

**FIVB**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE VOLLEYBALLESPORT  
COURTmolten  
For the real gameGo beyond  
your limits!

**NORCECA**  
Volleyball Confederation
July 2014  
Year 12 - No. 86

# Newsletter

## Cuba and United States step into NORCECA U-20 Gold Match winning FIVB WCH berths

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, July 12, 2014. - Cuba and United States will face each other in the Gold Medal of the Women's U-20 Continental Championship on Sunday at Teodoro Palacios Flores Gymnasium in Guatemala.

Advancing into the final match of the NORCECA Championship also meant for both teams qualifying to the 2015 age-group FIVB World Championship. During the eight editions of the event, USA has won the NORCECA title in five occasions and Cuba only once.

Sunday's schedule features Costa Rica against Guatemala for fifth place, followed by the Bronze Medal match between Mexico and Dominican Republic; and Cuba faces United States in the Gold Medal Match. The tournament will conclude with the Awarding Ceremony.

Cuba 3, Mexico 1

Cubans 3-1 (25-23, 14-25, 25-22, 25-20) victory over Mexico served to book a ticket to the 2015 age-group FIVB World Championship and to the gold medal match of the Women's U-20 NORCECA Continental Championship on Sunday. Cuba's overwhelming performance and euphoric celebration brought tears of joy to players and staff. Cubans built up their victory over Mexico with another solid performance by 14 year old Melissa Vargas, who arises like an exceptional player taking her team unbeaten into the finals. Despite that Mexico out-blocked Cuba 14-8, had a 12-10 ace advantage and made less unforced errors (20) against Cuban errors (35), they couldn't outduel Cuba's impressive superiority of 51-29 in spikes. Young spiker Melissa Vargas led Cuban's offensive line with 27 points, including 5 aces. Also with double figures for the winning cause, outside hitter Diaris Perez with 14 points and setter Gretell Moreno with 11 points. In the losing effort, middle blocker Patricia Valle scored 14 points followed by outside hitter Fernanda Guitron with 13 points.

United States 3, Dominican Republic 0

USA beat defending champions Dominican Republic in straight sets 25-16, 25-20, 25-18 to reach the final match of the Women's U-20 NORCECA Continental Championship and takes the last berth available to the 2015 FIVB World Championship. United States had to put up a strong resistance against a fiercely Dominican team to take the win. To take Dominican Republic down, the Americans performed to their highest yet in the tournament as they completed the preliminary round in a comfortable matter. United States will face Cuba for the title, while Dominican Republic plays for the Bronze Medal against Mexico. USA prevailed in the end with a wide 44-28 margin in spikes and 10-5 margin in blocks. In serves, Dominicans topped by only one point 3-2. Middle blocker Rhamat Alhassan was USA's top scorer with 14 points, also contributing to the winning cause outside hitter Cortney Schwan with 13 points and opposite Hayley Hodson with 10 points. Dominican outside hitter Brayelin Martinez scored 15 points.

Nicaragua 3, Martinique 0

Nicaragua defeated Martinique 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-23) at the Women's U-20

NORCECA Continental Championship for seventh place. Nicaragua came out on top Martinique for their second victory, finishing the tournament with a 2-2 win-loss record and seventh place. The victory wasn't easy for the Central American team as Martinique put up a fight. Nicaragua prevailed as they managed fewer errors (28) than Martinique (40). Nicaragua held advantage of 30-21 in spikes while Martinique out-blocked Nicaragua by 7-3 and was better in serves also by 7-2. Both teams were led by their captains, Nicaragua's Florelisa Smith with 12 points and Martinique's Maelle Paulin with 11 points.



Go beyond your limits!

**NORCECA Newsletter**