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Minneapolis

USA Women improve to 2-0 at Pan American Cup

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (June 11, 2005) – Elisha Thomas scored a match-high 12 points and Nancy Metcalf added 11 points as the USA Women's National Volleyball Team improved to 2-0 at the Pan American Cup by posting a 3-0 win over Mexico Saturday night.

Thomas (Grass Valley, Calif.) had a match-high seven blocks and five kills in the 25-13, 25-21, 25-8 victory in the annual tournament, which serves as a qualifier for the 2006 World Grand Prix for the top three NORCECA teams and the best South American team.

The 12-team tournament is split into two pools. Group A consists of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Members of Group B include Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States.

Metcalf (Hull, Iowa) added eight kills and three blocks while teammates Patrice Arrington (Oxon Hill, Md.) and Jane Collymore (Englewood, Colo.) scored 10 points each.

Collymore had six kills, three service aces and one block, while Arrington blasted eight kills in nine attempts for a hitting percentage of .889 along with a pair of aces.

Ana Mercado scored eight points to lead Mexico (0-2).

Up next for the Americans is a match against Barbados on Sunday, June 12.

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