



Jamaica confirms its condition of favorite

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 15, 2005.- Jamaica confirmed its condition of heavy favorite to win the Women's World Championship Qualifier of Norceca crushing the team of Cayman Islands by 25-14, 25-15, 25-11 in exactly one hour.

It was the nightcap of the opening day and the match was played before a big crowd at the National Arena.

Captain Tracyann Pryce led a well balanced attack of the host team with 11 points. She was the only player in double figures for the team of coach Ortnel Findlay, who used all his girls.

"I think this is a confidence builder for our team," said Findlay. "We put this first match out of our way and now we can concentrate for the rest of the way."

Pryce said: "I was more anxious than nervous. The key of the victory was our passing because when we pass good everything falls in place."

Andrea Williams, the coach of Cayman Islands, said: "It is the first match we play in a long time. We need to play more games. I think that we played stronger as the match advanced but unfortunately so did Jamaica."

In the first match of the day, the Netherlands Antilles overcame some early difficulties and went on to win in straight sets over British Virgin Island.

The third team ranked in the Caribbean came from behind in the first set erasing a five-point deficit and prevailed by score of 25-20. The next two sets were an easy ride for the Netherlands who dominated by 25-11 and 25-14.

Captain Helma Stam led the winners with 13 points and Geraldine Gregorius added 12 while Jacqueline Weekes, from BVI, was the top scorer of the match with 15 tallies. "I feel very good with the victory but

we can do better," said Stam during the press conference after the match. "We were a little nervous at the beginning but we picked up and played better the rest of the match."

"We think that Jamaica is the favorite team, but I think that it is not bad to be the underdog," she added. "The local crowd can work against them because they will be in a must win situation with a lot of pressure to perform."

