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Newsletter

Puerto Rico and Mexico with straight set victories in Men's NORCECA opening day



DURANGO, Mexico, August 18, 2021. - Puerto Rico and Mexico earned straight set victories at the Men's NORCECA Continental Championship opening day in Auditorio del Pueblo in Durango, Mexico.

Pool A contenders Puerto Rico defeated Canada 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-19) and Mexico was too much for Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-11, 25-13, 8); while United States needed five sets to hold off Guatemala 3-2 (26-24, 25-23, 23-25, 25-20, 15-10) and Cuba four to dominate Dominican Republic in pool B.

Day two of competition starts with Canada (0-1) vs. Trinidad and Tobago (0-1), Cuba (1-0) vs. Guatemala (0-1), United States (1-0) vs. Dominican Republic (1-0) and Mexico (1-0) vs. Puerto Rico (1-0).

United States 3, Guatemala 2

United States needed five sets to beat Guatemala 3-2 (26-24, 25-23, 23-25, 25-20, 15-10). Guatemala started off strong recovering from a five-point deficit (18-23) winning the first set, marking the rhythm for the sets to come.

U.S. outside hitter William Rottman scored a match-high of 21 points alongside opposite Jake Hanes with 20 points to hold off Guatemala in the end; outside hitter Brett Wildman contributed with 18 points, middle blockers Keenan Sanders and Tyler Mitchem added 13 and 12 points respectively.

Outside hitter Carlos Chacón and opposite José Carrillo were Guatemala's top scorers with 16 points each, joined by Gerardo González with 12 points and middle blocker Jason Hernández chipped in with 10 points. The U.S. led with 73-52 advantage in attacks, a huge 11-3 margin in blocks and 5-3 in serves; they committed 46 unforced errors compared to 23 from Guatemala.

Puerto Rico 3, Canada 0

Puerto Rico started with a straight set win 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-19) over Canada. Outside hitter Pelegrin Vargas and opposite Gabriel García led Puerto Rico with 11 points apiece; Vargas on 8 kills and 3 blocks, García also on 8 kills and 3 aces.

Opposite Xander Ketrzynski was Canada's top scorer with 12 points on 10 kills, one block and one ace, followed by outside hitter Brandon Koppers with 11 points. Puerto Rico held a 32-29 attacking advantage, in blocks both teams scored 7 points and Canada led 5-4 in serves. Puerto Rico committed 18 unforced errors while Canada finished with 34.

Cuba 3, Dominican Republic 1

Defending champion Cuba defeated Dominican Republic 3-1 (25-17, 29-31, 25-21, 25-19) for a successful debut in pool B. Cuba's 52-34 advantage in attacks stopped Dominican's momentum in set two; they also led in serves 10-7 but Dominicans held a one-point (6-5) in serves and committed fewer unforced errors (37-41).

Three players with double-digits led Cuba's scorers, opposite Jesus Herrera with 18 points on 16 kills and two aces, outside hitter Miguel Angel López with 17 points including two aces and middle blocker José Israel Masso with 14 points.

Mexico 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Mexico was too much for Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-11, 25-13, 25-8) in their debut. Outside hitter Josué de Jesús López scored impressive 10 aces of his 18 points in Mexico's overwhelming victory.

The home teams' margins in every skill were also overpowering; 29-6 in attacking, 10-2 in blocking and 16-1 in serves. Trinidad and Tobago committed 20 errors against 23 from Mexico.