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Soto and Calderon: the best from NORCECA at the World Championships

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic , December 26, 2006.- Puerto Rican Hector Soto and Cuban Rosir Calderon were the most outstanding players from the NORCECA Confederation during the 2006 FIVB World Championships held in Japan . Soto was the top scorer of the Men's competition with a total of 271 points beating his nearest competitor Serbian Ivan Miljkovic (217) for more than 50 points.

Calderon finished as the best spiker of the Women's event with 59.68 average of success. Nancy Carrillo and Yumilka Ruiz, two other Cubans, ranked third and fourth in that category with 56.00 and 50.20 respectively.

Soto also qualified as the eighth best spiker with an average of 52.51 and Calderon was the tenth best scorer with 172, behind American Nancy Metcalf who finished fifth with 185.

In the Women's competition, American Robyn Ah Mow-Santos was the fourth best setter with an average of 7.51 and teammate Heather Bown was the fifth best blocker with 32 direct points stuffing attacks. Carrillo and teammate Yenisei Gonzalez had 29 and 28 good for the seventh and ninth places.

American Sarah Drury was fourth among the liberos with 43.56 and finished sixth in the receivers category with 60.43.

In the Men's tournament, Canadian Paul Duerden had 162 points followed by teammate Fred Winters and American David McKinzie both with 160 for the ninth and tenth slots respectively. Puerto Rican Gregory Berrios was the second best digger with 2.02 average and Richard Lambourne (USA) and Daniel Lewis (CAN) qualified in sixth and ninth positions with 1.61 and 1.48.

Lambourne was the fifth best libero with 49.68 average of success. Canadian Murray Grapentine was fourth among the best blockers with 35 and Puerto Rican Jose Rivera had 12 aces and closed out ninth among the servers.

Angel Perez of Puerto Rico ended as the fifth best setter with an average of 8.91 and Donald Suxho of USA had a 7.25 average good for the ninth place.

Two Puerto Ricans, Jose and Victor Rivera, were among the best receivers with 66.78 and 63.10 occupying the fifth and eighth spots.