

**NORCECA**  
**Women's Continental**  
**Championship**  
**Olympic Qualification**  
**25-Sept. 3 Oct. Michoacan, Mexico**



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**Volleyball Confederation**

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# United States and Dominican Republic win tickets to the NORCECA Olympic Qualification Tournament

MORELIA, Mexico, September 29, 2015. - United States and Dominican Republic finished first in their respective pools at the NORCECA Women's Continental Championship, granting tickets to the NORCECA Olympic Qualification Tournament next January.

United States topped Pool A defeating Cuba 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 30-28), the third set was a thriller as they engaged in long rallies, while Dominican Republic beat Mexico with power 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-23) in Pool B; both teams advanced into the tournaments' semifinals.

On Wednesday's quarterfinals, Puerto Rico faces Cuba and Canada will play Mexico.

Canada 3, Costa Rica 0

Canada outdueled Costa Rica 3-0 (25-15, 25-12, 25-10). Canada concludes the preliminary round with 2-1 record and eight points, to advance into the quarterfinals of the competition; Costa Rica with 0-3 record will play the placing round. Canada took an early lead of 8-4 in the first set, as they took advantage of their height and kept on going to double the score and finish 25-15. Starting set two, Canada began strong, scoring three consecutive points; Costa Rica engaged in several errors, giving Canada a big 11-2 lead; Costa Rica's efforts to recover didn't work out and Canada ended with a huge 25-12 margin. In set three, Costa Rica continued with numerous errors in defense and receiving. Nothing worked for Costa Rica and everything went well for Canada who easily sealed 25-10. Canada outnumbered Costa Rica in every category, spikes (29-16), blocks (9-2) and aces 6-1; they scored on 31 errors of Costa Rica. Outside Hitter Dana Cranston topped Canada scorers with 8 points, followed by Jaimie Thibeault, Marisa Field and Rebecca Pavan with five points apiece. Costa Rica's Opposite Mijal Hines led all scorers with 6 points and Evelyn Sibaja contributed with 5 points.

Puerto Rico 3, Trinidad y Tobago 0

Puerto Rico beat Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 (25-14, 25-14, 25-21). The victory guaranteed Puerto Rico to reach the quarterfinals with 2-1 record and 10 points, Trinidad and Tobago finishes the preliminary round win-less. Puerto Rico's performance was overwhelming for Trinidad and Tobago. In the second set, Trinidad and Tobago had a better rhythm in keeping up with Puerto Rico's fast game and the score was close up to the second technical time out. Puerto Rico had several line-up variations, giving Trinidad's spikers more opportunities to score. Puerto Rico led the blocking field with huge 10-2 margin. They also held advantage in spikes 33-28 and in aces 3-2. Puerto Rico scored 30 points on Trinidad and Tobago's errors. Opposite Karina Ocasio was Puerto Rico's top scorer with 11 points, while Outside Hitter Stephanie Enright and Middle Blocker Lynda Morales chipped in with 7 points apiece. Outside Hitter Channon Thompson led Trinidad and Tobago with 11 points, 10 on kills and 1 block, followed by Opposite Krystle Esdelle with 9 points.

United States 3, Cuba 0

United States became the first to qualify to the NORCECA Olympic Qualification Tournament while finishing first in Pool A as they beat Cuba 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 30-28). United States topped Pool A with perfect record 3-0 with fifteen points and advances directly into the semifinals. Cuba finishes in third place with 1-2 record and seven points and will play the quarterfinal against Puerto Rico or Mexico. United

States kept their offense always strong, using fast runs and several attacking variations. Cuba was always defending and eager to avoid USA's blockers. Scores in set two and three were close; as USA committed unforced errors and Cuba's defense forced to long rallies. The third set was a thriller, in which both failed in serves while having set points, extending the victory for USA to 30-28. United States led in kills with 36-31 margin, in blocks with 8-6 advantage and 6-2 in aces. The Americans scored on 30 Cuban errors and committed 23. Opposite Nicole Fawcett was USA top scorer with 13 points, 11 on spikes and 2 blocks. Contributing to the winning effort was Middle Blocker Foluke Akinradewo with 8 points and Outside Hitter Jordan Larson-Burbach with 7 points. On the Cuban side, Outside Hitter Regla Garcia scored 15 points on a match-high, 12 on spikes, 2 blocks and 1 ace.

Dominican Republic 3, Mexico 0

Dominican Republic defeated Mexico 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-23). Dominicans advanced into the semifinals with 3-0 record and 13 points. Mexico takes third place with 2-1 record and 7 points. Mexico faces Canada in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Dominican Republic overpowered against Mexico. The Dominicans won the first set with comfortable margin. In the second set, Mexico's serves were more effective as well as in the third set. As expected, Dominicans' experience and better control of the actions to seal the win. Dominican Republic held huge advantage in kills with 40-27 margin; in blocks both scored 4 points and Mexico's serves were more effective 5-2. Dominicans scored on 29 errors from Mexico. Outside Hitter Yonkaira Peña led Dominican scorers with 12 points, all in kills, followed by Opposite Gina Mambru with 8 points, Middle Blocker Marianne Fersola and Outside Hitter Brayelin Martinez who only played two sets, tallied 6 points each. Mexico's offense was led by Opposite Dulce Carranza with 11 points and Outside Hitter Andrea Rangel with 9 points.

