



USA joined Canada in semi finals

CAGUAS, Puerto Rico, January 8, 2008.- Third world-ranked USA joined Canada in advancing to the semi final round of the NORCECA Men's Olympic Qualifier after a victory over host Puerto Rico in straight sets before an enthusiastic local crowd of more than 6,000 at Coliseo Hector Sola Bezares. The scores were 25-21, 25-23, 25-22.

The triumph secured USA a place in the semi final round. Puerto Rico will meet Mexico on Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

Clayton Stanley and Ryan Millar led USA with 15 and 12 respectively and David Lee, Reid Priddy and Riley Salmon each contributed 8 tallies. Hector Soto was the top Puerto Rican with 15 points.

In another match, Canada won Pool B of the NORCECA Men's Olympic Qualifier by defeating Mexico 25-21, 25-19, 25-20

The Canadians finished with a 3-0 mark and advanced directly to the semi final round. Mexico (1-2) finished third and will meet the loser of the match between USA and Puerto Rico in the quarter finals.

Dallas Soonias and Fred Winters topped Canada with 15 and 12 points respectively and Mexico had Ivan Contreras (17), Gustavo Meyer (11) and Irving Bricio (10) in double-digits.

Also, Cuba defeated Trinidad & Tobago in consecutive sets (25-13, 25-8, 25-15) in the first match of Tuesday at the NORCECA Men's Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Cuba (2-1) finished in second place of Pool B while Trinidad & Tobago (0-3) placed fourth.

Roberlandy Simon was the best scorer of Cuba with 10 points, including three blocks, and Rolando Jurquin had two blocks among his 8 tallies. Trinidadian Marc-Anthony Honore scored 10 points.

Finally, the Dominican Republic defeated Barbados in

straight sets (25-19, 25-19, 25-17) and advanced to a quarterfinals match against Cuba on Wednesday. The Dominicans (1-2) ended in third place of Pool A and Barbados finished in fourth (0-3).

Jose Caceres led three Dominicans in double figures with 15 points, followed by Victor Batista and Eury Almonte with 11 and 10 respectively. Fabian Cox and Renier Grace each had 9 points for Barbados.

