



## Dominicans win NORCECA U20 title and FIVB WCH ticket

FORT LAUDERDALE, United States, July 31, 2016.- Dominican Republic defeated United States 3-1 (25-22, 25-14, 23-25, 25-17) winning the NORCECA Women's U-20 Continental Championship title and a ticket to the 2017 FIVB age-group World Championship.

Dominicans faced United States with a well-structured game plan. Dominican Republic neutralized Lexi Sun's attacking and Birone Butler's blocking, which had been crucial in previous USA matches. Dominicans defense allowed Massiel Matos and Natalia Martinez powerful execution, especially in the second set which they won with comfortable margin. United States took the third set using May Mackenzie and Elizabeth Hall hitting stability; middle blockers Taryn Knuth y Brionne Butlet also contributed in the team's advantage, scoring more frequently. Massiel Matos' serves were on fire in set four as well as Natalia Martinez' attacking, they pushed their team into victory.

The stats were very similar, Dominican Republic led in kills (54-52) and in serves (9-3); both teams scored 5 points on blocking. Dominicans scored on 30 errors from USA, limiting their own to 18.

Outside hitter Natalia Martinez scored 25 points on match-high, including 22 kills and 3 blocks, opposite Massiel Matos scored 20 points on 15 kills and 5 blocks, and outside hitter Vielka Peralta added 15 points. Outside hitter Lexi Sun topped USA with 14

points on 11 kills and one block; middle blockers Brione Butler and Taryn Knuth contributed with 11 and 12 points respectively.

Cuba topped Puerto Rico 3-1 (18-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-16) to win their fourth bronze medal in the recorded history of the event. Cuba beat Puerto Rico with orderly game, keeping their starters up to the end.

**Final Standing:** 1. Dominican Republic; 2.United States; 3. Cuba; 4. Puerto Rico; 5. Mexico; 6. Costa Rica ; 7. Haiti; 8. French St. Martin



## **Individual Awards:**

MVP Natalia Martinez (DOM) 1<sup>st</sup> Best Blocker Geraldine Gonzalez (DOM) 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Blocker Brionne Butler (USA) 1<sup>st</sup> Best Spiker Alexis Sun (USA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Spiker Diaris Perez (CUB) Best Receiver Diaris Perez (CUB) Best Digger Jeshimarie Suarez (PUR) Best Setter Andrea Fuentes (PUR) Best Libero Jeshimarie Suarez (PUR) Best Server Massiel Matos (DOM) Best Scorer Dariana Hollingsworth (PUR) Best Opposite Massiel Matos (DOM)