



Brazil and Dominican Republic qualified to FIVB 2009 World Grand Prix

MEXICALI, Baja California, June 3, 2008.- Brazil and Dominican Republic advanced to the semi finals of the Women's Pan American Cup and in doing it, they also secured berths for the 2009 FIVB World Grand Prix.

The Brazilians won Pool B with an unbeaten record in five outings while the Dominicans finished in a three-way tie for first place in Pool A with USA and Argentina with 4-1 marks.

The best points-ratio of the Dominicans (1.301) favoured them for the top position while Americans (1.287) and Argentineans (1.232) finished second and third and will play in the quarterfinals. Teams of Canada and Puerto Rico followed Brazil in Pool B.

On Tuesday, Brazil beat Cuba in straight sets (25-20, 25-11, 25-16) with Adenizia Da Silva (9) and Natalia Pereira (8) and Natalia Martins (8) as its best scorers.

Earlier in the day, Puerto Rico downed Venezuela in straight sets 25-17, 25-21, 25-12 qualifying in third position of Pool B, while Canada defeated Peru 25-20, 25-12, 25-18 to finish second and Tammy Mahon leading the attack with 17 points.

Bethania de la Cruz came from the bench to score 11 of her 18 points in the third set and led Dominican Republic to a 25-19, 25-15, 25-7 victory over Mexico. The Dominicans were pressed to stop the host team in 44 points or less and entered the third set obliged to keep the Mexicans in less than 10, which they did.

In the first match of Pool A, USA crushed Trinidad & Tobago 25-11, 25-11, 25-14 with Cynthia Barboza scoring 12 points and Alexis Crimes and Alexandra Klineman contributed 10 apiece. Then Argentina beat Costa Rica 25-15, 25-7, 25-15.

Wednesday is a rest day in the Pan American Cup with action resuming on Thursday with Cuba facing Trinidad & Tobago in a match between winless teams for the eleventh position, followed by the matches of Costa Rica vs. Peru and Mexico vs. Venezuela in the start of the consolation round. In the quarterfinals, Argentina will play against Canada and United States meet Puerto Rico.