

United States win fifth crown in Pan Am Cup

CAÑETE, Lima, June 25, 2017 – The United States became the winningest country in the history of the Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup earning their fifth crown after defeating Dominican Republic for the gold medal of the sixteenth edition of the event on Sunday.

The USA won 3-1 (25-19, 19-25, 25-20, 25-23) in front of a capacity crowd at Lolo Fernandez Coliseum in Cañete.

The winners scored 16 blocks –four apiece by Paige Tapp and Rhamat Al Hassan- against 8 of the defeated side. USA also held a 6-3 advantage in aces.

Madison Kingdon led USA with 21 points, followed by Elizabeth McMahon with 16 and Michele Bartsch-Hackley and Tapp each with 13 points. Dominican Brayelin Martinez led all the scorers in the match with 25 points while Bethania de la Cruz added 15 in the loss.

The USA team has won four of the last six editions of the Pan American Cup in 2012-13, 2015 and 2016. They also won in 2003. It was the tenth medal overall for the United States and the fifteenth for the Dominican Republic.

Puerto Rico claimed the bronze medal with a 3-1 (25-22, 13-25, 27-25, 25-15) victory over hosts Peru behind a 23-point performance by Daly Santana.

Shirley Ferrer and Ana Jusino each contributed 14 points in the victory while Pilar Marie Victoria chipped in with 10 points.



Prolific scorer Angela Leyva finished with 24 points in the losing effort and veteran Jessenia Uceda added 12 for Peru.

It is the third bronze medal for Puerto Rico in the history of the Pan American Cup. They won a silver medal last year in Santo Domingo and finished third in 2009 and 2014. Peru's only medal was a silver in 2010.

Cuba 3, Canada 1

Heidy Casanova scored a cup-record 41 points in leading Cuba to a 3-1 (25-19, 23-25, 25-17, 25-22) victory over Canada in the match for fifth place. Casanova broke the previous record of 37 points established by Dominican Sidarka Nuñez against United States on May 5, 2008 in Baja California, Mexico. She scored 38 attacks and added three blocks. Heidy finished with 163 points for the tournament, 11 short of the record of 174 points set by Colombian Kenny Moreno last year in Santo Domingo. Regla Gracia and Daymara Lescay added 15 and 14 points in the victory. Shainah Joseph finished with 25 points for Canada and Mikaela Reesor added 12 in the loss.

Colombia 3, Argentina 2

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Colombia outplayed Argentina in a roller coaster match 3-2 (25-11, 21-25, 25-19, 20-25, 15-7) for the seventh place. Dayana Segovia had a match-high 26 points for Colombia while teammate María Martinez added 17 in the victory. Yeisy Soto and Giselle Perez contributed 13 and 12, respectively. Tanya Acosta, Sol Piccolo and Camila Hiruela each scored 12 points for the defeated side. Colombia held a 16-10 advantage in the blocking category and edged their opponents 7-6 in the aces department.

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