



## II Women Volleyball Pan American Cup in Saltillo, México.



### Cuba survive strong resistance from Mexico

Defending champion Cuba took its second victory in the Pan American Women's Cup taking a fairly close match in three straight sets over Mexico 25-19, 27-25, 25-23 before more than 4,500 fans in the Coahuila Convention Center.

The Cubans easily took the first set with the cannon spikes of ace Yumilka Ruiz and Martha Sanchez and the overall performance of Zoila Barros and Yanelis Santos. However, the young Mexican squad planted big resistance in a second set that saw the score tied five times, but at the end the Olympic reigning

champions prevailed with the offence of Nancy Carrillo and Rosir Calderón.

"Mexico played a good game," said Cuban coach Luis Felipe Calderon. "It was a great experience for us to see a rival of that caliber in the area."

"I hope the fans continue to support the tournament despite the two losses of Mexico," he added, "because there are very good teams here and the competition will be of a very high quality."

Mexican coach Sergio Hernandez was satisfied with the game of his side. "I think our team showed today what is able to do. On Monday (against Dominican Republic) we just had a bad outing. The fans saw the team, not in

100 per cent yet, but it played good generally speaking." In other matches, USA and Dominican Republic took their second victories of the tournament while Brazil put its record 1-1.

USA beat Puerto Rico 3-0 using all the regulars players most of the time and relied on a strong blocking to dominate the opponents. "We came here to qualify for the 2004 World Grand Prix," said Danielle Scott, the American captain. "We go for that goal tomorrow against Canada and then we will start the battle for the championship."

Dominican Republic defeated Venezuela in straight sets. The islanders survived a 0-7 deficit in the first set to finally come out on top by score of 27-25. From there they cruised to the victory 25-15, 25-11. Brazil won comfortably 3-0 (25-18, 25-21, 25-19) over Canada.

The Pan American Cup is an official event of NORCECA Confederation and the top four teams will advance to the 2004 World Grand Prix. The top South American team will also qualify if one does not finish in the top four.

### Standings:

Pool A USA (2-0), Canada (1-1), Brazil (1-1), Puerto Rico (0-2).

Pool B Cuba (2-0), Dominican Republic (2-0), México (0-2), Venezuela (0-2)

### Wednesday's matches:

USA vs Canada, Cuba vs Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico vs Brazil, México vs Venezuela.