USA and Dominican Republic reach semis at Pan Am Cup



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, July 6, 2016 – Defending champions United States and hosts Dominican Republic earned semifinal tickets at the XV Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup as undefeated winners of their respective pools with 5-0 win-loss records.

Thursday will be a rest day with the actions resuming on Friday with the quarterfinals featuring crossed matches between the teams placed second and third at the conclusion of the preliminary round. Cuba, the second placed team in Pool B will meet Canada who finished third in Pool A. Argentina, the third team of Pool A will play Puerto Rico in the other quarterfinals.

Canada 3, Mexico 0

Danielle Brisebois and Michaela Reeser scored 11 points each to lead Canada to a 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-14) victory over Mexico in Pool A. The victory earned Canada a ticket to the quarterfinals of the competition where they will face the second placed team of Pool B. Canada outblocked Mexico 10-2 and held a 7-2 advantage in service winners. Alina Dormann and Jennifer Cross contributed six points each in the victory while Dulce Carranza was the leading scorer for the Mexican side with just 6 points.

Colombia 3, Venezuela 1

Kenny Moreno fired 26 points to carry Colombia to a 3-1 (25-10, 25-16, 20-25, 25-23) victory over Venezuela in a South American battle in Pool A. The Colombians finished in fourth place, one step higher than the defeated side. Dayana Segovia and Melissa Rangel chipped in with 14 and 9 points, respectively, for the win. Aleoscar Blanco and Roslandy Acosta finished with 14 and 13 for Venezuela.

Dominican Republic 3, Puerto Rico 0

Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico in straight sets 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-23) in a decisive match between undefeated teams in Pool A. Brayelin Martinez and Gina Mambru carried most of the offensive load of the winners with 17 and 14 points, respectively, while libero Brenda Castillo played superb defense. Bethania De la Cruz chipped in with 10 points and Annerys Vargas added 8, including four blocks. Karina Ocasio and Stephanie Enright had 15 points each for Puerto Rico.

Cuba 3, Peru 0

Cuba defeated Peru in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-20, 25-21) in Pool B to secure a quarterfinal ticket at. The loss relegated Peru to the fourth position with 3-2 win-loss record but only 12 points. Cuba finished with 3-2 and 18 points and will conclude second or third depending on the outcome of the match between USA (4-0 and 18 points) and Argentina (3-1 and 16) later today. Heidy Rodriguez was the best Cuban with 23 points followed by Sulian Matienzo with 11. Peru's Angela Leyva had 23 in the losing effort. Cuba outclassed Peru in the blocking category with an overwhelming 11-0 margin.

Trinidad & Tobago 3, Costa Rica 0

Trinidad & Tobago swept Costa Rica in straight sets 3-0 (25-19, 25-14, 25-23) in a match of Pool B between winless teams. The taller Trinidadians dominated the contest at the net 9-2 and were superior in spikes 37-26. Channon Thompson led the winners with 15 points, followed by Krystle Esdelle and Darlene Ramdin with 11 and 10, respectively. Paola Ramirez had 10 as the best Costa Rican.

United States 3, Argentina 0

United States earned a semifinal berth by dominating the Pool B with an undefeated 5-0 winloss record following a straight-set 3-0 (25-14, 25-13, 25-23) victory over Argentina. Argentina finished with a 3-2 record good for third place in the pool and a spot in the quarterfinals. Madison Kingdon and Rhamai Alhassan were the offensive leaders for the American side with 14 and 11 points, respectively. Micha Hancock, Megan Courtney and Alexandra Holston contributed 9 points each in the victory. Yael Castiglione and Tanya Acosta finished with 5 points apiece as the top scorers for the defeated side. United States outscored Argentina 11-5 in blocks and 9-2 in aces with Hancock adding 6 more aces to her Pan American Cup record now at 37.