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Peru Qualifies to the FIVB 2015 WCH and reaches the Pan-Am semis along with Cuba

Ica, Peru, September 9, 2014. - A spectacular closing of the preliminary round was the outcome on Tuesday's actions in both hosting cities of the II Women's U-23 Pan-American Cup with Peru qualifying to the FIVB 2015 World Championship and reaching the semifinals as Pool A winners, joined by Cuba as top team in Pool B.

Peru came from behind to defeat Argentina 3-2 (22-25, 25-27, 25-22, 29-27, 15-11) battling for the only South American ticket to the world championship, while Cuba played strongly to beat Dominican Republic 3-0 (27-25, 25-23, 25-19) in a Caribbean duel. Both teams advance directly into the semifinals on Friday.

Quarterfinals will be held at Jose Oliva Razzeto Coliseum in Ica on Thursday between Colombia (2nd B) facing Mexico (3rd A) followed by the match between Argentina (2nd A) and Dominican Republic (3rd B).

Colombia 3, Costa Rica 0

Colombia finished the preliminary round with victory over Costa Rica 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-18), their second win in Group B. The Central American surprised in the two first sets with strong resistance, but their opponents reacted at the end of each set without seizing their initiative mostly in the third set where they showed their real superiority, with advantage in kills (49-32) and serves (7-4), while in blocking they finished even (4-4). The top scorer was Maria Martinez (18), followed by Yeisy Soto (13), Amanda Coneo (11) and Diana Arrechea (10), Colombian players with double figures, while Evelyn Sibaja (11) and Mijal Hines (10) from the defeated side.

Mexico 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0



Mexico dominated Trinidad and Tobago in straight sets 25-17, 25-13, 25-17 in their last match in Pool A. Mexico struggled more than necessary in the early stage of the match to defeat Trinidad and Tobago who blocked their offensive line; but they gained confidence as the match progressed and managed the win with a faster rhythm.

Mexico concludes the preliminary round in third place in Pool A, with a 1-2 win-loss record and advance to the quarterfinals to be held in Ica on Thursday. Trinidad and Tobago will travel to the city of Chincha and play for 5-8 placing starting on Friday. The winners held a huge advantage in kills with a 43-17 margin; they were also more effective in serves by 6-3. Trinidad and Tobago controlled the blocking category with 10-5 advantage but committed more errors (21) than Mexico (17). Mexican middle blocker Patricia Valle and Trinidad and Tobago's outside hitter Channon Thompson led their teams with 12 tallies apiece.

Cuba 3, Dominican Republic 0

Cuba defeated Dominican Republic 3-0 (27-25, 25-23, 25-19) to top Pool B unbeaten and reaching the semifinals. In the closing preliminary round at Mauro Mina Coliseum, both Caribbean teams engaged in an intense battle in which the Cubans benefited, mostly in the first two sets when their opponents failed numerous serves, while Juan Carlos Gala's pupils were better in that category (5-2) and grew in their counterattacks. The young 14 year old Melissa Vargas led all scorers with 16 points, joined by middle blocker Yelennis Diaz (11) and outside hitter lefy Regla Gracia (10),

while the other middle blocker, Heidi Casanova, and the outside hitter-receptor Sulian Matienzo contributed with seven points apiece. On the Dominican side, the offensive line was commanded by outside hitters Brayelin Martinez and Yonkaira Peña with 15 and 11 points respectively.

Peru 3, Argentina 2

Peru had a spectacular comeback over Argentina 3-2 (22-25, 25-27, 25-22, 29-27, 15-11) to claim the only South American ticket available to the 2015 age-group FIVB World Championship in the last Pool A match. The loud and encouraging three thousand spectators weren't silenced by Argentina who won the first two sets, with Peru missing three set points in the second set and losing a seven point advantage in the fourth set. Long and tough rallies describe Peru's victory as undefeated Pool A winners and advancing into the semifinals of the tournament. Argentina took the defeat with slight advantage in all categories; 70-68 in spikes, 13-10 in blocking and 4-3 in serves; their 35 unforced errors cost them valuable points, while Peru had a total of 25. Opposite player Maguilaura Frias of Peru led all scorers with 23 points, 20 in kills and 3 in blocks. Also contributing to the home team's victory were middle blocker Clariett Yllescas (17), outside hitter Angela Leyva (13), middle blocker Andrea Urrutia (12) and outside hitter Katehrine Olemar (11). Argentina also had several double figures scorers, starting with middle blocker Sofia Bulgarella (18), outside hitter Irene Verasio (17), opposite Priscila Bosio (13), outside hitter Camila Hiruela (11) and middle blocker Micaela Tasara (10).

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