

XIV UANA Pan Am Jr Men Water Polo Championship 2008
&
VIII UANA Pan Am Woman Water Polo Championship 2008
24 - 31 July 2008

RESULTS

Day 1

Women

MEX 2 USA 9
PUR 7 BRA 13

Men

AHO 4 COL 8
CAN 19 TRI 0
ARG 2 USA 22
BRA 9 MEX 4

Day 2 – July 26

Women

MEX 3 CAN 12
USA 11 BRA 5

Men

MEX 20 TRI 5
COL 3 USA 23
AHO 5 PUR 11
BRA 17 VEN 5

The first 2 days of the event, being held in the beautiful setting of the Club Paineiras do Morumby in Sao Paulo have come to a conclusion. On the women's side, the traditional powers of USA and CAN appear to be headed for the top 2 places in the 5 team round robin competition. On the men's side, with 2 groups, the USA is on track to win their group, while BRA and CAN appear to be the class of the second group. AHO made its first appearance at this event but is finding the going difficult. The caliber of the event shows the depth and the improvement of the teams.

Day 3 – July 27

Women

USA 8 PUR 5
BRA 6 CAN 14

Men

TRI 10 VEN 16
USA 18 PUR 3
MEX 5 CAN 15
COL 7 ARG 4

Day 3 of the competition ended on another sunny day in Sao Paulo. On the women's side, both Canada and the USA continued their winning ways although not before the women from Puerto Rico put a scare into the favored Americans losing by three after

being tied 5-5. On the men's side, Trinidad Tobago and Venezuela played the highest scoring game of the tournament before the South Americans won 16 – 10. USA and Canada controlled their matches while Columbia kept its hopes alive for a second place finish in their division by defeating Argentina 7 -4.

Day 4 – July 28

Women

CAN 15 PUR 7
BRA 5 MEX 4

Men

VEN 3 CAN 23
PUR 10 ARG 3
USA 24 AHO 0
TRI 3 BRA 14

On the second last day of the round robin preliminary round, the teams started to sort themselves out. In Women's play, Canada and the United States are headed for a game on Day 5 to determine who finishes 1st and 2nd. Brazil edged out Mexico 5-4 on a goal with 20 seconds to go to finish 3rd in the group. The other game on Day 5 will see Mexico play Puerto Rico – the winner qualifies for the World Championships, the loser will have to take its chances as an alternate. On the men's side, all games were won handily. One group has a match between Canada and Brazil to see who will finish first in their group. The loser will play the USA in semi-final action with the winner playing against the winner of the Columbia – Puerto Rico match in the other semi-final. The winner of Argentina – Netherlands Antilles moves forward to play for places 5-8, as will Venezuela and Mexico.

Day 5 – July 29

Women

PUR 2 MEX 11
CAN 4 USA 4

Men

ARG 14 AHO 7
VEN 4 MEX 10
PUR 9 COL 4
CAN 7 BRA 4

Mexico women, improving as the tournament has progressed, came out and, rather surprisingly dominated Puerto Rico from beginning to end, finishing up as 11-2 victors and qualifying for the World Championships in Rome. Puerto Rico, after playing well against the top 2 teams, will be disappointed in their placing. Canada took first place in the group after tying the United States 4-4 in a game less exciting than the score would indicate. So the semi-final round will see Canada playing Mexico and the USA taking on the host, Brazil.

On the men's side, Argentina kept its hopes of a top 5 finish alive by defeating the first timers from the Netherlands Antilles 13-7. By finishing fourth in Group B, they will play Mexico who finished third in Group A by defeating Venezuela by a score of 10-4 – a very close game until the third period. The third game of the evening saw Puerto Rico

defeat Columbia outscoring them 9 to 4. This victory sent them into the semi-final to play the winner of Group A while Columbia will face Venezuela in the 5 to 8 group. The final game of the evening was a battle between Canada and Brazil for first place in Group A and a place against Puerto Rico in the semi-finals. Canada by defeating the host country obtained the desired first place ranking while in the other semi-final, Brazil will play against the defending champions from the United States who were the top team in Group B.

