



USA and Dominican Republic are in NORCECA U20 Semifinals



AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico, June 20, 2018. - United States and Dominican Republic advanced directly into the NORCECA U20 Women's Championship semifinals.

United States and Dominican Republic topped their respective pools and will play in Friday's semifinals waiting for quarterfinal winners. Cuba faces Costa Rica

and Mexico plays to Puerto Rico in Thursday's quarterfinals.

United States 3, Guatemala 0

United States advanced into the NORCECA U20 Women's Continental Championship semifinals winning Pool A after defeating Guatemala 3-0 (25-13, 25-11, 25-7). United States finished the preliminary round with 3-0 record and moves into semifinals aiming to reach the tournament's title match to battle for the one vacancy available for next year's age-group FIVB World Championship. The United States led in all sets without resistance and with their stronger performers finished Guatemala quickly. USA performed with different combinations, overpowering Guatemala with a huge 32-12 margin in attacks, 14-2 in blocking and 6-0 in aces. USA scored on 23 opponent errors while allowing 17. Caitlin Barid of United States was the only player with double figures, scoring 12 points. Adeola Owokoniran and Destiny Cox contributed with 9 points apiece and Madison Kubik added 8 points. Treicy Mendoza scored 4 points for Guatemala.



Costa Rica 3, Honduras 0

Costa Rica won a quarterfinal spot defeating Honduras 3-0 (25-22, 25-16, 25-22). Costa Rica finishes third place in pool B with 1-2 record to move into quarterfinals to face either Cuba or Puerto Rico. Honduras will play classification matches for 5th to 8th place. Costa Rica and Honduras were tied on numerous occasions but Costa Rica always managed

to seal each set with consistency, despite Honduras spirited players. It was a neck to neck Central American battle with Honduras huge margin of 12-4 in blocking that wasn't enough to stop Costa Rica's 39-26 lead in kills and 6-0 in aces. Costa Rica committed 22 unforced errors and Honduras a total of 26. Edya Espinoza led Costa Rica with 17 points, on 15 kills and 2 aces, followed by Santa Volkovs with 10 points. Nathaly Perez and Josselyn Waterhouse joined forces for Honduras, scoring 10 points apiece and Thrisha Yearwood added 9 points.

Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 1

Cuba defeated Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-20, 26-24, 20-25, 25-12) to finish second in pool A and will face Costa Rica quarterfinals. There was a rain delay in the first set, with Cuba recovering from a 13-16 deficit blocking Puerto Rico's spikers. Cuba controlled set two on serves for a huge 12-6 advantage but Puerto Rico was inspired and extended the set to a thriller Cuban win. Puerto Rico rallied past Cuba 14-9 winning set three 25-20. Finally Cuba decided to grab full control finishing in four. Cuba's and Puerto Rico's performance had many ups and downs.

Cuba dominated Puerto Rico with 47-27 huge advantage in kills and 13-9 margin in blocks. Puerto Rico owned the serves with 10-4 advantage. Cuba committed 35 unforced errors and Puerto Rico finished with 32. Ailama Cese once again had a spectacular performance scoring 19 points on 16 kills and 3 blocks, to lead Cuba. Yamisleydis Viltres followed with 15 points on 8 kills, 4 blocks and 3 aces. Ariana Pagan was Puerto Rico's leading scorer with 10 points.