



Brazil and Peru advance in Pool A

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 16, 2007.- Host Brazilians finished unbeaten in three outings winning Pool A and Peru scored a major surprise by defeating Dominican Republic in a five-set battle advancing to the semi finals of the Women's Volleyball Tournament of the Pan American Games.

Brazil beat Mexico 3-0 (25-16, 25-15 y 25-17) and Peru came back from a 1-2 deficit to beat the defending champions Dominican Republic 14-25, 25-13, 23-25, 29-27, 15-8.

By finishing first, Brazil now will meet in the semi finals with USA in the semi final phase and Peru will meet Cuba, the unbeaten winner of Pool B. Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico will battle for the fifth position.

"I don't have a favourite rival, both are good teams," commented Jose Roberto Guimaraes, the Brazilian coach who used replacement players after the first set. "I took the opportunity to test my team and to confirm on what I have for the rest of the event."

The best Brazilians were Sheila Castro with 20 points and Thaisa Menezes and Erika Coimbra had 11 and 10 respectively. Once again Migdalel Ruiz led Mexico with 13 and Martha Revuelta had 12.

The Dominicans clearly dominated the first set, but the South Americans recovered and established their good overall defense causing discomfort to the Dominican offense.

In the third set, Dominican coach used injured Milagros Cabral whom he was protecting due her ankle injury and things changes momentarily for his side.

Luren Baylon was the best Peruvian with 20 points, Leyla Chihuan had 18, Patty Soto 12 and Julissa Zamudio 10. Bethania de la Cruz led the Dominicans with 28 points, Cindy Rondón had 17, Cabral 11 and Cosiris Rodríguez 10.

