

Dominicans seek fifth crown at Pan Am Cup



Host Dominican Republic advanced to the final of the Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup for the eighth consecutive edition by defeating Canada 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 25-21) this Saturday.

The Dominicans, who are seeking a fifth crown at the event, will face Mexico, a surprise contender after beating the three-time defending champions United States in the first semifinal.

The Dominicans last won in 2016 defeating Puerto Rico. They had lost the last three times to the United States.

Gaila Gonzalez and the veteran Prisilla Rivera, who is retiring after this competition, shared the lead of the Dominican offense each with 14 points, including three blocks apiece.

Hilary Howe was the only Canadian player to reach double digits in scoring with 11 points.

Mexico 3, United States 1

Mexico secured its first ever medal after a surprise 3-1 (22-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-19) win over three-time reigning champion United States in Saturday's first semifinal.

The highest position reached by the Mexican women in the 19-year history of the event was a fourth place in the inaugural tournament in 2002.

The first win ever after nine losses against United States, sent the Mexican squad into a gold medal match on Sunday against the

winner of the other semi-final between Canada and host Dominican Republic.

Samantha Bricio and Maria Fernanda Rodríguez led Mexico with 19 and 17 points, respectively, followed by Grecia Castro and Karina Flores with 14 points apiece.

Danielle Cuttino finished with 21 points for United States, while Lindsay Stalzer and Symone Williams-About each had 14 points in the losing effort.

Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 0

Cuba defeated Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 25-20) to claim the fifth position.

Dezirett Madan and Claudia Tarin were the best scorer for the Cuban side with 14 and 13 points, respectively, and one block apiece.

Yuliana Martinez had 11 and Nicole Marie Cruz finished with 10 for Puerto Rico.

