blocks and 6-2 in points from serves. Trinidad & Tobago committed fewer errors than Puerto Rico (19-23). Outside hitter and team captain Pedro Molina scored a match-high of 13 points in Puerto Rico's second win, on 12 kills and one ace. Outside hitter Omar Hoyos and middle blocker Pedro Nieves added 8 points each. Middle blocker Mikheil Hoyte (Zebra) led Trinidad & Tobago with 9 points, followed by opposite hitter Ryan Stewart with seven.

### **CCS 3, El Salvador 1**

The team of Centro Caribe Sports -Guatemala- beat El Salvador 3-1 (25-18, 25-22, 20-25, 25-18) in their first win. The CCS team managed to stop El Salvador who yesterday won against Trinidad & Tobago in Pool

B. Both teams stand with 1-1 win-loss record. Setter Daniel Ralon of CCS was a key element helping his team from the service line to close the first and second sets. El Salvador was patient in the third set and Middle blocker Diego Guidos forced their opponents into committing consecutive errors to extend the match to a fourth and final battled set that went to CCS. Centro Caribe Sports led 61 in points from kills against 53, but their huge 11-4 margin in blocks made a difference to stop El Salvador. They also led 5-2 in service points but committed 24 unforced errors against 18 from their opponents. Outside hitter and CCS team captain Carlos López led all scorers with 24 points from 21 kills and three blocks. Middle Andy Leonardo, who also competed in beach volleyball, followed with 15 points on 9 kills, three blocks and one ace. Opposite hitter Erik Flores added 13 points. On El Salvador's side, outside hitter Rodrigo Chavez produced 19 points on 17 kills and two blocks as their leading scorer. Opposite Diego Navarro contributed with 18 points also on 17 kills, but with one ace.

### **Mexico 3, Suriname 0**

Mexico earned their first victory after defeating Suriname 3-0 (25-13, 25-21, 25-13). Mexico started off the strong 6-0 moving forward to a comfortable first set win. In the second set, Suriname had more energy up to an even 12-12 scoring on kill points and opponent errors, still Mexico recovered advantage with line-up changes to a close finish. Mexico dominated the third set. Two Mexican players ended up scoring 11 points each, outside hitter Josué López and opposite Diego González. Suriname's team captain Keven Sporkslede scored a match-high of 13 points. Mexico held a 37-23 advantage in attacks, outblocking Suriname 6-4 and with a 4-2 margin in serve points. Suriname scored 28 points from Mexico's unforced errors and allowed 19.

### **Cuba 3, Dominican Republic 1**

Cuba is undefeated after their 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-18) win over Dominican Republic. With a combination of its regular players and subs, Cuba recovered from falling in the first set to earn their second victory in Pool A; Dominican Republic now has a 1-1 mark. Dominican Republic took Cuba by surprise reaching a six-point lead (18-12) in the first set up to an even 21; Rafael Burgos-Guntin and Juan De Jesus ended the set blocking Miguel Angel Lopez. Middle blocker Jose Masso alongside opposite Jesus Herrera and team captain Osniel Mergarejo, were consistent in set two as Cuba evened the score with a strong resistance by the Dominicans captain Henry Tapia and Hector Cruz. Sets three and four were similar but with Cuba giving its subs a time on court in the fourth and final set. Cuba held advantages in kills (57-49) and in blocks (8-6), Dominicans led 3-2 in points from serves. Both teams committed 30 unforced errors. Three Cuban players finished with double digits, opposite Jesus Herrera with 17 points (15 kills, two blocks), middle blocker José Masso with 14 points (10 kills, four blocks) and outside hitter Osniel Mergarejo with 11 points (10 kills, one ace). Herrera and Mergarejo didn't perform in the fourth set. Dominican captain Henry Tapia was the match leading scorer with 23 points on 21 kills and two blocks. Outside hitter Hector Curz added 15 points (14 kills and one ace).

Go beyond your limits!

**MIKASA**



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