

## USA vs. Puerto Rico in key match for Pool A



MIAMI, Florida, June 29, 2009.- USA and Puerto Rico will square off for a key match between undefeated teams in Pool A of the Eighth Women's Pan American Cup on Tuesday with the winner automatically advancing to the tournament's second round.

The United States (4-0) defeated Peru (2-2) 25-22, 25-21, 26-24 on Monday at the University of Miami's BankUnited Center.

Five players of Team USA reached double figures in scoring in a balanced offense. Jordan Larson led the U.S. with a match-high 14 points that included 12 kills and two aces.

Kristin Richards added 13 points on 12 kills and an ace, while Nancy Metcalf chipped in 13 points. Danielle Scott-Arruda was credited with five blocks as part of an 11-point night, while Christa Harmotto contributed 10 points with three blocks.

Patricia Soto paced Peru with 11 points, while Yulissa Zamudio added nine points. Leyla Chihuan tacked on eight points in the loss, while teammate Jessenia Uceda put down seven points.

"We expected a tough match from Peru and that is what we got," U.S. Head Coach Hugh McCutcheon said. "Some of our problems tonight are my fault as we are putting in a lot of changes to this team, both in technique and system. I was happy that we found a way to win and battle through the challenge."

In another match of Pool A, Puerto Rico remained undefeated in four outings with a 25-21, 25-18, 25-11 victory over Costa Rica (1-3).

Aurea Cruz tallied a match-high 14 points for Puerto Rico and she was aided on the scoreboard by Sarai Alvarez and Yarimar Rosa, who each contributed nine points. Sheila Ocasio turned in seven points in the victory. Costa Rica was led by Verania Willis' nine points, while Angela Willis added seven points.

"At first we made too many errors and needed a lot of effort to defeat our opponent," Puerto Rico Head Coach Carlos Cardona said. "The most important part of this match was learning to deal with adversity to win."

Earlier, Mexico (1-3) topped Guatemala (0-4) 25-23, 25-12, 25-21. Mexico captain Migdalel Ruiz came off the bench to score a match-high 17 points with 11 kills, three blocks and three aces. Martha Revuelta added 13 points and Olivia Meza chipped in eleven.

