



## United States and Dominican Republic advance to the semifinals

**PONCE, PUERTO RICO, August 10, 2023.-** The United States and the Dominican Republic closed the group stage undefeated on Thursday, 4-0, and advanced directly to the semifinals.

The United States defeated Canada and the Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico in the fifth day of competition of the XX Senior Women's Volleyball Pan American Cup at the Juan "Pachín" Vicéns Auditorium in Ponce.

The schedule for tomorrow:

2:00 p.m. Mexico vs. Costa Rica (Classification positions 7/10)  
4:00 p.m. Peru vs. Chile (Classification positions 7/10)  
6:00 pm. Argentina vs. Canada (Quarterfinals)  
8:00 pm. Colombia vs. Puerto Rico (Quarterfinals)

Puerto Rico, being the top-ranked team in NORCECA ranking that hadn't qualify for the Pan American Games in the quarterfinals of the Cup, secured their ticket to Chile 2023 today.

### Comeback win for Colombia over Peru

Colombia recovered after losing the first two sets and won the next three to close the group stage with a victory, 3-2 (18-25, 21-25, 25 -20, 25-17, 15-10), against Peru. Peru came out aggressive to play and had total dominance in the first two sets. The Peruvians did not give the Colombian squad opportunities to establish their game. But in the third, the awakening of Colombia came after the first technical timeout, 8-4, for Peru. Colombia came from behind to even the score, 11-11, and from then on it would be another game, which stretched to five sets. In the fifth set, Peru came out determined to regain control and led 4-2. Colombia tied it, 4-4, and from then on never looked back until the victory, 15-9. Colombia had three players with over 20 points. Dayana Segovia was the best scorer with 24 points (19 attacks, 4 blocks, 1 ace); Ana Karina Grajales (21 attacks) and Amanda Coneo (18 attacks, 1 block, 2 aces) contributed 21 points each. For Peru, Ysabella Sánchez with 22 points (19 attacks, 2 blocks, 1 ace); Karla Ortiz with 18 points (16 attacks, 2 aces); and Flavia Montes with 10 points (8 attacks, 2 blocks). Colombia led 69-59 in attacking points and 12-7 in blocks. Peru did better in points from serves 8-4.

### Mexico recovered and beat Chile

Mexico achieved its third victory of the group phase by defeating Chile. The Mexican team found their way after losing in the second set and was able to control Chile with their blocking and defense to win the match 25-15, 23-25, 25-20 and 25-18. Mexico closed the group stage with a 3-1 record, while Chile did not know victory with 0-4. Mexico dominated Chile 55-50 in attacks, by a wide margin of 16-7 in blocks, as well as in service points 10-4. Mexican spiker Aimé Margarita Topete was the

best scorer of the match with 23 points (16 attacks, 5 blocks, 2 aces); captain Jocelyn Urias contributed 20 points (11 attacks 6 blocks, 3 aces); and María Fernanda Rodríguez with 14 points (13 attacks, 1 block). For Chile, Beatriz Novoa with 19 points (17 attacks, 2 blocks); and Gabriela Badilla with 11 (11 attacks).

### United States to semifinals undefeated

United States earned their ticket to the semifinals by beating Canada 3-0 (25-17, 25-20, 25 -18). United States, led by outside hitter Simone Lee, unleashed their offense against a Canada who had no points on blocks in the entire game. United States conducted only one block for the point. In attacks, the Americans dominated the Canadians, 40-37, and 8-5 in aces. American Simone Lee was the best scorer of the match with 16 points (12 attacks, 1 block and 3 aces); Logan Eggleston with 10 points (10 attacks); and Stephanie Samedy with seven. For Canada, Shainah Joseph with 12 points (11 attacks, 1 ace); Vicky Savard with 10 points (9 attacks, 1 ace); and Lay Van Buskirk with eight points (8 attacks). United States (4-0) finished top of Pool A and will have the day off tomorrow. Canada waits for the closing of the day to know its opponent.

### Dominican Republic won the battle against Puerto Rico

An ace from Geraldine González ended the battle that the Dominican Republic won against Puerto Rico in five exciting sets to close the group phase. Dominican Republic finished as leader in Group A and advances undefeated to the semifinal defeating the Puerto Ricans with partial scores of 25-23, 25-13, 18-25, 23-25, 16-14. Puerto Rico, being the top-ranked team in NORCECA ranking that hadn't qualify for the Pan American Games in the quarterfinals of the Cup, secured their ticket to Chile 2023 today. Puerto Rico lost the first two sets but made a great comeback by dominating the next two to extend the match to a fifth set. The teams battled from the start and tied on every point. The last tie was at 14-14. A block by Gaila González, after a spectacular defensive play from her, gave the Dominican Republic the match point, 15-14; and Geraldine González made an ace to end the game. Dominican spiker Brayelin Martínez was the best scorer of the match with 28 points (24 kills, 3 blocks, 1 ace); Geraldine González with 14 (10 attacks, 3 blocks and the winning ace); Yonkaira Peña with 10 points (9 attacks, 1 block). For Puerto Rico, Alondra Vázquez with 22 points (16 attacks, 3 blocks, 3 aces); Pilar Victoria with 17 points (15 attacks, 2 blocks); and Dariana Hollingsworth with 11 points (11 kills). Dominican Republic dominated Puerto Rico in kills, 57-53, and in blocks, 16-15. The Puerto Ricans made 5 aces versus 4 from the Dominicans. Dominican Republic has a day off as they advance to the semifinal; and Puerto Rico will face Colombia in the quarterfinals on Friday at 8:00 p.m.