



**NORCECA**  
**CONTINENTAL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA  
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## Dominican Republic and USA reach NORCECA U20 Semis



FORT LAUDERDALE, United States, July 28, 2016. - Dominican Republic and United States reached the NORCECA Women's U20 Continental Championship semifinals after finishing the preliminary round as group winners.

Dominicans (3-0) were the first to reach the semifinals while beating Cuba (2-1) for group A top position; while United States (3-0) took on Mexico (1-2) to lead group B.

Quarterfinals are scheduled on Friday starting with Cuba facing Mexico followed by Puerto Rico playing against Costa Rica.

### Costa Rica 3, Haiti 0

Costa Rica beat Haiti 3-0 (25-23, 25-23, 25-17) to record their first win. Costa Rica's win was just enough to move forward into the quarterfinal round as third place in group A with 1-2 win-loss record, while Haiti finishes the preliminary round win-less. Haiti started winning the first and second sets but Costa Rica recovered fast to finish on top; both teams presented similar conditions in their performance. Costa Rica's advantage in blocking (7-0) and serves (10-5) were crucial to beat Haiti who did better in spiking (40-34). The Central American team had 18 errors and the Caribbean 24. Opposite Isla Johnson was Costa Rica's top scorer with 12 points, on 8 kills, 3 blocks and one ace. Also contributing in the winning cause was outside hitter Alison Font chipped in with 11 points, on 10 kills and one ace. Haiti's outside hitter Jean Jacques led all scorers with 16 points on kills, followed by opposite Solaida Pierre with 13 kills.

### Puerto Rico 3, French St. Martin 0

Puerto Rico defeated French St. Martin 3-0 (25-5, 25-4, 25-7) improving their win-loss record 2-1 in Group B. Puerto Rico (2-1) remains in dispute for the gold medal; they have yet to wait for the result between United States and Mexico to learn if they'll play the quarterfinals. Puerto Rico overpowered French St. Martin with their experience and controlling the spiking category by 28-3 margin and

service points by 26-1 margin. Paola Salas led all scorers with 9 points, Adeannette Ramos and Marve Monge added 8 points apiece, while Dariana Hollingston scored 7 points.

### Dominican Republic 3, Cuba 0

Dominican Republic took on Cuba 3-0 (25-21, 25-18, 26-24) to reach the semifinals. Dominican Republic finished the preliminary round in first place in group A with unbeaten 3-0 record and winning the bye into semis. Cuba fought hard for a comeback jumping into an early four point lead in set three but the Dominicans managed to take control with team effort, especially in defending Cuba's powerful kills. Dominicans prevailed controlling the blocking (11-8) and serving (5-0) categories, while Cuba controlled the spiking area (39-37). Dominican Republic benefited from 23 errors by their opponents and committed 16. Outside hitter Natalia Martinez collected 19 points, opposite Massiel Matos with 13 points and outside hitter Vielka Peralta with 10 points led Dominican Republic offense over the net. Diaris Perez with 15 points was the only Cuban player with double digits.



### United States 3, México 0

Lexie Sun scored impressive 26 points to carry United States into the semifinals after beating Mexico 3-0 (33-31, 25-12, 25-5). Outside hitter Lexie Sun was USA's weapon shattering Mexico's defense on 18 kills, four blocks and four aces. Mexico's top scorers were Sirenía Gomez and Kathya Garcia with 10 points apiece. United States went into the second set with solid blocking after a dramatic and long first set, with their defense was off guard by Mexico's intensity and tough attitude challenged their performance. Mexico lost their energy while the home team unleashed their power with a huge lead in the final set to move into the semifinals as top seed in group B. The home team held a 45-28 advantage in kills, 16-5 in blocks and 8-4 in service points. United States scored on 14 Mexican errors and limited their own to 11 points.