



## Argentina wins Gold and Ezequiel Palacios named MVP at Pan Am Cup

CORDOBA, Mexico, September 2, 2018. - Argentina won the title match of the thirteenth Men's Pan American Cup and wing spiker Ezequiel Palacios named Most Valuable Player at the Arena Cordoba in Cordoba, Mexico.

Argentina won their second consecutive gold medal match defeating Brazil in five thrilling sets (25-27, 25-17, 25-22, 25-27, 15-10).

Cuba beat Puerto Rico 3-1 (20-25, 25-9, 25-18, 25-17) winning the bronze medal and Mexico earned the last ticket available to the 2019 Lima Pan American Games finishing fifth place at the over Canada 3-1 (25-18, 25-20, 20-25, 25-17).

## **Individual Awards**

MVP: Ezequiel Palacios, ARG Best Setter: Matias Sanchez, ARG Best Wing Spiker: Ezequiel Palacios, ARG 2nd Wing Spiker: Miguel Angel Lopez, CUB Best Middle Blocker: Flavio Gualberto, BRA 2nd Middle Blocker: Roamy Alonso, CUB Best Opposite: Alan Souza, BRA Best Libero: Yonder Garcia, CUB Best Digger: Yonder Garcia, CUB Best Receiver: David Wieczorek, USA Best Scorer: Alan Souza, BRA Best Scorer: Alan Souza, BRA

## Mexico 3, Canada 1

Mexico earned the last ticket available to the 2019 Lima Pan American Games while finishing fifth place at the Men's Pan American Cup over Canada 3-1 (25-18, 25-20, 20-25, 25-17). The host Mexico jumped to an early lead in set one with strong serves. Canada recovered well, slowing down Mexico, still losing set two but pocketing set three with spectacular defense. Finally, Mexico got back on track benefiting from Canada's inconsistency and

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finished scoring on 41 opponent errors. Canada led in spikes 44-43 and in blocks 9-5, while Mexico led 6-5 in aces. Mexico limited their errors to 22. Opposite player Daniel Vargas led Mexico with 18 points, with 15 kills included, and joined by wing spiker Jorge Barajas with 14 points on kills and setter Pedro Rangel adding 11 points. Canada's leading attackers were wing spiker Blake Scheerhoorn with 17 points, including 14 kills and 2 aces, and opposite Terrel Bramwell chipped in with 11 points.

## Cuba 3, Puerto Rico 1

Cuba beat Puerto Rico 3-1 (20-25, 25-9, 25-18, 25-17) winning the bronze medal match. Cuba repeats the same position as the past edition, winning their third overall bronze medal in the history of the Men's Pan American Cup (2007, 2017) coming from behind with overwhelming victory over Puerto Rico. Cuba capitalized on their ability to keep Puerto Rico with little options to respond to their strong presence over the net. Puerto Rico lacked their usual energy and making several lineup variations. Cuba prevailed with overwhelming 14-3 blocking advantage and 9-2 margin in aces. The winners also held advantage in spikes 48-43 while scoring on 24 opponent errors, allowing a total of 21 points on their own. Wing spiker Marlon Yang led Cuba with 19 points including 13 kills and 4 aces, wing spiker Miguel Angel Castro chipped in with 17 points on 14 kills and 3 blocks, in addition to opposite Jaime Herrera who registered 16 points including 5 powerful aces. Puerto Rican opposite Maurice Torres scored 18 points including 15 kills, one block and 2 aces.

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