



Colombia and Argentina put an emotional show



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, July 8, 2018 – Colombia and Argentina played the most exciting match of the opening day at the Women’s Volleyball Pan American Cup on Sunday at Ricardo Arias Pavilion in Santo Domingo. Colombia prevailed in five emotional sets while United States needed four sets to dispatch Trinidad & Tobago. Brazil, Canada, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic won their respective matches in straight sets.

United States 3, Trinidad & Tobago 1

Defending champions United States recovered from losing the opening set and went on to defeat Trinidad & Tobago 3-1 (21-25, 25-15, 25-22, 25-15) in Pool B. Simone Lee led the winners with 14 points while Aiyana Abukusomo-Whitney, came off the bench to contribute 13. Sarah Wilwhite and Mallory McCage each charted 9 points. Veteran Krystle Esdelle had a match-high 16 points for Trinidad & Tobago. Darlene Ramdin and Sinead Jack each finished with 10 points.

Brazil 3, Mexico 0

Brazil defeated Mexico in straight sets 3-0 (25-21, 25-19, 25-17) in the first match of Pool C. Bruna Honorio Marques led a balanced Brazilian offense with 16 points, followed by Francyne Jacintho and Thaisa de Menezes with 12 and 11, respectively. Andrea Rangel and Samantha Bricio stood out for Mexico with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Brazil outblocked Mexico 11-4 while both teams finished with 4 aces.

Canada 3, Peru 0

Kiera Van Ryk served 8 aces as Canada stormed past Peru in straight sets 3-0 (25-21, 25-12, 25-17) in Pool A. Van Ryk finished with 18 points as the best scorer of the match while Autumn Bailey and Emily Baglio chipped in with 12 and 8 points, respectively. Karla Ortiz finished with 9 points as the top Peruvian offensive player. Canada dominated Peru in attacks 41-25 in service winners 10-2 and also in blocks 5-2.

Colombia 3, Argentina 2

Colombia held off a reaction of Argentina, their South American rival, to claim an emotional five-set victory in Pool C. Amanda Coneo had 20 points to lead four Colombian players with double digits in the 3-2 (25-16, 25-16, 22-25, 18-25, 17-15) victory. Dayana Segovia contributed 18 points in the win while Margarita Martinez and Valerin Carabalí added 14 and 11 respectively. Elina Rodriguez finished with 16 points for the defeated side while Lucia Fresco and Yamila Nizetich added 15 apiece. Constanza Lazcano and Florencia Busquets each had 12 in the loss.

Puerto Rico 3, Cuba 0

Puerto Rico swept Cuba 3-0 (25-13, 25-22, 25-23) in a duel between teams from the Greater Antilles. The Puerto Rican team relied on their strong serves to dominate the Cuban side as the winners outscored the losers 11-4 in the aces category. Marie Pilar Victoria, Noami Santos and Shirley Ferrer were the best Puerto Ricans in attack finishing with 13, 12 and 11 points, respectively. Sulian Matienzo had 10 points for Cuba and Ailama Cese added 8 coming off the bench.

Dominican Republic 3, Costa Rica 0

In the last match of day one, Dominican Republic cruised past Costa Rica in straight sets 3-0 (25-14, 25-10, 25-16) in Pool A. Coach Marcos Kwiek rotated their players in the lopsided contest. Dominican Gina Mambru was the only player in the match who reached double digits in the scoring charts. Bethania de la Cruz added 9 in the victory and Tannia Carazo had 9 as the best for Costa Rica.