



Cordoba, an important step to the Olympic qualification

CORDOBA, Veracruz - The coaches of the seven competing teams at the Norceca Men's Continental Championship, shared their expectations before the beginning of the event, which gets underway on Monday at the Arena Córdoba

Glenn Hoag, Coach of Canada:

"We are ready to compete. I think we've recovered enough from World Cup. We had a little bit of time to recover, was difficult the first week when we came back but last week we practiced good and I think the team is ready to compete," he said.

"We'll first we have to go for the first step, this continental championship that is a multi step event, We are taking on one event at a time as we focus on doing well at this event."

César Salas, Coach of Costa Rica:

"We are very happy to be around here. These events are always events that make a difference. It is a high class event. We will face not only Norceca teams but quality and world elite teams. We have prepared to put up a fight and give our best, always thinking about the growth of volleyball in our area, mainly in our country. We bring a large group for competition, already waiting to open against powerful Cuba."

Pavel Pimienta, Assistant Coach of Cuba:

"This tournament is important not only for Cuba, that all teams are looking for a ticket to the Olympic Games qualifier. We aim to finish in the top four places to classify and play for that ticket," said Pimienta.

"Part of this team was at the FIVB Men's U21 World Championships. We bring very young players from youth and junior teams. Of course there are those who have more experience to carry on the team in order to go for our goal."

Marco Antonio Tejeda, coach of Honduras:

"Having the privilege to participate at this event is a pleasure. We are looking forward to see what will happen, what we can do. We think we have a team that is not at the level of the top teams, but to give good games here and to make a good impression. That is something we can do."



Roberto Vilches, coach of Mexico:

"I think it's a great event right now, by the organization you're seeing, you're seeing a very beautiful, very spectacular venue that looks great. We want to invite all the people of Veracruz to come here and participate.

"We hope to give the best of ourselves, and we think one of the main objectives is to be among the four finalists and discuss one of the first three places."

Javier Gaspar, coach of Puerto Rico:

"We are ready and excited about the opportunity to qualify for the Olympic classification tournament. That's the goal. The group has not worked in the same amount in volume in relation to the preparation we had before the Pan American Games, and we are also in our national league season, but we are eager to compete.

"We have a good mix of experienced players and some young players that have been evaluated with a view to the Olympic qualification and for the next cycle, so we're happy with the team we expect great things if not in the immediate future in a somewhat distant future."

Lyndon Simmons, team manager of Trinidad and Tobago.

Coach Gideon Dickson of Trinidad and Tobago was still in route to Mexico, along with some other members of the squad, so Team Manager Lyndon Simmons, shared his thoughts on behalf of the delegation.

"We have an amount of new guys on the team. A couple of them are senior guys. So we are gonna try to do our best as we can representing our country and we look forward to compete with the other teams."