Cuba and Puerto Rico advance to semifinal round



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, July 8, 2016 – Cuba and Puerto Rico completed the semifinalists at the XV Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup after victories over Canada and Argentina, respectively, in Friday's quarterfinals.

Cuba won a dramatic five-set match against Canada to move to a contest with hosts the Dominican Republic while Puerto Rico dispatched Argentina in straight sets and will face the United States on Saturday.

Cuba 3, Canada 2

Cuba won a thrilling five-set duel against Canada 3-2 (21-25, 25-18, 25-16, 21-25, 16-14) to move to a semifinal match against hosts Dominican Republic. Sulian Matienzo led four Cuban players with double figures in the scoring charts with 20 points and Heidy Rodriguez added 17 of her own. Daymara Lescay finished with 12, including 6 blocks, and Alena Rojas added 10, with four blocks. Canada's Shainah Joseph had a match-high 23 points in the losing cause. Michaela Reesor was next with 17 while Danielle Brisbois and Jennifer Cross tallied 12 and 10, respectively. Cuba held the advantage in blocks 16-13 and made 22 errors compared to 37 by the Canadian side.

Puerto Rico 3, Argentina 0

Puerto Rico earned a semifinal ticket following a convincing straight-set win 3-0 (25-11, 25-13, 25-18) over Argentina. The Puerto Ricans will meet the United States in the first semifinal of Saturday. Puerto Rico subdued their opponents in attacks 38-21, blocks 11-3 and service winners 5-3. Stefanie Enright had 16 points, including 5 aces, while Karina

Ocasio and Lynda Morales added 10 and 9, respectively, with 6 blocks by Morales. Emilce Sosa was the best for Argentina with 7 points.

Venezuela 3, Peru 1

Venezuela outplayed Peru in a match for positions. The line-score was 3-1 (25-27, 32-30, 25-18, 25-20). Aleoscar Blanco scored a tournament-high 7 blocks and finished with 17 points for Venezuela while Luz Delfines led the winners with 20 points, with four blocks and three aces. Peru's Angela Leyva, the leading scorer of the tournament, had 31 in the losing effort while Carla Rueda added 10 points. Venezuela led 16-6 in blocks and both teams scored six aces. The winners led in attacks 50-48 and committed 33 errors to 37 by the defeated side.

Colombia 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0

Colombia swept Trinidad & Tobago in straight sets 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-17) in a qualification match for positions. Dayana Segovia and Kenny Moreno registered 15 and 14 points, respectively, as the best scorers for the winning side. Lorena Zuleta and Margarita Martinez contributed 9 and 7 points in the victory. Channon Thompson of Trinidad & Tobago had a match-high 17 points, followed by Darlene Ramdin and Kystle Esdelle with 9 and 7, respectively. Colombia enjoyed of a good defensive match at the net outscoring their opponents 13-3 in blocks.

Mexico 3, Costa Rica 0

Mexico swept Costa Rica in straight sets 3-0 (25-17, 25-16, 25-20) in a consolation round match for the eleventh place between winless teams. Dulce Carranza was the top scorer for Mexico with 17 points, including three aces, followed by Fernanda Bañuelos with 8, including two aces. Bibi Candelas and Kathya Garcia chipped in with 7 and 6 points, for the win. Paola Ramirez and Tatiana Sayles finished with 9 and 8 points, respectively, for Costa Rica. Mexico led in attacks 36-24 and in aces 8-4 while Costa Rica held a slight margin in blocks 5-4.