

Universal 2019 Pan America Cup

Sunday 3rd February: Quotes of the Day

Men's Singles

Semi-Final

Kanak Jha (United States) bt Gustavo Tsuboi (Brazil) 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8

"Last year I lost easily, I wasn't that well prepared; this year I was well prepared. At the end of last year I had lost to Gustavo in the German League; today the most important factor was that I received service well. A good receive, especially from his long service, I felt confident in the rallies. In 2017 I beat him in San José, so I knew I could compete against a player of his level; that gave me confidence in the important points." Kanak Jha

Semi-Final

Hugo Calderano (Brazil) bt Marcelo Aguirre (Paraguay) 11-7, 7-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9, 13-11

"It took me time to adapt to his play; he was very aggressive and opened the play. It was difficult to control his attacking play. I had to play more positively and try to put him under pressure. Gradually I was able to adapt and control the match." Hugo Calderano

Third Place

Gustavo Tsuboi (Brazil) bt Marcelo Aguirre (Paraguay) 11-6, 11-6, 3-11, 11-3, 11-5

"I've played many times against Marcelo and it's always a difficult match; I know him well and our styles of play are quite similar. It was very much a question of recovering from my semi-final defeat against Kanak earlier today. Recently I'd beaten him in the German Bundesliga but today I have to say that he played very well; he blocked my attacking strokes really well and I found it difficult to find my fighting spirit. Against Marcelo I found my spirit, this match was very different." Gustavo Tsuboi

Final

Hugo Calderano (Brazil) bt Kanak Jha (United States) 11-2, 12-14, 11-3, 11-8, 12-10

"Kanak is very consistent, he has good control, he is young; playing on the World Tour and at World Championships I have more experience than him but I'm sure that he can move to the next level. Today I felt confident in the serve and receive game, just sometimes I hesitated returning service and then I had problems." Hugo Calderano

Women's Singles

Semi-Final

Zhang Mo (Canada) bt Bruna Takahashi (Brazil) 11-8, 11-4, 11-5, 11-5

"I'd played her last year but I didn't feel that confident before the match; when we played in Austria it was four-three, very close. Today I was able to establish a good rhythm to my play, not play too fast and make sure I put the first ball on the table; certainly winning the first game gave me confidence." Zhang Mo

Semi-Final

Adriana Diaz (Puerto Rico) bt Wu Yue (United States) 11-8, 11-3, 7-11, 7-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-4

Wu Yue is a super strong player, it was a tough match, I needed a lot of strength to get ahead; I couldn't afford to play badly. I had to play as strongly as possible. I feel very happy, the feeling is incredible. Thank you very much everyone, it is a dream. I have played in the Olympic Games but this tournament is very special for me. I never thought that table tennis could bring all these people together. I hope everyone will come to watch the final.

Third Place

Wu Yue (United States) bt Bruna Takahashi (Brazil) 11-8, 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 12-10

"Bruna played with good quality; she put a lot of spin on the ball. After the third game I tried not to play so fast but to make sure I kept the ball on the table. In the sixth game I was running out of energy, I just kept encouraging myself. I think if I had lost that game I would have lost the match." Wu Yue

Final

Adriana Diaz (Puerto Rico) beat Zhang Mo (Canada) 13-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9)

"I'm so glad to have won, so pleased. It means I qualify for the World Cup; it's just the same as qualifying for the Olympic Games. I thank my family, Melanie, Gabriela, Fabiola; my mum and my dad; my team. Thank you very much for being with me, for supporting me. I'm stuck for words: I don't know what to say. It's a dream, for me to make table tennis the biggest thing in Puerto Rico." Adriana Diaz