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USA and Cuba advance to NORCECA U19 Semi Finals



HAVANA, Cuba, June 26, 2016 – As expected defending champions United States and hosts Cuba earned semi final spots at the NORCECA U19 Boys Championship with undefeated 3-0 win-loss records.

The United States swept Dominican Republic while Cuba needed four sets to defeat Mexico on Sunday. Both teams will benefit from an off day on Monday and will return on Tuesday to face the winners of the quarterfinals.

Nicaragua will play Jamaica and Mexico will meet Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals.

The top two ranked teams at the end of the tournament are granted with tickets to the 2017 FIVB U19 World Championship.

Nicaragua 3, Costa Rica 2

Nicaragua outplayed Costa Rica in five sets (28-26, 25-20, 13-25, 20-25, 15-13) for their second triumph in Pool A. Jonny Zeledón (32) was the best scorer of a match that lasted almost two hours while Byron Hernández (14) contributed to Nicaraguan victory. Costa Ricans José Andrés Ortiz and Manrique Carazo had 17 and 14, respectively.

Jamaica 3, Antigua 0

Jamaica overcame Antigua and Barbuda 3-0 (25-11 25-20, 25-16) for their only victory. In 55 minutes, the Jamaicans secured the third place in Pool B in a match where only the middle blocker Cairon Davis, from Antigua and Barbuda, reached double-digits (10).

Cuba 3, Mexico 1

Cuba advanced to the semi finals stopping Mexico in four sets (22-25, 25-23, 25-20, 25-16) and first place in Pool B. The Cuban offense was led by Rey Issac Flores (18), Christian Rojas and José Carlos Romero with 16 each. However the match best scorer was the Mexican athlete Miguel Sarabia (19) followed by Raymond Stephens (12).

United States 3, Dominican Republic 0

United States overpowered Dominican Republic in straight sets (25-16, 25-17, 25-21) to win Pool A and the second berth to the semi finals. Jaylen Jasper, Samuel Lewis and Kyler Presho were the only ones who scored double-digits with 10 each, while on the losing side the captain Bayron Valdés (9) was the best one.

