



Canada and Puerto Rico complete the Men's NORCECA Final 4

DURANGO, Mexico, August 21, 2021. - Canada and Puerto Rico complete the final four semifinalists at the Men's NORCECA Continental Championship in Durango, Mexico.

Canada advanced into semifinals with a five-set win 3-2(22-25, 25-22, 25-15, 22-25, 15-10) over United States; while Puerto Rico defeated Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-22, 22-25, 25-16, 25-23).

In Sunday's semifinals defending champion Cuba will face \mbox{Puerto} Rico and host Mexico plays against Canada.

In classification matches for positions 5-8, Trinidad and Tobago play Dominican Republic and Guatemala goes against United States.

Canada 3, United States 2

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overpowered United States with comfortable margins 54-43 in attacks, 17-9 in blocks and 9-3 in aces, but they handed out 42 points on unforced errors; the U.S. allowed 29 points on errors. Opposite Xander Ketrzynski scored a matchhigh of 25 points, on 17 kills, 4 blocks and 4 aces lifting Canada to recover from dropping the first set; outside hitter Brandon Koppers contributed with 19 points on 16 kills and 3 blocks and Mathias Elser added 10 points on 8 kills and 2 aces. On the U.S. side, middle blocker Jake Hanes scored 15 points, on 12 kills, 2 blocks and one ace, joined by outside hitter Spencer Olivier with 14 points on 10 attacks and 4 blocks.

Puerto Rico 3, Dominican Republic 1

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Puerto Rico advanced into the Men's NORCECA Continental Championship semifinals defeating Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-22, 22-25, 25-16, 25-23). Puerto Rico will play Cuba in semifinals and Dominican Republic plays classification for positions 5-8 against Trinidad and Tobago. Puerto Rico blocked Dominican Republic all the way with an impressive 19-9 advantage, counteracting Dominican's powerful attacks; they also did better in attacks 51-48 and 3-0 in serves. Both teams finished with similar unforced errors, Puerto Rico with 29 and Dominican Republic with 24. Puerto Rican Opposite Gabriel García led all scorers with a match-high of 26 points on 19 attacks, 6 blocks and one ace; also joining the party of points were outside hitter Pelegrin Vargas with 16 points, middle blocker Jonathan Rodríguez contributed with 12 points and middle blocker Pedro Nieves topped in blocks with 7 points from his 11 points total.

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