

Brazil and Dominican Republic advance to semifinals



Lima, Peru, September 5, 2012 – Brazil and Dominican Republic earned direct tickets to the semifinal round of the U-23 Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup as winners of their respective pools with undefeated 3-0 winloss records.

In Wednesday's action, Brazil overcame a slow start to defeat Cuba in four sets while Dominican Republic overcame hosts Peru also in four frames. Both pool winners will have a rest day on Thursday before returning to action on Friday.

In the quarterfinals, Canada will play Argentina while Cuba will meet Peru.

Argentina 3, Colombia 2

Argentina came from behind to edge Colombia (23-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-18, 19-17) in the first five-setter of the event. Argentina improved to a 2-1 win-loss record and Colombia remained winless in three outings. Lucía Fresco, the leading scorer of the competition, finished with 32 points for the winners. Tanya Acosta followed with 19 and Calvete contributed 15, including six blocks. Colombia's Diana Arrechea recorded a tournament-high 33 points in the losing cause while Melissa Rangel and María Martínez collected 19 and 12 respectively. Argentina outblocked Colombia 14-8, while the defeated side managed a 10-6 advantage in aces.

Brazil 3, Cuba 1

Brazil finished atop of Pool A following their 3-1 (23-25, 25-15, 25-8, 25-

17) victory over Cuba. The South Americans had a 3-0 win-loss record while the Cubans advanced to the quarterfinals round as the third placed team behind Argentina with 1-2 mark. Brazil's block provided a 12-4 difference over Cuba to go along with a 55-34 advantage in attacks. The winners held a huge 8-1 margin in service aces. Gabriela Braga sparked Brazil with a match-high 23 points, while Sara Silva added 18, including four blocks and two aces. Rosamaría Montibeller and Marcilia Silva charted 14 and 11 points respectively. Yoana Palacio was the only player of Cuba scoring in double digits with 12 points.

Canada 3, Costa Rica 0

Canada recorded a 3-0 (25-16, 25-15, 25-18) victory over Costa Rica to advance to the quarterfinals. The Canadians finished Pool B with a 1-2 mark while Costa Rica remained winless and will play for the 5-8 positions. The North Americans held advantages of 10-2 and 9-2 in serves and blocks respectively in addition to a margin of 32-19 in attacks. Carly Hamilton topped Canada with 11 tallies while Royale Richardson and Alicia Perrin each had 8 points. Kelci French, who played only in the first set, totaled 7, including six aces. Costa Rica's Mihal Hines finished with 9 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Peru 1

Dominican Republic recorded a 3-1 (25-23, 25-19, 18-25, 25-20) victory over Peru to conclude the preliminary round with a 3-0 mark and the top position in Pool B. Jeoselyna Rodriguez was the best scorer of the winning side with 20 points followed by Yonkaira Peña with 13. Lisvel Eve and Candida Arias added 12 and 8 respectively with 4 blocks apiece. Angela Leyva topped Peru with 19 points and Raffaella Camet tallied 11. Karla Ortiz charted 8 points while Clarivet Yllescas and Gina Lopez each had seven. The Dominicans had the edge in blocks 12-11 while Peru held the advantage in serves 8-2. The winners made 26 unforced errors to 35 by the losers.



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