

Argentina and Puerto Rico join United States and the Dominican Republic in the semifinals



PONCE, PUERTO RICO, August 11, 2023.- Argentina and Puerto Rico won their respective quarterfinal matches this Friday to complete the semifinal group of the XX Senior Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup at the Juan "Pachín" Vicens Auditorium in Ponce. Argentina and Puerto Rico join United States, the undefeated leader of Group A; and the Dominican Republic, undefeated leader of Group B, to complete the group of semifinalists that will play this Saturday. Additionally, the matches for the 9th and 10th positions will be played, as well as the classification of positions 5th to 8th.

The itinerary of games for the seventh day is:

12:00 pm. Costa Rica vs. Chile (positions 9/10)
2:00 p.m. Mexico vs. Colombia (classification positions 5 to 8)
4:00 p.m. Peru vs. Canada (ranking positions 5 to 8)
6:00 pm. United States vs. Argentina (semifinal)
8:00 pm. Dominican Republic vs. Puerto Rico (semifinal)

Mexico advanced and will play for the classification of positions from 5 to 8

Mexico defeated Costa Rica, 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-11), and will play this Saturday for positions 5 to 8. Costa Rica played a good first set against Mexico. The Ticas dominated the second technical timeout, 16-15, and were tied at 20-20. Then, Mexico was in control of the rest of the match. The Mexican outside hitter Aimé Margarita Topete was the best scorer of the match with 16 points (16 attacks); Karen Rivera contributed 12 points (10 attacks, 1 block, 1 ace); and captain Jocelyn Urias with 11 points (9 attacks, 2 blocks). For Costa Rica, Marcela Araya with 11 points (10 kills, 1 block); Tatiana Sayles with seven points (5 attacks, 1 block, 1 ace); and Yuliana González Alfaro with five points (5 attacks). Mexico dominated Costa Rica in attacks for points, 45-27, and aces, 7-3. In blocks, Costa Rica dominated by the minimum, 5-4. Costa Rica will play on Saturday at 12:00 noon for positions 9 and 10, and Mexico for classifications 5 to 8. Mexico's opponent will be known after the results of the sixth day of the Cup.

Peru defeated Chile and will play for the classification of positions from 5 to 8

Peru defeated Chile, 3-1 (25-20, 16-25, 25-22, 25-16), and will play this Saturday for positions 5 to 8. Although Chile fought to win the South American battle and was unsuccessful, they dominated Peru in aces, 6-4. In blocks they finished even, 9-9; and Peru dominated, 50-49, in attacks. Ysabella Sánchez was

the best scorer for Peru with 17 points (16 attacks, 1 ace); Daniela Muñoz with 13 points (11 attacks, 1 block, 1 ace), and Flavia Montes with 12 points (6, attacks, 6 blocks).

For Chile, Beatriz Novoa led all scorers with 28 points (24 attacks, 2 blocks, 2 aces); Karen Morales with 11 points (10 attacks, 1 block); and Florencia Giglio with 10 points (5 attacks, 4 blocks, 1 ace).

The Panthers struck out their ticket to the semifinals

Argentina advanced this Friday to the semifinals by defeating Canada 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 23-25, 25-12). Argentina had the opportunity to finish the match, 3-0, when in the third set they made a comeback to tie it at 20-20. Then, after another tie at 22-22, Canada was able to control to avoid the sweep.

In the fourth set, Argentina made an eight-point rally (8-0) to put the score in their favor, 19-10; and from then on, Argentina did not look back until completing the mission: the semifinals. Argentinian opposite Bianca Cugno was the best scorer of the match with 25 points (18 kills, 3 blocks, 4 aces); Paula Nizetich with 16 points (13 kills, 1 blocks, 2 aces); and Candelaria Herrera with 16 (10 kills, 6 blocks). For Canada, Andrea Mitrovic with 16 points (16 attacks); Hilary Howe with 16 points (14 attacks, 2 aces); and Shainah Joseph contributed 12 points on attacks.

Argentina and Canada finished tied in attacking points, with 56 each. Meanwhile, the South Americans dominated in blocks, 12-3, and in direct services, 13-4. Argentina will play this Saturday in the semifinals and waits for its rival at the end of the day. Canada is also on hold for their 5-8 qualifying match.

Puerto Rico completed the semifinalist draw

Puerto Rico, host country of the XX Senior Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup, gave its fans another exciting match in five sets by defeating Colombia to claim the last available spot for the semifinals. Puerto Rico made a great comeback after a 1-2 deficit in sets against Colombia to get the victory with scores of 25-20, 17-25, 20-25, 25-20, 15-11. The Puerto Ricans lost the fourth set, 17-19, but managed to tie it (19-19). Colombia called a timeout, but Puerto Rico returned to the court and took off, 21-19. Colombia requested its second time out. Dariana Hollingsworth, Pilar Victoriá, Paola Rojas and Alondra Vázquez made the four points needed to win the fifth set, the match and a ticket to the semifinal. Alondra Vázquez was the best scorer for Puerto Rico with 18 points (18 kills), Dariana Hollingsworth with 15 points (14 kills, 1 ace); and Pilar Victoriá with 12 points, all in attacks. For Colombia, Ana Karina Olaya with 19 points (18 attacks, 1 ace); Dayana Segovia with 18 points (13 attacks, 2 blocks, 3 aces); and Amanda Coneo with 16 points (15 attacks, 1 block). Puerto Rico and Colombia finished the game with the same attacks, 57-57. In blocks, the locals dominated Colombia, 8-6; and the South Americans beat Puerto Rico, 8-4, in aces. Colombia will play for the classification for positions 5 to 8 at 2:00 p.m. against Mexico, and Puerto Rico will face the Dominican Republic at 8:00 p.m. in the semifinal.