



JULY 6, 2016

The writer apologizes for not reporting the yesterday's games due to being on another job assignment. Here are the scores from yesterday's games:

Tuesday's games:

ARGENTINA 93 VENEZUELA 84

UNITED STATES 124 CANADA 40

Wednesday's games

VENEZUELA 85 CANADA 63

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Venezuela came into the gym thinking that this would be an easy walk to the bronze medal. But it was not to be, for Canada had other things in mind. Canada grabbed control of the game right from the start, and held on dearly for one and half quarters with their grittiness and well-executed passing. Eward Ugueto, the Venezuela coach, was disgusted with his starting five, so he put in his back-ups in the game for his starters. It was then that the momentum turned Venezuela's way. With their second string picking up the pace, Canada's lineup was no match for Venezuela's quickness as Venezuela outscored Canada 26-9 in the second

quarter. Halftime ended with Venezuela up by eight points for the score of 37-29.

Venezuela, determined not to let Canada get back in the game, shot out of the locker room by outscoring the Canadians 28-15 in the third quarter. However, the Canadians were not to be deterred, instead they fought to get back in the game behind Steve Okito's and Danylo Grydko's 8 rebounds apiece in the 2nd half. Canada came within 8 points of Venezuela, thanks to their team rebounding advantage, 29 to Venezuela's 22. However, Canada failed to capitalize, shooting 43% from the field, most of them missed lay-ups and around the basket and only 16% from the three-point line. Venezuela used their depth and team speed to pull away from the tired Canadian team to earn the bronze with the score of 85 to 63. Venezuela's Miguel Blanco led all scorers with 27 points while Canada's Steven Okito had a double double, with 15 points and 15 rebounds. Danylo Grydko added 14 points and 18 rebounds for Canada.

USA 97 ARGENTINA 53 GOLD MEDAL GAME

USA left no doubt on who was the best team in the Pan Amdes competition when they raced to a 13 point lead with only four minutes of play. Without missing a beat, USA resumed its up tempo attack out of the gates against Argentina. Argentina did not start Nicolas Montero who had 18 points in the upset win over Venezuela the night before. Without Montero in their starting lineup, Argentina lost a bit of their offensive firepower. USA substituted early to keep fresh legs in the game and the bench repaid the coaching staff with quick bursts of offense. Montero finally entered the game but his presence made no difference as USA went up 23-7. Argentina's Juan Aude did not help matters as he went out with three fouls in 1st quarter alone. His absence opened up the middle for USA's frontcourt to score at will. Half time score: USA 44 Argentina 25.

The second half opened with a slower tempo by both teams, and was marred by sloppiness and physical play. Four minutes later, the two teams were still in stall mode as both teams managed only three points apiece. The referees were obviously letting the players play, as the court was starting to look like a football field, with jarring body contacts and a few wrestling bouts for the ball.

Tempers flared in the third quarter when Argentina's Facundo Herrero was called for a technical foul with USA up 73-38. Herrero's technical failed to inspire his teammates for a late game rally. Even if they were inspired, it was too late, for USA had already dominated the Argentinians in every aspect of the game. USA breezed through the last quarter for an easy 97-53 win over Argentina to win their first Pan Am gold since 1999. It also marked their first gold since 2009 Deaflympics in Taipei, Taiwan. Robert Haney, Trey Gordon and Raymond Nelson led the USA's balanced attack with 16, 15, and 14 points respectively.

FINAL RESULTS

CHAMPIONS: UNITED STATES

SECOND PLACE: ARGENTINA

THIRD PLACE: VENEZUELA

FOURTH PLACE: CANADA

FIFTH PLACE: BRAZIL

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

BRAZIL

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM

PRESTON KELLY, UNITED STATES

MANUEL PERTICARARI, ARGENTINA

DANYLO GRYDKO, CANADA

FELIX PERDOMO, VENEZUELA

JOSH MCGRIFF, UNITED STATES

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RAYMOND NELSON, UNITED STATES