

Universal 2019 Pan America Cup

Friday 1st February: Quotes of the Day

Men's Singles

Group A

Nikhil Kumar (United States) bt Marcos Madrid (Mexico) 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 14-12, 11-6

"Yes in the sixth game I was down 10-11 and 11-12; I felt today I was better in the short game. It was the first time I had played him. Marcos likes to play the rallies but he serves are good, it was difficult to read them. Also, it was important that I kept changing the speed of the play, changing the spin." Nikhil Kumar

Nikhil Kumar (United States) bt Emil Santos (Dominican Republic) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

"Having won this morning I knew I had a good chance to qualify but I knew I must play well. He was not so strong in the short game; I played short whenever possible. Also key to the win was to spin the first ball, a lot of rotation." Nikhil Kumar

Group B

Albert Miño (Ecuador) bt Allan Gutierrez (Guatemala) 9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8, 11-2

"I just couldn't find a rhythm to my play at all in the first two games, no feeling whatsoever; maybe because the balls were new. Also, for me it was the first time when using the multi-ball system. In the fifth game I took the "Time Out" when down 3-6 and refocused, I levelled at 6-all then things improved, better timing." Alberto Miño

Albert Miño (Ecuador) bt Samuel Galvez (Dominican Republic) 11-8, 11-2, 10-12, 9-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-3

"I was feeling really good in the first two games; then I became passive; he became confident, he was good with the first attack, good in the counter topspin rallies. I lost three games in a row, all close. After the fifth game I returned service using the banana technique. I played more aggressively, stronger on the first ball and I played with more spin. In the seventh game I got a good start, I led 5-1 and it made the difference." Alberto Miño

Group C

Brian Afanador (Puerto Rico) bt Marko Medjogorac (Canada) 11-3, 11-8, 11-6, 11-8

"The spectators were always positive; I used it to motivate myself. Playing at home is something exceptional. The key was to stay calm; I did not want to force the play. There was no technical strategy; it was mental because everything I was doing was hurting him." Brian Afanador

Brian Afanador (Puerto Rico) bt Juan Lamadrid (Chile) 11-7, 11-6, 9-11, 11-2, 11-5

"Just winning one game was not in my mind; for me this tournament is very exciting; the support I received in the first match today was a big plus. Tomorrow I will go with everything, prepare well and be mentally ready." Brian Afanador

Group D

Jeremy Hazin (Canada) bt Gustavo Gomez (Chile) 11-6, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7

"I think our games are very similar; neither of us are really powerful players. I think we both have a good feeling for the ball; so I decided that I would try to play rallies rather than quick points. At the start of the match I was a little slow, I didn't move that well and it was the first time I had ever played under the multi-ball system. I like it. It's good for me I save energy, rather than picking the ball up I can wipe my hand on the table and focus for the next point." Jeremy Hazin

Jeremy Hazin (Canada) bt Daniel Gonzalez (Puerto Rico) 11-7, 11-5, 13-11, 11-4)

"He is a bit one sided in his play, he has a very good forehand but his backhand is not so strong; so I focused on directing my first attacks to his backhand and when blocking creating angles." Jeremy Hazin

Women's Singles

Group B

Yasiris Ortiz (Dominican Republic) bt Lucia Cordero (Guatemala) 11-6, 11-4, 10-12, 7-11, 11-6, 11-7

"I feel very proud and very happy to qualify to play in this tournament. I had to win the tournament in the Caribbean, in Jamaica. Lucia is very good from the backhand, so I always tried to attack the centre and focus on good variation with my services." Yasiris Ortiz

Group C

Yadira Silva (Mexico) bt Estefania Ramirios (El Salvador) 8-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5)

Following the match Estefania Ramirios announced her retirement from international play

"I've played now for 18 years and El Salvador has always supported me but now they don't have a lot of money for international play. I studied at university in Ponce and now I want to focus on my management career. For sure I feel sad at moment but I very happy to have been able to play for so long and in so many international competitions." Estefania Ramirios

Group D

Alicia Cote (Canada) bt Melanie Diaz (Puerto Rico) 7-11, 8-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7

"At the beginning of the match I could not find the timing with my backhand; I needed to play fast from the backhand, change the direction of the play and create angles. Also, I made mistakes with my first attack after the service; I knew the tactics, I played against her last year at the Pan American Championships in Santiago. I won on that occasion but it was close, three-two in the team event." Alicia Cote

Alicia Cote (Canada) bt Eva Brito (Dominican Republic) 8-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5

"In the first game I didn't receive her services well; she attacked first. After the second game I changed, I served short and when she served half-long I tried to topspin the ball. It's my third time in the tournament, first time I have qualified for the main draw." Alicia Cote