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## Mexico is 2-0 after edging Canada

MEXICALI, Baja California, June 6, 2006.- Mexico edged Canada in a five-set thriller with captain Ivan Contreras spiking for the last point of the sensational match in the First Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup.

The final score was 25-21, 25-21, 19-25, 14-25, 21-19 and Mexico improved its record to 2-0 in Pool A. Canada is tied with Dominican Republic in second place with 1-1.

Contreras led four Mexican in double figures with 21 points. Jose Martell and Carlos Guerra each added 15 and Gustavo Meyer had 11. Pascal Cardinal was the best Canadian with 21 points, Steve Brinkman scored 16 and Dallas Soonias added 15.

Earlier in the day, the Dominican Republic overcame a slow start and defeated Trinidad & Tobago in straight sets evening its record.

After losing to Canada on the opening day, the Dominicans came back and beat the Trinidadians 26-24, 25-16, 25-20 with Elvis Contreras, Jose Caceres and Eury Almonte contributing with 13, 12 and 8 points respectively. Nolan Tash had 11 points for Trinidad & Tobago (1-2).

In Tijuana, Cuba made an impressive debut blanking Panama 25-10, 25-16, 25-16 preparing the stage for the



match against USA on Wednesday. Both teams are 1-0 and Panama fell to 0-2.

"We had not beaten Canada in a long time, so it is a great triumph," said Jorge Azair, the Mexican coach, "We have a group of players with experience from the European Leagues, like Ivan, Guerra and Meyer with a winning mentality. What we need is more support and to have them more time together."

"We had problems with our reception in the first set," said Julio Frias, the Dominican coach, "but from the second set on, we definitely improved that part of our game and made some key adjustments."