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Cuba starts with right foot at home

HAVANA, Cuba, March 18, 2013 – Cuba collected five important points with a 3-0 victory over Costa Rica in opening day of the Women's Junior Pan American Cup on Monday as the home side began their quest for a berth in the FIVB U-20 Women's Volleyball World Championship next June in the Czech Republic.

In the other match of day one in Pool B, which groups the teams battling for the only available ticket, Puerto Rico edged Chile in five sets and got three points to two for the defeated side.

Mexico and Dominican Republic scored straight-set victories over Colombia and Peru in Pool A, where all the teams already have booked tickets to Brno.

In Tuesday's matches, Puerto Rico takes on Costa Rica while Cuba battles Chile. In the other side, Peru meets Colombia while Dominican Republic plays Mexico.

Puerto Rico 3, Chile 2

Puerto Rico came from behind to beat Chile in five sets (22-25, 24-26, 25-21, 25-16, 15-13) in the first match of Pool B. Daly Santana

finished with 27 points for the winners and Kanisha Jimenez added 16. Chile had Mariana Salinas (20), Lucía Lozano (16) and Catalina Melo (15) with double figures in the score charts.

Mexico 3, Colombia 0

Mexico stopped a reaction of Colombia in the third set and claimed a victory in straight sets (25-22, 25-20, 30-28) in Group A. The top scorer of the game was the Mexican Alejandra Isiordia with 19, followed by Lisbeth Sainz with 14. For Colombia, Andrea Estrada and Danna Escobar, each finished with 13 points.

Dominican Republic 3, Peru 0

Dominican Republic overwhelmed Peru in consecutive sets (25-20, 25-16 and 25-13) in Pool A. The youngsters showed a lot of personality on the court despite his limited experience. Brayelin Martinez was the top scorer of the match with 22 points, while his teammate and captain Pamela Soriano added 13. Angela Leyva had 8 for Peru.

Cuba 3, Costa Rica 0

Cuba beat Costa Rica 3-0 (25-14, 25-13, 25-19) in Group B to the start with an important step in their quest to qualify for the world championship. It was evident the physical superiority and technical-tactical of the home team, mainly because of its attack. Cuban Meliza Vargas led the scores with 17 points followed by Sulian Matienzo with 12.