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Newsletter

Cuba takes first big step at U18 Pan Am Cup

HAVANA, Cuba, March 17, 2015 – Cuba took a major step towards the qualification to the U18 FIVB World Championship by defeating Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-18, 25-12, 18-25, 25-18) in a Pool B match of the III Girls' Pan American Volleyball Cup on Tuesday.

The winner of four-team Pool B will get the last vacancy for NORCECA and South America to the U18 FIVB World Championship in Lima, Peru next August.

Cheered by their home fans at Ciudad Deportiva's Coliseum, the Cubans dominated the first two sets but couldn't keep the rhythm in the third set when their reception failed. They recovered on time to get their first win.

Diaris Perez led the winning offense with 13 points, followed by Heidy Casanova and Kitania Medina with 11 points apiece and Gretell Moreno with 10. Puerto Rico's Dariana Hollingsworth had a match-high 14 points as the only player with double digits for the losers.

In the other match of Pool B, Chile brushed aside Costa Rica 3-0 (25-11, 25-11, 25-6) in only one hour and three minutes.

Josefa Marti, Karen Morales, Catalina Agurto and Magdalena Ramirez each contributed 8 points in the victory. Costa Rican Allison Font finished with seven points for the losers.

In Pool A, Dominican Republic, the reigning NORCECA champions, overpowered Mexico 3-0 (25-21, 25-13, 25-16).

Over the 69 minutes of the match between two of the four already qualified teams to the World Championship in Pool A, the Dominicans dominated their rivals in spikes (34-30), blocks (7-4), and services (4-0).

Massiel Matos led the Dominican side with 16 points, followed by Natalia Martínez with 10. Mexico's best scorer was Kathya Garcia with nine points in the loss.

Also in Pool A, Peru scored a 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 26-24) victory over Argentina in a South American battle.

Leslie Leyva (and Katherine Regalado topped the winners with 12 and 10 points, respectively, in the match that lasted 1 hour and 18 minutes. Maria Corbalan and Anahi Tosi each had 10 points for the defeated side.