Semi-Final Day – July 30, 2008

Women

CAN 13 MEX 3
USA 14 BRA 4

MEN

TRI 8 AHO 14
MEX 15 ARG 8
COL 8 VEN 3
CAN 10 PUR 5
USA 15 BRA 11

As expected, the two dominating teams from Canada and the United States will battle for the gold in the Women’s division. Canada were 13-3 victors over Mexico, while the United States also won by 10 goals in defeating Brazil by a score of 14-4. So for the gold and silver, we have a repeat of the 4-4 tie in the preliminary round while Mexico will play Brazil for the bronze, all 4 teams having qualified for the next Junior World Championships.

On the men’s side of things, the Netherlands Antilles making its first appearance at this event, defeated another relative newcomer from the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, by a score of 14-8 to grab 9th place. Mexico kept its hopes alive for a 5th place finish and qualification for the World Junior Men’s Championships by defeating Argentina by a score of 15 - 8. They will play against Colombia for fifth and sixth places. Venezuela, losers against Colombia by a score of 3-8, and Argentina, will have the seventh and eighth places based upon their results against the highest placed common opponent. In the big games for the medals, one semi-final saw the team from Canada defeat Puerto Rico by the score of 10-5. The United States grabbed the other spot in the finals, defeating the feisty host team from Brazil by a score of 15-11. So, in a repeat of the countries playing for gold on the women’s side, the United States and Canada will play for gold on the men’s, where Brazil and Puerto Rico will battle for the bronze.

Final Day – July 31, 2008

Women

BRA 7 MEX 8
USA 7 CAN 13

MEN

COL 4 MEX 9
PUR 5 BRA 11
CAN 13 USA 14

Mexico won its first medal in women's water polo at a PanAmerican Water Polo Championship by defeating the host country, Brazil, in a nail biting game ending with a 1 goal victory by a score of 8 to 7. The game was in doubt until the end as Brazil had possession for the last 30 seconds. Gabriela Leme scored all 7 goals for Brazil but the Mexican goalkeeper, Brenda Is. Felix, frustrated the other Brazilian scorers as Mexico avenged its one goal loss in the preliminary round. In the final game for the Gold Medal, both Canada and the United States entered the match undefeated, having tied their game during the preliminary round. The young United States team scored the first 2 goals of the game, but then the more experienced Canadian team took control and put in a dominant performance in winning the Gold Medal by a score of 31-7. This was Canada's first in this event, after 7 straight silver, while the United States dropped to silver for the first time.

On the men's side, the match between Mexico and Columbia decided not only 5th place and the last spot in next year's World Junior Championships, but also places 7 and 8. Mexico came away with the victory and the last qualification spot allocated to the Americas beating the fatigued team from Colombia by a final score of 9-4. The Mexican victory was good news for Venezuela as it put them into 7th place ahead of the 8th place team from Argentina. Mexico, the highest placed common team against which the two played, had defeated Venezuela by 6 goals and Argentina by 7 – the lesser difference gave the Venezuelans the higher placing. The bronze medal went to Brazil who, relatively easily defeated Puerto Rico by a score of 11-5, thus deflating the large crowd of Puerto Rican supporters who arrived in Sao Paulo to cheer on their team. In a rematch of the women's final, Canada and the United States met for gold. The United States came back from a 2-4 deficit and took a 6-5 lead into the second half. At the end of the third quarter, they maintained their 1 goal lead, 10-9. The United States captured their third straight championship with a 14-13 victory, scoring a somewhat controversial goal with 15 seconds left in the game.

FINAL PLACINGS

WOMEN

1. Canada*
2. United States*
3. Mexico*
4. Brazil*
5. Puerto Rico

MEN

1. United States*
2. Canada*
3. Brazil*
4. Puerto Rico*
5. Mexico*
6. Colombia
7. Venezuela
8. Argentina
9. Netherlands Antilles
10. Trinidad

* = qualified for 2009 Junior World Championships