

Newsletter

Five set comeback for Colombia over TTO at CACG debut



BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, July 28, 2018. - Colombia came from behind to win over Trinidad and Tobago in five sets in pool B, on day one at the men's volleyball tournament of the 2018 Barranquilla XXIII Central American and Caribbean Games at Humberto Perea Coliseum.

The other winner in pool B was Puerto Rico, who dominated Guatemala in straight sets. In pool A, Cuba beat Venezuela in three intense sets, while Mexico imposed their strategy over defending champion Dominican Republic.

Puerto Rico 3, Guatemala 0

Puerto Rico opened the men's volleyball tournament in straight sets victory 3-0 (25-14, 25-15, 25-17) to Guatemala. Puerto Rico won their first pool B match, jumping to a comfortable margin starting all three sets. The game was fast, controlled with accuracy and quickness by Puerto Rico. Without difficulties, Puerto Rico dominated all categories by huge margin, 42-26 in attacks, 9-3 in blocks and 7-0 in aces. Puerto Rico committed one error more than Guatemala (18-17). With ten points, wing spiker Pablo Guzmán and opposite Maurice Torres (playing only two sets) led Puerto Rico.

Wing spiker Wagner Chacon was Guatemala's top scorer with 10 points.

Cuba 3, Venezuela 0

Cuba started beating Venezuela in pool A by 3-0 (25-21, 27-25, 25-21) score. It was a very intense match, specially the second set where Venezuela recovered from a four point deficit (20-24) snatching away Cuba's set point. Cuban blockers were crucial to hold off Venezuela's attackers. With only the first match, Cuba and Venezuela demonstrated their power in pool A. Cuba prevailed in spikes (48-34) and blocks (8-4). Both teams scored on 4 aces. Cuba allowed 25 points on unforced errors and Venezuela 17. Cuban Osniel Mergarejo topped all scorers with 17 points, followed by his teammates Miguel Lopez with 12 points and Miguel Gutierrez with 11. Opposite player Emerson Rodríguez and middle blocker Edson Valencia led Venezuela with 10 points apiece.

Mexico 3, Dominican Republic 0

Mexico imposed their strategy over defending champion Dominican Republic 3-0 (26-24, 25-20, 25-13) in pool A. Mexico's well placed serves and structured blocking recovered from a 15-19 deficit to win a thrilling first set; from there on, Mexico's tactics worked better only to improve. Dominicans slowed down, finishing empty handed. Mexico held 40-30 advantage in spikes, 8-4 in blocks and 5-3 in aces. Mexico committed fewer unforced errors (20-23). The winners had a balance offense with wing spiker Gonzalo Ruiz scoring 11 points, while opposite Daniel Vargas, wing spiker Jorge Barajas and middle blocker Jonathan Martinez collected 9 points apiece. Opposite Jose Caceres of Dominican Republic scored a match-high of 13 points and wing spiker Elvis Contreras scored 10 points.

Colombia 3, Trinidad y Tobago 2

Colombia came from behind to win over Trinidad and Tobago 3-2 (19-25, 25-19, 22-25, 25-19, 15-8) en pool B. Host Colombia gave a spectacular presentation recovering from losing the first set. Their height in blocking and powerful kills did not surprise Trinidad and Tobago's fast and tactical game. The 14-8 margin in blocking was crucial for Colombia to overcome Trinidad and Tobago's 51-48 attacking margin. In addition, Colombia has a slim 3-2 serving advantage; Colombia finished with fewer errors (34-41). Leberman Agamez of Colombia was the best scorer with 22 points, on 18 kills, 3 blocks and one ace. Also contributing in the winning effort were Humberto Machacon with 12 points and Renzo Mendoza, playing only two sets, scoring 10 points. Brando Legall led Trinidad and Tobago with 18 points, joined by Mikheil Hoyte and Ryan Stewart with 10 points each.