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Newsletter

Brazil and Argentina with direct tickets to Semifinals at Pan Am Cup



CORDOBA, Mexico, August 30, 2018. – Brazil and Argentina won direct tickets to the thirteenth Men's Pan American Cup semifinals at the Arena Cordoba in Cordoba, Mexico.

Brazil (B) and Argentina (C) finished as the highest ranked pool winner to move in the semifinals of the event, securing one of the five tickets to the Lima Pan American Games.

Cuba (A) finished as the lowest ranked pool winner and will play in quarterfinals against Canada (B). The host Mexico (A) second placed will play in the other quarterfinal against Puerto Rico (C).

Puerto Rico 3, Peru 0

Puerto Rico earned an important 3-0 (25-17, 25-20, 25-21) victory over Peru in pool C. Puerto Rico finishes pool-play with 2-1 record and 15 points, waiting for the result between Argentina and United States to determine their final ranking in pool C. Puerto Rico gave a rest throughout the match to their key players, managing to hold off Peru that was always 3-4pts behind, with a comfortable 40-29 advantage in kills and huge 8-0 in aces. Peru held a respectable 9-4 margin in blocks. In errors they were similar, Puerto Rico with 20 points and Peru with 23. Wing spikers Pablo Guzman and Eddie Rivera led Puerto Rico with 14 points apiece, while opposite Juan Vazquez collected 11 points. Opposite Eduardo Romay topped Peru with 15 points and wing spiker Jose Vargas contributed with 10 points.

Chile 3, Guatemala 0

Chile beat Guatemala 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-17) in their first victory. Chile concludes pool-play as third place in pool A and will move to play for placing 7 to 10 placing matches, while Guatemala in fourth place will wait for the final ranking to determine their next move in the competition. Chile jumped to a comfortable lead in every set, stopping Guatemala from getting into their usual rhythm. The Chilean team dominated Guatemala with advantage of 38-29 in kills, 11-7 in blocks and 3-1 in aces. Chile scored 23 points on Guatemalan error, allowing 16 points of their own errors. With 16 points, opposite Tomas Parraguire led Chile's offense, including 14 kills; his brother, wing spiker Vicente Parraguire joined with 12 points on 9 kills, two blocks and one ace. For Guatemala, Carlos Lopez, Wagner Chacon and Andy Leonardo finished with 8 tallies apiece.

Dominican Republic 3, Colombia 0

Dominican Republic downed Colombia 3-0 (25-23, 26-24, 27-25) in pool B. Dominican Republic surprised with a thriller win as the South American squad lost consecutive set points in sets two and three. Dominicans finish third place in pool B with 1-2 record and five points to play for position 7 to 12 of the event. The winners prevailed with 5-1 blocking advantage and 6-2 margin in aces, scoring on 40 Colombian errors while limiting theirs to 17 points. Colombia held a slim 45-44 margin in spikes. Wing spiker Henry Lopez of Dominican Republic scored a match-high of 17 points on 15 kills, one block and one ace. Also from Dominican Republic, Opposite Henry Tapia contributed with 13 points and middle blocker Jonathan Mercedes with 11 points. Colombia's top attackers with opposite Gustavo Larrahondo with 15 points, wing spiker Ivan Hurtado with 12 points and middle blocker Leandro Mejia with 10 points.

Brazil 3, Canada 0

Brazil topped pool B after defeating Canada in straight sets (25-20, 25-15, 25-23). Brazil finished pool-play with 3-0 win-loss record and 15 points to top pool B and will have to wait for the other pool winner to see if they move directly into semifinals or will have to play the quarterfinals. Canada takes second place with 2-1 record and 9 points to move into quarterfinals. Canada was always behind but recovered well in set three but too late. Brazil's best strength was moving into Canada's attackers with sizeable 12-4 blocking margin. Brazil also led in aces with 5-1 margin and with a slim 36-35



advantage in spikes. Brazil allowed 17 points on unforced errors and benefited from 22 opponent faults. Brazilian Opposite Alan Souza scored 16 points as leading scorer. Wing spiker Dantas Honorato added 11 points for Brazil and middle blocker Matheus Bispo dos Santos also contributed with 10 points. Wing spiker Brandon Koppers was the only player with double-figures for Canada, finishing with 12 units.

Argentina 3, Estados Unidos 0

Defending champions Argentina beat United States 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-16) to win pool C. Argentina won pool C undefeated with 3-0 record and 14 points, waiting for the complete preliminary round results to see if they earned a direct ticket into the semifinals. United States finishes third to play for 7 to 10 placing matches. It was a spectacular display in defense by Argentina that carried out a solid performance scoring on a sizeable 32 opponent errors and allowing 17 on their side of the net. In numbers, there was not much difference with Argentina leading 6-5 in blocks and 3-2 in aces; USA led in kills 35-34. Two wing spikers led Argentina on 10 points apiece; Luciano Palonsky who came from the bench in set two, and Ezequiel Palacios. The only player from the US with double-figures was wing spiker Kupono Fey with 14 points on 11 kills, 2 blocks and one ace.

Cuba 3, Mexico 2

Cuba won pool A in five sets 3-2 (20-25, 25-16, 21-25, 25-12, 18-16) against host Mexico. Cuba finished with 3-0 record and 12 points as the lowest ranked pool winner and will play in quarterfinals against Canada. The host Mexico second placed to face Puerto Rico. Cuban wing spiker Miguel Angel Lopez carried his team to beat Mexico in a party of sets with spectacular 26 points including 24 kills. Cuba and Mexico fought strongly impressing the loud crowd at the Arena Cordoba. Cuba's offense overwhelmed Mexico on 67-48 lead in kills, 12-6 in blocks and 6-1 in aces. Cuba committed 38 unforced errors and Mexico 24.

Also contributing in Cuba's victory was opposite Miguel Gutierrez with 15 points, wing spiker Osniel Melgarejo with 14 points and middle blocker Roamy Alonso with 12 points. Jorge Barajas was the only Mexican player that scored double-figures with 17 points, wing spiker Gonzalo Ruiz chipped in with 9 points; while opposite Daniel Vargas and middle Blocker Jonathan Martinez added 8 points each.

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