



Newsletter

Puerto Rico and Canada qualify to FIVB WCH and will play for NORCECA title



DURANGO, Mexico, August 22, 2021. - Puerto Rico and Canada won the two vacancies available for the 2022 FIVB World Championship and will play for the Men's NORCECA Continental title in Durango, Mexico.

Puerto Rico won their semifinals upsetting defending champion Cuba 3-1 (25-16, 19-25, 26-24, 31-29) and Canada beating Mexico 3-0 (25-22, 25-17, 25-18). Canada are seeking to win their second title in the history of the event, they won in 2015 also here in Mexico, but in Cordoba, while Puerto Rico has never been atop podium finisher.

Cuba and Mexico will meet in the bronze medal match; United States will face Dominican Republic for fifth place and Guatemala plays for seventh place against Trinidad and Tobago.

Dominican Republic 3, Trinidad and Tobago 0

Dominican Republic will play for the fifth place after defeating Trinidad and Tobago in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-20, 25-20). Dominicans wait for the winner between United States and Guatemala for the fifth place match; Trinidad and Tobago plays for seventh place against the loser. Dominican Republic had no setback making several changes during their performance, with 42-33 margin in attacks and 4-2 in serves, while both teams scored 5 points on blocks. Dominican Republic committed 21 errors and Trinidad and Tobago a total of 24.

Opposite Henry Tapia once again led Dominican Republic scoring 13 points on 11 kills and 2 aces, outside hitters Henry López (only playing the first two sets) and Hector Alexis Cruz tallied 11 points

each. Outside hitter Daynte Stewart of Trinidad and Tobago led all scorers with a match-high of 24 points on 20 attacks, 2 blocks and 2 aces.

United States 3, Guatemala 1

United States beat Guatemala 3-1 (23-25, 25-22, 25-19, 33-31) and will play Dominican Republic for fifth place. Outside hitter Camden Gianni of United States led all scorers with 27 points on 25 kills, one block and one ace to play for fifth place on against Dominican Republic and Guatemala for seventh against Trinidad and Tobago. Also, with double digits in the U.S. win, opposite Jalen Penrose scored 14 points, middle blocker Merrick McHenry 12 points, including 4 blocks, while outside hitter William Rottman and middle blocker Austin Wilnot contributed 10 points each.

Outside hitter Gerardo González topped Guatemala with 18 points on 15 attacks, 2 blocks and one ace, joined by outside hitter Carlos López with 14 points. United States held a huge advantage in attacks (67-35), a 10-7 margin in blocks and 5-1 in serves; but allowed 54 points on unforced errors while Guatemala committed 24.

Puerto Rico 3, Cuba 1

Puerto Rico will play for Gold and qualified to the FIVB 2022 World Championship upsetting Cuba 3-1 (25-16, 19-25, 26-24, 31-29) in semifinals. Puerto Rico struck first with a convincing first set, while Cuba came back with strength over the net to even the scores. Puerto Rico's victory came in a nail biting fourth set 31-29 finish not before recovering from a four point deficit (20-24) for a possible tie-break; Puerto Rico missed three match points before moving into the gold medal match. Opposite Gabriel

García led Puerto Rico's scorers with 18 points on 15 kills, 2 blocks and one ace, outside hitters Pedro Molina and Pelegrin Vargas contributed with 11 and 10 points respectively. Cuban Jesús Herrera scored a match-high of 24 points; while his teammates outside hitter Miguel Angel Lopez tallied 18 points and middle blocker José Israel Masso registered 10 points. Puerto Rico took advantage on scoring 44 points from Cuba's unforced errors while Cuba led in every skill with 55-47 in attacks, 12-7 in blocks and 6-3 in service points; Puerto Rico committed 21 errors.

Canada 3, Mexico 0

Canada won a berth for the FIVB 2022 World Championship and will face Puerto Rico for the Men's NORCECA Continental Championship title after beating Mexico 3-0 (25-22, 25-17, 25-18) in semifinals. Canada are seeking to win their second title in the history of the event, they won in 2015 also here in Mexico, but in Cordoba, while Puerto Rico has never been atop podium finisher. Mexico had little opportunities to respond from Canada's sharp execution in a match that lasted a little over an hour (1:17). Canada was strong from start to finish, progressing into the title match with 9-3 margin in blocks and 8-1 effective service points; they also held a 29-27 advantage in attacks and committed fewer errors than Mexico (26-29). Middle blocker Danny Demyanenko led Canada with 11 points and outside hitter Brandon Koppers followed with 10 points; Mathias Elser topped in aces with 6 points. Opposite Diego González scored 9 points as Mexico's leading scorer all in kills, middle blocker Axel Tellez contributed with 7 points and outside hitter Jorge Hernández chipped in with 6 points.