

Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico to play for the gold in Veracruz

CORDOBA, Mexico, November 19, 2014 – Three-time defending champions the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico will play for the gold medal of the women's volleyball tournament at the XXII Central American and Caribbean Games at Arena Cordoba on Thursday.

The same two teams contested in the final match of the previous edition of the Games when the Dominicans won a five-set battle 25-19, 19-25, 25-19, 24-26, 15-4 four years ago in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

The Dominican Republic advanced to the title match following their straight-set (25-11, 25-23, 27-25) over hosts Mexico while Puerto Rico survived a thrilling five-set battle against Cuba by scores of 25-23, 25-21, 14-25, 22-25, 15-13.

Bethania De la Cruz and Prisilla Rivera led the Dominican attack with Thompson had 10 for the Trinidadians.

14 and 13 points, respectively, while Annerys Vargas contributed 12 points, including seven blocks, in the victory. Mexico's Seomara Sainz tallied 13 points as the loser's best scorer.

Sarai Alvarez led the way for Puerto Rico with 28 points, followed by Aury Cruz with 18. Cuba's Melissa Vargas finished with a tournamenthigh 31 points in the losing effort.

In the history of the Games, the Dominicans have won five gold medals, one silver and four bronzes. Puerto Rico finished with the silver medal four times to go with one bronze.

Cuba will play hosts Mexico for the bronze medal.

In the 5-to-8 consolation round, Venezuela defeated Costa Rica 3-1 (25-19, 25-22, 22-25, 25-19) and Colombia beat Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 25-15).

Roslandy Acosta's 21 points topped the Venezuelan offense while siblings Verania and Angela Wills each finished with 18 points for Costa Rica. Amanda Coneo led Colombia with 11 points and Channon Thompson had 10 for the Trinidadians.