

## Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Mexico off to a good start

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, August 26, 2021.- Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Mexico off to a good start on opening day of the Women's NORCECA Continental Championship in Guadalajara, Mexico.

In pool A, Puerto Rico, recovered from dropping the first set to beat United States 3-2 (21-25, 28-26, 25-19, 21-25, 15-9). Defending champion Dominican Republic and host Mexico prevailed in straight sets in pool B; Dominicans dominated Costa Rica 3-2 (25-11, 25-21, 25-15) and Mexico overpowered Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-13, 25-9, 25-10).

On day two of the event that grants two tickets to the 2022 FIVB World Championship, Dominican Republic (1-0) plays against Trinidad and Tobago (0-1), followed by Canada's debut vs. USA (0-1) and Mexico (1-0) faces Costa Rica (0-1). Puerto Rico (1-0) has the day off.

### Puerto Rico 3, United States 2

Puerto Rico won the Women's NORCECA Continental Championship opener to United States 3-2 (21-25,



28-26, 25-19, 21-25, 15-9). Puerto Rico recovered from dropping the first set with strength in attacks (62-46) while the U.S. sustained the pressure up to an extended tie-break with an impressive 20-9 in blocks. The winning side held a 7-4 margin also in serves and benefited on 32 U.S. errors but giving away 34. Opposite hitter Brittany Abbercombie and middle blocker Neira Ortiz led Puerto Rico with 17 points each.

Abbercombie on 15 kills, one block and one ace, Ortiz leading Puerto Ricans blocks with 5 points and serves with 4 points; outside hitters Pilar Victoria and Stephanie Enright followed with 15 and 11 points respectively. Outside hitter Kara Bajema topped the U.S. with 17 points on 13 kills, 3 blocks and one ace, opposite hitter Danielle Cuttino added 11 points and middle blocker Rachael Kramer scored 10 points, leading all blockers with 8 points.



### Dominican Republic 3, Costa Rica 0

Defending champions Dominican Republic won pool B opener to Costa Rica 3-2 (25-11, 25-21, 25-15). Dominican Republic dominated by a huge 12-3 margin in blockings, 9-4 in serves and 29-24 in attacks, while limiting their errors to a total of 17 against 25 committed by Costa Rica. Costa Rica's momentum in set two reaching 21 all was easily cut off by Dominican Republic's experienced players. Dominican head coach Marcos Kwiek took the opportunity to use his entire roster with opposite hitter Galia González leading all scorers with 16 points on 9 attacks, 3 blocks and 4 serves; performing in the first two sets, Prisilla Rivera contributed with 9 points and middle blocker Geraldine Gonzalez tallied 8 points. Costa Rica's leading scorer was outside hitter Tamara Espinoza with 8 points all in kills, followed by outside hitter Tatiana Sayles and middle blocker Mariana Rodríguez with 7 and 6 points respectively.



### Mexico 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Mexico overpowered Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-13, 25-9, 25-10). Mexico held an overwhelming 40-11 attacking advantage as well as 15-2 margin in serves was too much for Trinidad and Tobago to react in their first pool B victory.

The host also held a 7-2 margin in blocks and Trinidad and Tobago committed fewer errors (13-17). Three players commanded Mexico's offense, with top scorer Andrea Rangel with 14 points, leading all serves with 4 points, Samantha Bricio contributed with 12 points including 3 aces and middle blocker Jocelyn Urias chipped in 11 points. Opposite hitter Krystle Esdelle led Trinidad and Tobago with 7 points.