

Host Dominicans qualify in the top position



Host Dominican Republic registered a convincing victory in straight sets 3-0 (25-22, 25-15, 25-12) over three-time reigning champions United States to qualify in first place of the preliminary round at the Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup on Friday.

In the semifinals of Saturday, the Dominicans will play the fourth placed Canada while United States will face Mexico.

Gaila Gonzalez once again led the Dominican attack with 14 points, including two aces, and Yonkaira Peña added three aces and three blocks among her 12 points. Prisilla Rivera and Jineiry Martínez contributed 9 and 8 points, respectively, in the victory.

Veronica Jones-Perry finished with 10 points as the United States top scorer followed by Danielle Cuttino with 9.

Mexico 3, Canada 2

Mexico edged Canada in five sets 3-2 (26-24, 22-25, 25-22, 17-25, 15-12) to claim third place at the end of the preliminary round. The terrific duel ended when Canadian Hilary Howe, the top scorer of the match with 27 points, crashed her serve at the top of the net.

Maria Rodriguez led Mexico with 23 points, including five blocks, followed by Grecia Castro and Ana Patricia Valle with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Howe, the leading scorer of the competition, landed a tournament-high 7 aces. Melissa Langegger (15), Natasha Calkins (12) and



Nyadholi Thokbuom (10) also finished in double figures for the defeated side.

Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 0

Cuba defeated Puerto Rico 3-1 (15-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-19) to claim its first victory at the Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup on Friday.

These two teams will meet again in the first match of Saturday for the 5-6 positions of the standings.

The Cuban team converted 15 blocks in points to seal the victory while the Puerto Rican side made 37 unforced errors.

Dayana Martínez and Dezirett Madan led Cuba with 14 and 11 points. Puerto Rican Isabel Bauza led all the players with 18 points, followed by Gabriela Alicea with 13 in the loss.

