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United States and Puerto Rico qualify to the FIVB U19 World Championship

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, May 25, 2022. - United States and Puerto Rico qualified to the FIVB U19 World Championship after winning their pools at the Boys U19 Pan American Cup on Wednesday in Guatemala City.

Both teams securing their World Championship berth reaching the semifinals; with USA winning pool A to Mexico 3-0 (25-21, 25-13, 25-13) and Puerto Rico beating Guatemala 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-20) for pool B top position.

Chile beat Costa Rica 3-1 (26-24, 25-21, 23-25, 26-24) and Dominican Republic defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 27-25), to finish third in pool A and B accordingly, reaching the quarterfinal round.

In Thursday's quarterfinals Mexico faces Dominican Republic and Chile will play host Guatemala.

Chile 3, Costa Rica 1

Chile beat Costa Rica in an exciting four sets 3-1 (26-24, 25-21, 23-25, 26-24) to move into the quarterfinal round. Chile and Costa Rica battled strong to stay alive in their last pool-play performance; in the end Chile finished third in pool B with 1-2 record to face the loser between Guatemala and Puerto Rico in quarterfinals. Costa Rica with 0-3 will play for positions 5/8.

The South American squad led with a comfortable 14-8 margin in blocks and 6-3 in serves, while finishing with a one-point advantage (46-45) in attacks.

Costa Rica committed fewer errors than Chile (34-38). Outside hitter Ian Gei led Chile with 19 points on 16 kills, one block and 2 aces, followed by outside hitter Samuel Munita with 18 points on 14 kills, 3 blocks and one ace; opposite hitter Felipe Valenzuela also contributed with 12 points on 9 kills and 3 blocks. Costa Rica's outside hitter Stanley Grant scored a match-high of 22 points on 21 kills and one block; middle blocker Jeremy Venega added 13 points on 7 kills, 5 blocks and one ace, while team captain David Cordoba chipped in with 10 points all on kills.

Dominican Republic 3, Honduras 0

Dominican Republic defeated Honduras 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 27-25) advancing into the quarterfinal round. Dominican Republic finished pool-play with 1-2 record, for third place in pool A and moved into the quarterfinal round to face the loser between the United States and Mexico. Honduras with 0-3 will play for positions 5/8. Both teams scored 25 points from attacks, and Dominican Republic held advantage 11-9 in blocks and 3-1 in serves.

Dominican Republic allowed 25 points from errors and benefited from 38 errors of Honduras. Middle blocker Willian Paez topped Dominican Republic scorers with 13 points on 10 kills, 2 blocks and one ace. Middle blockers Gabriel Minier and Johenndry Rivera tallied 8 and 5 points respectively. Outside hitter Oscar Pineda led Honduras with 10 points on 8 kills, one block and one ace.



United States 3, Mexico 0

United States qualified to the FIVB U19 World Championship moving into the Boys U19 Pan American Cup semifinals after defeating Mexico 3-0 (25-21, 25-13, 25-13). The U.S. swept pool B 3-0 to reach the semifinals and won one of the four tickets available to the age-group World Championship. Mexico with 2-1 finishes second and will face Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals. Once again the Americans' serves were crucial to come out on top by a huge 11-0 margin; they also held an overwhelming advantage in attacks (36-18) and 9-1 in blocks. Mexico committed fewer errors than the United States (19-28).

Opposite hitter Finn Kearney and outside hitter Sterling Foley led United States with 15 points each; both on 10 kills, 2 blocks and 3 aces. Outside hitter Antonio Vargas scored 8 points as Mexico's leading scorer.



Puerto Rico 3, Guatemala 0

Puerto Rico is headed to the FIVB U19 World Championship after defeating host Guatemala 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-20). Puerto Rico won pool A with 3-0 record and will play in Friday's semifinals, which earned them one of the four vacancies to the age-group World Championship. Guatemala, second place in pool A is set to play in quarterfinals against Chile who finished third in pool B. The Caribbean team prevailed in every category, with a huge 37-16 margin in attacks, 6-1 in blocks and 8-2 in aces. Puerto Rico committed 37 errors and scored on 24 Guatemalan errors. Puerto Rico's offense was led by outside hitter Diego Lopez with 14 points from 13 attacks and one ace, outside hitter Victor Torres also contributed with 14 points on 11 kills and 3 blocks; and middle blocker Ramon Rosado collected 11 points on 7 kills and 4 aces. Guatemala's leading scorer was opposite hitter Ferdinando Gonzalez with 8 points.

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