



## Dominican Republic remains NORCECA Champion and Gaila Gonzalez earns MVP Award

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, August 31, 2021.- Dominican Republic beat Puerto Rico 3-2 (25-22, 15-25, 25-17, 21-25, 15-12) to remain NORCECA Women's Champions and opposite hitter Gaila González earned the award as Most Valuable Player in Arena Astros of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Dominican Republic won their second consecutive title and third overall, and Canada won their second consecutive bronze over United States in five sets 3-2 (25-17, 17-25, 25-22, 23-25, 15-8).

### These are the individual recognitions given during the awards ceremony:

Most Valuable Player: Gaila González, DOM  
Setter: Natalia Valentín, PUR  
1<sup>st</sup> Outside Hitter: Prisilla Rivera, DOM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Outside Hitter: Bethania De La Cruz, DOM  
1<sup>st</sup> Middle Blocker: Rachael Kramer, USA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Middle Blocker: Jennifer Cross, CAN  
Opposite Hitter: Gaila González, DOM  
Liberero: Shara Venegas, PUR  
Best Receiver: Shara Venegas, PUR  
Best Digger: María José Castro, CRC  
Best Server: Jocelyn Urías, MEX  
Best Scorer: Gaila González, DOM

### Canada 3, United States 2

Kiera Van Ryk scored 24 points carrying Canada to over United States in five sets 3-2 (25-17, 17-25, 25-22, 23-25, 15-8) to win the bronze medal. Kiera took matters in her "serves" while recovering Canada from a three-point deficit (1-4) in the fifth to reach a 6-4 lead and breaking the U.S. receiving line up to the bronze medal finish. Van Ryk led with 17 kills, 4 serves and added 3 blocks of her 24



points, middle blocker Jennifer Cross contributed with 15 points on 10 kills, leading blocks with 4 and one ace, and outside hitter Hilary Howe added 14 points.

This is Canada's second bronze in a row; they now have two silvers and ten bronze medals.

The U.S. has won the most number of medals, with a total of 23. Canada led in kills 50-49, in blocks 16-11 and in serves 8-11; they handed out 32 points from errors while benefiting from 31 of United States.

The U.S. top scorer was opposite player Veronica Perry with 21 points followed by outside hitter Alexandra Franti with 14 points; middle blockers Rachael Kramer and Corissa Crocker tallied 9 points each.

### Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 2

Dominican Republic beat Puerto Rico 3-2 (25-22, 15-25, 25-17, 21-25, 15-12) to remain NORCECA Women's Champions winning their second consecutive title and third overall. Dominican Republic won under Puerto Rico's force.

They recovered from a five-point deficit (5-10) in the first set, came back stronger in the second and finally Puerto Rico always kept them on their toes to the dramatic five-set finish. Dominicans led 10-9 in blocks and committed fewer unforced errors (25-31), while Puerto Rico led 61-38 in attacks and 6-2 in serves.

Four Dominicans scored double-figures, commanded by opposite hitter Gaila González with 19 points, followed by outside hitter Bethania De La Cruz with 15 points and middle blocker Jineiry Martínez alongside outside hitter Prisilla Rivera scored 13 points apiece.

Puerto Rico also was led by four players with double-figures, outside hitters Stephanie Enright and Marie Victoria finished with 19 points each, Enright leading with serves with 4pts., opposite hitter Brittany Abercrombie followed with 15 points and middle blocker Diana Reyes collected 12 points.