



NORCECA
CONTINENTAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

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Dominican Republic to meet United States in NORCECA U20 title match



FORT LAUDERDALE, United States, July 30, 2016. – Dominican Republic and reigning champion United States will meet in the NORCECA Women's U-2 Continental Championship title match on Sunday while prevailing in semifinals to Puerto Rico and Cuba respectively.

Dominican Republic became the first finalists defeating Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-19) in semifinals. This is the sixth time that Dominican Republic has reached the gold medal match; they've only won the crown once. On the other hand, reigning champion United States edged Cuba 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-22) and is aiming to win their seventh title; this is the ninth time they've battled for the gold.



Puerto Rico and Cuba will meet in the bronze medal match, Puerto Rico has finished third in two occasions while Cuba in three. Mexico and Costa Rica will battle

for fifth place, Haiti and French St. Martin for seventh.

Mexico 3, Haiti 0

Mexico beat Haiti in straight sets 25-11, 25-14, 25-17. Mexico's serves took care of the actions with 11-0 advantage in the first of two placing matches on Saturday. Haiti took Mexico off guard with a four point advantage 10-6 in the third set. Mexico also controlled the spiking with 39-20 margin, both teams scored on 4 blocks. Mexico committed 18 unforced errors and Haiti 21. Opposite Kathy Garcia led Mexico registering 11 points all in kills, joined by middle blocker Karina Flores with 10 points on 7 kills and 3 blocks. Haiti's top scorer was Saradjine Jean with 10 points.

Costa Rica 3, French St. Martin 0

Costa Rica will play for fifth place of the NORCECA Women's U-2 Continental Championship after beating French St. Martin 3-0 (25-5, 25-14, 25-8). Saturday's placing match between Costa Rica and French St. Martin had no surprises, with the Central American squad leading with 6-0 margin in set one and 9-0 in set three. Costa Rica outplayed the Caribbean representatives benefiting from 26 opponent errors while limiting theirs to 8 and with huge advantage in spikes (35-16) and serves (13-1). Opposite Isla Johnson topped Costa Rica with 16 points, joined by middle blocker Mariana Rodriguez with 8 points and outside hitter Edya Espinosa with 7 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 0

Dominican Republic reached the medal title match winning their semifinal to Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-19). Dominican Republic will play their sixth title match, seeking to

earn their second crown against the winner between reigning champion United States and Cuba. Dominican's blocking was unbreakable, keeping Puerto Rico's spikers under control. Puerto Rico put Dominicans in trouble in the second set with effective defense, the score was always close up to the second technical time-out when Dominican Republic reached a comfortable 22-17 lead. With difficult serves, Puerto Rico jumped to a five point lead 14-9 in the third that Dominican Republic recovered with relentless kills. Dominican Republic dominated the blocking category with huge 11-2 margin and scored on 26 Puerto Rican errors. Puerto Rico held advantage in kills with 38-25 margin and scored on just 12 Dominican errors. Outside hitter Vielka Peralta led Dominicans spikers with 13 points on 9 kills, 3 blocks and one ace; outside hitter Natalia Martinez chipped in with 12 points on 11 kills and one block, and opposite Massiel Matos contributed with 11 points on 8 kills and 3 blocks. On Puerto Rico's side, opposite Dariana Hollingsworth scored a match high of 23 points all kills, the only one with double digits for her team.

United States 3, Cuba 0

United States edged Cuba 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-22) to move into the gold medal match. NORCECA U-20 current champion United States controlled every skill since the beginning of the semifinal match against Cuba. The home team managed considerable advantage in sets one and two, producing points from everywhere, on kills, blocks and serves. Cuba had their better game in set three, with more scoring opportunities and less continuous errors up to 17 all. USA won set three after losing three match points. United States' backline defense also prevented Cuba's strong hitters on scoring. United States scored with advantage in kills (41-33), in blocking (9-4) and in aces (7-2). They also scored on 18 Cuban errors and committed 10 of their own. Top scorers of United States were outside hitter Lexi Sun with 17 points on 14 kills and 3 aces, followed by middle blocker Brionne Butler with 12 points on 8 kills, 3 blocks and one ace. Cuba had in Diaris Perez its top scorer with 14 points on trailing on 13 kills and one ace.