

Experience carries Puerto Rico to victory over USA



18 unforced errors, two more than the defeated side. Gavin Schmitt, John Gordon Perrin and Nicholas Hoag were the main offensive contributors in the victory with 13, 12 and 10 points, respectively. Daniel Vargas and Jorge Barajas each had 10 points for Mexico.

Argentina 3, Cuba 1
Facundo Conte recorded 25 points to lead Argentina to a 3-1 (25-20, 25-15, 23-25, 25-15) victory over Cuba. Conte, who had four aces and two blocks, was supported by three other teammates who also reached double digits in the scores. Jose Luis Gonzalez, Sebastián Solé and Pablo Creer finished with 18, 14 and 12 points, respectively, in the victory. Rolando Cepeda and Javier Jimenez topped Cuba with 14 and 12 points, respectively, while Osmany Uriarte had eight in the losing cause. Argentina held a 12-8 margin in the blocking department and was also better from the service line with a 7-1 difference. However, they made 30 unforced errors to 21 by Cuba.



TORONTO, Canada, July 17, 2015 - Training is useful but there is not a substitute for experience as a veteran Puerto Rico team demonstrated on Friday by subduing a young powerful USA side during opening day at men's volleyball tournament of the Pan American Games at Exhibition Centre in Toronto.

With five regulars who are past their 30's, including Hector Soto who recently turned 37, Puerto Rico scored a close four-set 3-1 (25-23, 24-26, 25-20, 28-26) victory over an USA squad averaging 22.5 years-old to begin their campaign in Pool B.

"Puerto Rico never has been in the medal round at the Pan American Games and since this is my last chance I want to accomplish that goal," Soto commented at the mixed zone. "The experience helped us as we played with more calm in the closing stages. They (USA) are a powerful team made of mostly of college players."

In the rest of the matches on Friday, two-time defending champions Brazil blanked Colombia, Canada dispatched Mexico in straight sets and Argentina defeated Cuba in four frames.

Brazil 3, Colombia 0
Two-time defending champions Brazil began their campaign for a third crown in a row in men's volleyball at the Pan American Games with a comfortable straight-set 3-0 (25-16, 25-13, 25-16) victory over Colombia. The Brazilians dominated in

all facets of the game with huge advantages in blocks (13-2) and aces (10-0) while outscoring their opponents in attacks (31-24). Otavio Pinto stood out for the winners with 12 points, including four aces. Joao Ferreira chipped in with 9 points, while Douglas Souza and Renan Buiatti each ended with 8 points in the win. Carlos Alomia topped Colombia with 10 points.

Puerto Rico 3, United States 1
Puerto Rico produced a big surprise in opening day by defeating United States 3-1 (25-23, 24-26, 25-20, 28-26). The more experienced Puerto Ricans overcame the hard-hitting Americans and took advantage of 42 unforced errors committed by the defeated side compared to their own 27 faults. Steven Morales topped the scoring of Puerto Rico with 17 while receiving respectable offensive support from Jackson Rivera and Hector Soto, who contributed 15 and 10 points, respectively. Zachary La Cavera had a match-high 20 points in the losing cause while teammates Brian Cook and Taylor Averill finished with 17 and 10 in their haul.

Canada 3, Mexico 0
Canada's men enjoyed a great debut at home getting a comfortable straight-set 3-0 (25-18, 25-19, 25-18) over Mexico. The home boys displayed all the technique and athleticism that have been cited to put them among the favorites to take the men's gold medal here. Canada topped their opponents in attacks (45-30), blocks (9-6) and service winners (5-1). The home team committed