



Puerto Rico vs. USA competing for a Beijing ticket

CAGUAS, Puerto Rico, January 10, 2008.- Puerto Rico will meet USA in the decisive match of the NORCECA Men's Olympic Qualifying Tournament. The host team moved to the gold medal match with a win over Canada 41-39, 25-21, 25-19 on Thursday night before more than 9,000 spectators.

Hector "Picky" Soto led Puerto Rico with 27 points and Jose Rivera and Luis Rodriguez added 11 and 10 respectively. Dallas Soonias (22), Fred Winters (11) and Steve Brinkman were in double digits for Canada.

USA moved one step closer to Beijing while advancing to the gold medal match with a victory over Cuba in straight sets by score of 25-22, 27-25, 25-18.

Clayton Stanley and Riley Salmon each had 11 points and Sean Rooney and Ryan Millar contributed 9 and 8 respectively. Raydel Corrales and Roberlandy Simon had 12 and 10 respectively for Cuba and Rolando Jurquin added 9.

Mexico advanced to the match for fifth place by defeating Barbados in straight sets by score of 25-13, 25-17, 25-15.

Iván Contreras, who is leading all the scorers in the

competition, added 20 points increasing his total to 97. Gustavo Meyer had 13 and Juan Virgen contributed 8. Elwyn Oxley was the best scorer of Barbados with 9 tallies.

Dominican Republic defeated Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 (25-17, 25-22, 28-26) moving to a match against Mexico.

Caceres had 17 points, including four blocks, and Batista provided 14 to the winning effort. Marc-Anthony Honore and Kelvin Alleyne had 14 and 10 points respectively for Trinidad & Tobago.

