

Favorites open with cruising victories



AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico, June 18, 2018 – The opening day matches at the NORCECA U20 Continental Championship did not produce any surprises as all favorites scored straight-set victories on Monday.



Dominican Republic 3, Costa Rica 0

Defending champions Dominican Republic defeated Costa Rica 3-0 (25-13, 25-17, 25-18) at the opening match on Monday. In stats, Dominicans prevailed with 31-23 margin in attacks, 9-5 in blocks and 9-6 in service points. Dominican Republic scored on 26 opponent errors and limited their own to 14 points. With 13 points apiece, Yanlis Feliz, Natalia Martínez and Madeline Guillen led Dominican Republic's offense. On Costa Rica's side, Susan Alpizar scored 7 points.

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Cuba 3, Guatemala 0

Cuba won 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-12) against Guatemala. Cuba led with a huge 13-1 margin in blocking, 38-26 margin in kills and 5-3 in serves. Cuba committed 15 unforced errors while

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Guatemala finished with 24. Ailama Cese led Cuba with 14 points, joined by Thalia Moreno with 12 points and Yamisleydis Viltres with 11 points. Jimena Castellanos led Guatemala with 8 points.

United States 3, Puerto Rico 0

United States started with an overwhelming 3-0 (25-13, 25-9, 25-19) victory over Puerto Rico. United States overpowered Puerto Rico on huge 30-14 margin in kills and 12-2 in service points; and they held a slim 5-4 advantage in blocking. Both teams committed similar amount of errors, USA with 21 and Puerto Rico with 28. Logan Eggleston of United States topped all scorers with 15 points on impressive 6 aces, 8 kills and one block. Jaylibeth Garcia led Puerto Rico with 7 points.

Mexico 3, Honduras 0

Mexico beat Honduras in straight sets (25-7, 25-19, 25-9) for a strong opening. Mexico dominated Honduras on a huge 38-19 margin in spikes, 5-0 in blocks and 6-2 in aces. The host scored 26 points on opponent errors and committed 14 errors.

The top scorer was Mexican Uxue Guereca with 15 points all in kills, followed by Grecia Castro with 10 points. Nathaly Pérez led Honduras with 7 points.

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