



Puerto Rico and Cuba win thrilling tie-breakers in Pan Am Cup opening

COLIMA, Mexico, June 16, 2019.- Puerto Rico and Cuba won thrilling tie-breakers in the opening of the fourteenth Men's Pan American Cup at the Multifunctional Auditorium in Colima, Mexico.

Puerto Rico recovered from a 0-2 set-deficit against Peru in pool B 3-2 (23-25, 24-26, 30-28, 25-19, 16-14) while Cuba defeated Argentina with dramatic 3-2 (32-30, 25-20, 22-25, 17-25, 15-13) pool A.

Also off to a good start was United States, Canada, Chile and host Mexico.

Puerto Rico 3, Peru 2

The fourteenth Men's Pan American Cup opened with a tie-break thriller win by Puerto Rico against Peru 3-2 (23-25, 24-26, 30-28, 25-19, 16-14). Puerto Rico came from behind to recover from losing two tough sets while struggling from Peru's surprising velocity and force over the net. Puerto Ricans blocks were responsible for their first win in pool B, by a comfortable 16-8 margin. Peru led in kills 68-64, as well as in serves 5-3. Puerto Rico committed a total of 34 errors and benefited from 31 opponent errors. Wing spiker Kevin Lopez led Puerto Rico with 24 points including 20 kills and 2 aces, followed by middle blocker Pedro Nieves with 17 points including 6 monster blocks; while wing spiker Pelegrin Vargas and opposite Javier Rodriguez contributed with 14 points apiece. On Peru's side, wing spiker Alvaro Hidalgo scored a match-high with 28 points including 27 kills, opposite Eduardo Romay scored 19 points including 14

kills and 4 strong aces; wing spiker Daniel Porras scored 13 points and middle blocker Daniel Urueña added 11 points.

United States 3, Guatemala 0

United States swept Guatemala 3-0 (25-10, 25-17, 25-17) in their first win. United States, along with Guatemala made their debut in pool C of the event, with United States leading in every skill by 39-17 margin in kills, 11-3 in blocks and 5-0 in serves. Guatemala committed fewer errors (20-24) than USA. Wing spikers Colton Cowell and Samuel Holt led USA with 9 points apiece, opposite James Shaw and middle blocker Brendan Schmidt scored 8 and 7 points respectively. Wing spiker Wagner Chacon topped Guatemala with 7 points, followed by captain Carlos Lopez with 5 points.



Canada 3, Suriname 0

Canada downed Suriname 3-0 (25-14, 25-19, 25-16). The first match in pool A showed a consistent performance from Canada and a strong effort by Suriname who pushed forward in the second set. Canada held a robust 28-16 advantage in spikes, 7-2 margin in blocks and 7-1 in aces. Both sides finished with numerous errors, Canada with 30 and Suriname with 33. Wing spiker Braedon Friesen led Canada's scorers with 9 points on 8 kills and one ace; middle blocker Danny Demyanenko scored 8



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points on 4 kills and 4 effective blocks, while opposite Casey Schouten contributed with 6 points. Keven Sporkslede scored 8 points for Suriname.

led all scorers with 16 points on 14 kills, one block and one ace, followed by wing spiker Brandon Legall with 12 points all on kills.



Chile 3, Dominican Republic 1

Chile beat Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-18, 20-25, 25-20, 25-21). Chile needed almost two hours (1:58) to hold off Dominican Republic in pool C, mostly from the service line with 11-5 margin. In set two, Dominicans suffered the loss of opposite Henry Tapia due to dehydration. Chile also finished with 46-43 margin in spikes, 8-5 in blocks and benefited from 36 Dominican errors while committing 25. Chilean captain Dusan Bonacic scored 17 points on 11 kills and 6 aces and opposite Tomas Parraguirre added 15 points on 13 kills and 2 aces. Wing spiker Héctor Cruz of Dominican Republic scored a match-high of 20

points on 15 kills, 3 blocks and 2 aces; wing spiker Jonathan Mercedes contributed with 13 points on 12 kills and one ace.

Cuba 3, Argentina 2

Cuba defeated Argentina in dramatic five-sets 3-2 (32-30, 25-20, 22-25, 17-25, 15-13). Argentina led the entire first set only to lose three set points (24-21) and reaching a dramatic 32-30 in Cuba's favor. Still the South American squad extended the actions bouncing back from 0-2 set-deficit. It was a match full of emotions, intensity and powerful spikes as well as blocks. Cuba led in blocks with huge 13-5 margin, while Argentina led in attacks 62-59. Both teams scored on 5 aces; in addition, Cuba committed more errors (41-34). Cubans used a balanced scoring attack with wing spikers Marlon Yang and Miguel Angel López on 16 points apiece; wing spiker Osniel Mergarejo registered 12 points, while middle blockers Roamy Alonso and Javier Concepción tallied 11 points apiece. Argentinean Nicolas Bruno led all scorers with 23 points on 22 kills and one ace; opposite German Johansen joined in with 14 points and wing spiker Nicolás Lazo added 10 points.



Mexico 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Mexico opened the fourteenth Men's Pan American Cup winning to Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-19, 25-20, 25-22). Mexico got off to a good start in pool B leading 41-33 in spikes, 5-3 in blocks and 6-3 in aces. Both teams finished with similar amount of errors, Mexico with 22 and Trinidad and Tobago with 23. Opposite Daniel Vargas was Mexico's top scorer with 11 points on 9 kills and 2 aces; wing spiker Jorge Barajas and middle blocker

Jonathan Martinez collected 8 points apiece. Opposite Ryan Stewart of Trinidad and Tobago