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II Women Volleyball Pan American Cup in Saltillo, Mexico.

Dominican Republic and Brazil into the semis



Dominican Republic and Brazil booked places in next year World Grand Prix by advancing to the semifinal phase in the Women's Pan American Cup being played in Saltillo, Mexico.

The Dominicans defeated Canada in consecutive sets (25-21, 25-20, 25-21) and Brazil also did the same against Venezuela (25-23, 25-19, 25-18). Dominican Republic meet Cuba and Brazil go against USA in the semis, while Canada and Venezuela will be battling for the fifth position. "This triumph complete our first goal which was qualifying for the Grand Prix," said Jorge Garbey, the coach of the Dominican side. "Now we have to prepare to have a good game against the Cubans and fight for a place in the finals."

Cosiris Rodriguez with 19 points led the Dominican offense and spiker Milagros Cabral and libero Evelyn Carreras had spectacular performances. Brazil gained the right to represent South America in the premier women volleyball event next year led by Joyce Silva and Katia Rodrigues with 14 and 13 points respectively. Veronica Gomez had 11 points for Venezuela.

Brazil is shaping up this team for the next Pan American Games to be staged in Santo Dominfo, Dominican Republic next month. The squad include some of the players who will be taking part in the U-20 Girls World Championship in Thailand next September.

"We are going to play with the same strength of our previous match against USA," said Wadson Lima, the Brazilian coach. "We know that the Americans have a good level and is one of the favorites to win the event, but we are going to try our best."

In the match for the seventh place, Puerto Rico defeated Mexico 3-1 (25-17, 13-25, 25-23, 25-20).

