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# Newsletter

## USA to battle Dominican Republic in NORCECA U20 title match



AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico, June 22, 2018.- United States and Dominican Republic will fight to qualify for the 2019 FIVB World Championship in Saturday's NORCECA final match.

This is the US and Dominican Republic's back to back title match, with Dominicans winning in the past edition in 2016. United States has won the competition in six occasions of an overall nine championship matches.

This is the seventh occasion that Dominican Republic reaches the title match, winning two times. Dominicans enter the gold medal match with unbeaten 4-0 record.

### Costa Rica 3, Guatemala 0

Costa Rica defeated Guatemala 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-6) and will play for fifth place. Costa Rica will play for fifth place on the last day of competition against the winner between Honduras and Puerto Rico. Costa Rica had no setbacks in beating Guatemala jumping to a huge advantage in each set. Costa Rica was too much for Guatemala finishing with huge margins in every category; 29-14 in attacks, 7-1 in blocks and 10-2 in aces. Costa Rica limited their errors to 14 while scoring on 29 Guatemalan errors. Opposite player Santa Volkovs led Costa Rica with 12 points, joined by middle blocker Susan Alpizar with 11 points and wing spiker Edya Espinoza contributed with 7 points. Arianne Tenenbaum scored four points for Guatemala.

### Puerto Rico 3, Honduras 1

Puerto Rico beat Honduras 3-1 (25-16, 25-18, 16-25, 25-13) and will play Costa Rica for fifth place. Puerto Rico will face Central American champions Costa Rica for fifth place and Guatemala meets Honduras in the last day of the event on Saturday. Puerto Rico controlled the first set starting with a comfortable 10-5 lead. In set two, Honduras pushed harder with effective blocking, but,

still Puerto Rico took the advantage. Honduras took Puerto Rico by surprise winning set three with a consistent blocking and spirited performance. Puerto Rico used their force while serving to dominate Honduras' momentum coming out of winning the third set. Puerto Rico's 45-33 advantage in kills and huge 12-3 margin in aces was enough to stop Honduras' 6-5 advantage in blocking. Both teams committed 30 unforced errors. Middle blocker Jaylibeth led Puerto Rico with 14 points, followed by wing spiker Paulina Perez who only completed sets one and four with 10 points. Wing spiker Nathaly Perez topped Honduras with 16 points.



### Dominican Republic 3, Cuba 0

Dominican Republic is set to seize their second Women's NORCECA U20 Championship title winning in semifinals to Cuba 3-0 (25-17, 25-17, 25-21). Dominican Republic neutralized pumped up Ailama Cese and Evilania Martinez with Natalia Martinez and Madeline Guillen's offense, with effective attacks and very well directed serves and blocking power. Dominicans led in blocking 8-2 and 9-2 in aces; Cuba led in kills with 36-33 margin. Dominican Republic committed 15 unforced errors and scored on 25 opponent errors. Wing spiker Natalia Martínez of Dominican Republic led all scorers with 17 points, on 13 kills, one block and 3 aces. Jazmin Guillene joined in with 12 points, on 9 attacks and 3 serving points. Cuban Ailama Cese scored 13 points, on 12 kills and one block; opposite player Evilania Martínez added 10 points as substitute player in the second set and playing the entire third set.

### United States 3, Mexico 1

United States advanced into the title match after defeating Mexico 3-1 (25-20, 27-25, 25-27, 25-9) in semifinals. In set one, the US missed three set points before taking the lead. The United States had a spectacular comeback in the second set while recovering from an 8 point deficit (15-23) to finish exciting 27-25 with Skyler Fields and Logan Eggleston taking charge of the offense over the net. Mexican Uxue Guereca carried her team in a thrilling third set win while her team lost a four point lead. It was a matter of time for the United States hard hitting to take over and finish in overwhelming matter. The United States impressed with 12-3 margin in aces, also with 13-8 blocking advantage and 48-36 lead in kills. Mexico committed fewer errors 29-34. Wing spiker Skyler Fields scored 21 points as US top performer, on 15 kills, 2 blocks and 4 aces; Logan Eggleston also with double-figures scoring 15 points. Mexican Uxue Guereca scored a match-high of 22 points.