



II Women Volleyball Pan American Cup in Saltillo, México.



Dominicans start with style in Mexico

July 1, 2003.- The Dominican Republic started with the right foot in the Second Women Pan American Cup with a convincing victory in straight sets over Mexico before a packed house in the Convention Center of Coahuila.

Led by the attack of Milagros Cabral, the Dominicans cruised to a comfortable win by score of 25-21, 25-19, 25-16 over the host team. "They went out determined to do well," said new coach Jorge Garbey about his team. "I have given them enough confidence and today it paid dividends"

"It is very good from a mental point to start winning against the local team," said Cabral, who plays in Spain. "But we can't rest on the laurels and the team needs to keep working hard the rest of the tournament."

In other matches of the opening day, Canada defeated Puerto Rico 3-1, while Cuba blanked Venezuela and USA did the same against Brazil.

Puerto Rico won the first set 25-22, but the Canadiens regained composure and won the next three by score of 25-22, 25-18, 25-23 with the offense of Janis Kelly. "We were a little bit anxious in the first set, but then we talked and decided to have fun and enjoy

the game," said Ann Marie Lemieux, the Canadian captain. "We made the adjustments and got the victory."

The strong jumping services by Canada caused a lot of problems to the Puerto Rican reception, and the North Americans also took advantage of their height blocking at the net.

"It is important to start with a win," said coach Lorne Sawula. "Now we have to prepare for the next matches against Brazil and USA. Also we can keep testing our players for our next participation in the 2003 World Grand Prix."

Cuba and USA confirmed their conditions as big favorites with comfortable victories. The Cubans started the defense of the title cruising over Venezuela and Brazil, heavily supported by the local crowd, proved to be no contest against the American power.

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.

Today's matches:

POOL A	POOL B
BRA Vs CAN	VEN Vs DOM
PUR Vs EUA	MEX Vs CUB