



**MEN FINAL SIX**  
**PAN AMERICAN CUP**  
Edmonton, Canada  
September 17-25, 2023

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**FIVB**

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
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# Newsletter

## Canada wins its opener at the Pan American Cup Final Six



EDMONTON, CANADA. Sept. 19, 2023: Canada managed to win its opener at the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six, September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar at the Expo Centre, in Edmonton, Alberta.

It was Canada over Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-15, 25-20, 23-25, 25-20) on the first day of the round robin.

Canada led 55-43 in attack points; 11-8 in block points and a whopping 10-0 in service aces. However, Puerto Rico made fewer errors (29-

22).

Isaac Heslinga of Canada led all scorers with 23 points. Klistan Lawrence Vidal led Puerto Rico with 16 points.

**Dan Lewis, head coach of Canada:** "I'm happy with the win, but our organization needs to be better. There were a couple of things we needed to do in terms of organization and we weren't able to execute that well and it opens the door for the opponent. This week we will just try to refine our execution and have discipline. At the international level, we have to be able to execute our plan well."

**Gerardo De Jesus Sanchez, head coach of Puerto Rico:** "This is a new group, made up of college students, and we've had very little training. Some of them are in school in the United States, and others play in professional leagues. For a first game, we performed quite well against a Canadian team that is well-trained."

### USA sweeps Dominican Republic in Final 6 action



EDMONTON, CANADA. Sept. 19: USA won its opening match at the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six, held from September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar, in Edmonton, Canada.

USA won 3-0 (25-17, 25-9, 25-19) over a young Dominican squad – dominating in attack points (45-22) as well as in blocking (9-4) and service aces (5-1). The U.S. also received more points from opponent errors (18-16).

The USA's Camden Gianni led all scoring with 18 points, including three ace serves. Luis David Reinoso Soto led the Dominican team with seven points.

**Alexander Gutierrez, head coach of Dominican Republic:** "For us this is a difficult match – the USA has a high level of intensity. ...This is the first match for this group and it's not going to be easy for

us. But day after day we will try to improve our performance each match... Every match for us will be a different story – to improve our performance, our level, and minimize our mistakes."

**Patrick Gasman, captain of the USA:** "It's our first match with this group, we've only been together for about three weeks. This was a great first test for us to come out and play as a team and within our system."

### Men's Final 6 kicks off with a five-setter



EDMONTON, CANADA. Sept. 19, 2023: Cuba and Mexico needed a tie-break set to decide the opening match of the NORCECA Pan American Cup Men's Final Six, held September 19 to 24 at the Flair Airlines Hangar, at the Edmonton Expo Centre in Alberta

Despite a strong start, the young Cuban team fell to Mexico 2-3 (26-24, 25-22, 18-25, 17-25, 8-15) in a roller-coaster of a match today. Cuban Alejandro Miguel Gonzalez led all scoring with 33 points; Mexico's Josué López Rios was top scorer for the winning side with 25 points (including six from the service line). Cuba led in attack points (60-49), but Mexico led in blocking (11-7), serving (12-5) and made fewer errors.

**Manuel Espinosa, head coach of Cuba:** "The match for us was with highs and lows because in reality our team could have done a better job after we have won the first two sets and when Mexico changed the game we got a little bit frustrated and we couldn't get ahead at the moment, but tactically we didn't do what we were supposed to do as per our technical meeting, we had a lot of errors (39) that at the end led us to our defeat."

**Jorge Azair, head coach of Mexico:** "We started off good; and then it went badly – our sideout was not good in the first and second set. But we made some substitutions – and my team worked well in the third, fourth and fifth set. It's a young team and for me it's important that they are calm and motivated. It's good experience for them."

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