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# Newsletter

## Dominican Republic claim gold medal at U-23

Lima, Peru, September 8, 2012 – Dominican Republic was crowned as champions of the first edition of the U-23 Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup after outclassing Brazil in straight sets (25-18, 25-16 25-19) showing evident superiority over their South American opponent in the match at Miguel Grau Coliseum of El Callao on Saturday.

Lisvel Eve led the outstanding performance of the Dominican side with 17 points, including 5 blocks and 2 service winners. She was followed by Jeoselyna Rodriguez and Cándida Arias with 12 and 11 respectively and 5 blocks from Arias. Marianne Fersola and Yonkaira Peña chipped in with 8 points apiece.

Gabriela Braga and Sara Silva were the top scorers of Brazil with 15 and 14 points respectively. The Dominicans held a 15-10 lead in points via blocks and 4-1 in aces. Also they made 10 unforced errors to 19 from the defeated side.

The service location and the close blocking at the corners were the key factors in the victory for the most effective team during the whole week and with more presence on the court.

The defense of libero Brenda Castillo and the accurate job by setter Niverka Marte were also major contributors to the success of Saturday and during the preliminary round and semifinal phase.

"This is the result of a work in progress for years," Dominican Republic's coach Marcos Kwiek said. "We grew up with the tournament improving day by day. At this age group is very difficult to keep the concentration for a whole match but they did it today. It was a 3-0 victory but a well fought one."

"It was a team-effort and the most important thing was that we never were over confident knowing that on the other side of the net we had a big opponent," Dominican captain Niverka Marte said.

"We achieved our objective of giving my team more volume in their game and more experience," Brazil's coach Luizomar Moura said. "Now we will work on getting more speed from our middle blockers and a more effective attack ahead of the South American Championship."

**Argentina 3, Peru 1**  
Argentina won the bronze medal following their four-set win (20-25, 25-14, 25-16, 25-20) over hosts Peru. Lucia Fresco and Maria Calvete topped Argentina with 18 and 16 points while Tanya Acosta and Antonela Curatola



added 8 and 7 tallies in the victory. Peru's Raffaella Camet and Angela Leyva finished with 13 and 11 points respectively. It was a match plagued by errors from both sides as the winners committed 27 mistakes to 35 by the defeated team. Argentina held a 7-3 advantage in the blocking department and Peru was slightly better in aces 8-7.

### Cuba 3, Canada 2

Yoana Palacio recorded a match-high 24 in leading Cuba to a five-set victory (16-25, 26-24, 25-18, 22-25, 15-7) over Canada in the match for fifth place. Four other Cubans had double digits in the scores as Regla Gracia charted 16, Daymara Lescaj and Alena Rojas each compiled 12 while Sulian Matienzo collected 10. Royale Richardson led Canada with 17 tallies followed by Casie Gano. Amy Leschied and Kelci French with 12, 11 and 10 respectively. Gano scored with 6 blocks and French finished with 5 aces. Cuba held a 61-48 advantage in attacks to compensate their 31 errors to 22 by Canada. The winners led 13-9 in aces while the losers held an 11-8 difference in aces.

### Colombia 3, Costa Rica 0

Colombia blanked Costa Rica 25-17, 25-16, 25-9 in the match for seventh place. Diana Arrechea (14), Silvia

Galeano (12) and Melissa Rangel (10) were the top offensive weapons for Colombia in the victory. Captain Maria Marin had a match high 5 aces while Galeano added four of her own in the win. Evelyn Sibaja finished with eight points for the defeated side. Colombia held an 8-4 advantage in blocks and also a 10-4 margin in blocks. The winners had 36 positive attacks to only 18 by the losers.

Final positions: 1. Dominican Republic, 2. Brazil, 3. Argentina, 4. Peru, 5. Cuba, 6. Canada, 7. Colombia, 8. Costa Rica.

### Individual Awards

MVP: Yonkaira Peña (DOM)  
Best Scorer: Lucia Fresco (ARG)  
Best Spiker: Gabriela Braga  
Best Blocker: Candida Arias (DOM)  
Best Server: Kelci French (CAN)  
Best Setter: Antonela Curatola (ARG)  
Best Digger: Brenda Castillo (DOM)  
Best Receiver: Juliana Paes (BRA)  
Best Libero: Jazmin Molli (ARG)

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