



## United States take home sixth title



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, July 14, 2018 – Defending champions United States came back all the way down from a 0-2 deficit to defeat host Dominican Republic 3-2 (24-26, 21-25, 25-21, 25-19, 15-8) in front of a packed house at Ricardo Arias Pavilion in Santo Domingo on Saturday night.

It is the sixth title for the United States in the history of the Women’s Volleyball Pan American Cup with the previous titles attained in 2003, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

The winners established a solid defense at the net which allowed them to score 17 blocks, including seven by Chiaka Ogbogu.

Aiyana Abukusomo-Whitney and Ogbogu blasted 27 and 21 points to lead the American attack (65-51) while Simone Lee and Haleigh Washington added 15 and 14 in the triumph. Brayelin Martínez had 21 points as the best Dominican scorer followed by Gaila Gonzalez with 16 and Yonkaira Peña with 13.

### Canada 3, Brazil 0

Canada claimed their second medal ever in the history of the Women’s Volleyball Pan American Cup after defeating Brazil 3-0 (25-19, 25-20, 25-21) in the match for the bronze medal. The Canadian squad had won also the bronze in the inaugural event back in 2002 when the competition took place in Saltillo, Mexico.

Kiera Van Ryk and Alexa Gray spearheaded Canada with 18 and 12 points, respectively, while Autumn Bailey contributed 9 points in the victory. Bruna Honorio Marques was the only Brazilian player who reached double digits in the scoring charts.

### Colombia 3, Puerto Rico 2

Colombia outdueled Puerto Rico in a mouth-watering five-setter 3-2 (25-15, 22-25, 21-25, 25-21, 15-12) to claim the last ticket available at the Pan American Cup to next year’s tournament of the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. Amanda Coneo and Dayana Segovia scored 24 and 20 points, respectively, as the leaders of Colombia while Melissa Rangel and María Margarita Martínez added 16 and 14. Daly Santana led all the players in the losing effort, followed by Pilar Marie Victoria with 19 and Naomi Santos with 13.

### Cuba 3, Peru 1

Cuba defeated Peru 3-1 (25-23, 38-40, 25-11, 25-22) in the contest for the seventh position. The second set of 78 points is the longest ever in the history of the Pan American Cup breaking the one established in 2009 when Puerto Rico won the first set against Dominican Republic in Miami, USA on July 3. Ailama Cese had a tournament-high 31 points as the best for Cuba while Claudia Hernandez and Diaris Pérez added 16 and 14, respectively. Brenda Lobaton led Peru with 23 points, followed by Karla Ortiz with 18 and Kiara Montes with 10.

