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USA defeated Dominican Republic and won the gold medal

MEXICALI, Baja California, June 11, 2003.- USA are the first champions of the Pan American Men's Cup. They won the crown by defeating Dominican Republic in the match for the gold medal. The Americans recovered from losing the first set and won by score of 17-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-23.

Both teams qualified to the Americas Cup to be held in Venezuela next September. Bronze medallist Canada also won a ticket to compete in that event. Canada finished in third place by defeating Mexico in straight sets (25-22, 25-18, 25-22).

Trinidad & Tobago defeated Panama in four sets (25-23, 25-17, 23-25, 25-17) and qualified in sixth place. Cuba placed fifth.

David McKenzie led the Americans with 16 points followed by Riley Salmon with 10. Phillip Eatherton, Ryan Miller and William Priddy cooperated with 9, 8 and 7 respectively. Dominican Jose Caceres was the top scorer of the match with 24 points, Elvis Contreras had 12 and Eury Almonte 9.

Louis-Pierre Mainville and Pascal Cardinal each had 13 points for Canada and Fred Winters added 10. Mexican

Jose Martell led all the scorers of the match with 18 points.

"The Dominican Republic is a very improved team and we had to battle for this win," said the American coach, Hugh McCutcheon. "We had the fortune of having some experienced players who were vital in the late part of the sets. I am very happy being the champions and this is a good start of our season."

Julio Frias, the Dominican coach said: "We are satisfied with the second place. USA is a great team and we gave 100 percent to battle against them. We changed our attack pattern and they still could block very well. Congratulations to them and to my players."

