# **Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico to battle for gold medal**



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, July 9, 2016 - Hosts Dominican Republic Puerto Rico will contest for the gold medal match at the XV Volleyball Women's Pan American Cup on Sunday, after victories over Cuba and the United States, respectively, in the semifinals of the annual competition.

The three-time champions Dominican Republic will be playing their eleventh final while for Puerto Rico it will be their first visit to a title match in the history of the competition, having won two times the bronze medal.

Argentina will play Canada for the fifth position while Colombia will meet Venezuela in a South American battle for the seventh place.

Argentina edged Colombia in behind the 20 points by Emilce Sosa and despite the 26-point production by Colombian Kenny Moreno who set a new record with 152 points for the tournament with one more match to play.

Canada had an easy day against Venezuela with a straight-set decision led by Shanai Joseph, who scored 15 points.

In the match for 9th place, Peru swept Trinidad & Tobago.

#### Dominican Republic 3, Cuba 0

Dominican Republic advanced to the gold medal match against Puerto Rico after a straight-set 3-0 (25-11, 25-22, 25-21) victory over Cuba. Gina Mambru collected 17 points, including three aces, and Bethania de la Cruz added 15 with two aces as the offensive stars for the winning side. Brayelin Martinez and Annerys Vargas contributed 10 and 8 points in the victory. Heidy Rodriguez and Daimara Lescay accounted for 14 and 10 points on the Cuban side.

### **Puerto Rico 3, United States 1**

Karina Ocasio fired 25 points to lead Puerto Rico to a 3-1 (25-20, 21-25, 25-17, 25-20) victory over the United States in the first semifinal match. Stephanie Enright and

Alexandra Oquendo contributed 14 and 9 points to the victory as Puerto Rico committed only 18 unforced errors compared to 30 by the United States. Rhamat Alhassan was the best scorer for USA with 12 points, followed by Megan Courtneuy with 11 and Carly Wopat and Madison Kingdon with 10 points each.

# Argentina 3, Colombia 2

Argentina came back from one set down to defeat a tough Colombia 3-2 (25-18, 23-25, 21-25, 27-25, 15-8) in a qualification match for the 5-to-8 positions. Emilce Sosa had 20 points, including 7 blocks, and Tanya Acosta added 19 as the top scorers for the winners. Colombia's Kenny Moreno registered 26 in the losing cause and with her total of 152 surpassed the mark for most points in the history of the competition set by Puerto Rican Aury Cruz with 151 in 2009.

## Canada 3, Venezuela 0

Canada breezed past Venezuela in straight sets 3-0 (25-20, 25-16, 25-22) and will meet Argentina on Sunday for the fifth position. Once again Shainah Joseph was the leading scorer for the Canadian side with 15 points, including 4 blocks, and the captain Lucille Charuk added 11 of her own. Desiree Glod was the best scorer of Venezuela with 8 points. Canada led in attacks 39-31, blocks 7-4, and aces 6-2.

## Peru 3, Trinidad & Tobago 0

Peru sailed past Trinidad & Tobago in straight sets 3-0 (25-21, 25-13, 25-16) in a match for the ninth position. Angela Leyva finished with 18 points, two blocks included, as the top scorer for the winners. Maguilaura Frias was next with 12 points. Krystle Esdelle notched 10 points as the main attacker for the Trinidadians.