



## Costa Rica and Guatemala advanced to second round

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 22, 2005.- Hosts Costa Rica had three players scoring in double figures and defeated Honduras 25-19, 25-22, 25-16 finishing unbeaten in three outings during 2006 Men's World Championship first round Norceca Pool C Tournament.

Captain Alexander Villegas and Raul Chacon each scored 12 points and Darnley Edwards added 10 sending Costa Rica to the next round in Havana (August 17-21) against Canada, Panama, Cuba and the winner of the Trinidad & Tobago tournament that starts next Wednesday.

Honduras, who had injury problems since the first day, could not stop the speedy actions of Costa Rican setters Fabian Monge and Villegas.

Meanwhile, Guatemala finished in the second slot and moved to the next round in Puerto Rico

(August 22-28) against USA, Mexico, the host team and the winner of the event in Barbados.

Alberto Travieso, the coach of Costa Rica: "We achieved our goal and the team improved with the competition and you all saw that today. Now we have to keep the hard work and go to Cuba to do our best."

Alexander Villegas, captain of Costa Rica: "I am very happy with this achievement because it gives us the chance to face teams of high level. I think our attitude was a big help and we have to keep it until August."

Guatemala was the first team to take the step commanded by the attack of Jorge Bolanos in their straight sets win over Nicaragua 25-21, 25-21, 25-23.

Since the first day of action, Guatemala

presented credentials as a team with good defence and today they showed it too. Nicaragua played its best match of the competition but the inexperience betrayed them. Bolanos had 13 points and David Mayorga scored 10 for Nicaragua.

Alvinzi Pelaez, the coach of Guatemala: "I am very happy with the outcome and even more because we did not have much time of preparation. Our goal now is to do a good job in the next round."

Villegas was elected the Most Valuable Player of the event. He was joined in the All-Star team by Luis Zepeda (Hon), best attacker and best reception; Jaime Garcia (Hon), best defender and libero; Jose Martinez (Hon), best blocker; Hugo Garcia (Gua), best Server and Lenin Ruiz (Nic), best setter.

