



Game Three

VENEZUELA 94 CANADA 64

The game got off to a sluggish start with Venezuela showing effects of last night's game vs. USA, and on only 16 hours of rest. Canada, despite sporting fresh legs and the advantage of scouting Venezuela the day before, lagged behind 15-8 with 3:50 to play.

Canada slowly started to catch up with a 6-0 run to make it 25-22 at the end of first quarter.

At the start of the 2nd quarter, Venezuela's bandits with their speed and lightning-quick hands woke up to make deflections, resulting in fast break points. Six steals later, the maroon-clad bandits extended their lead to 35-26.

(Note: watching this is like watching the well-known five USA Valencia brothers in their youth; moving quicker than the eye can see!)

The bandits from the southern part of the Americas had sixteen steals in the first half, (5 steals by Perdomo). However, the game tempo slowed down and Venezuela held their lead with 52-39 at half.

2nd Half

With both teams failing to capitalize on numerous scoring opportunities, the game stalled with 6:43 to play in the third quarter, with Venezuela up 67-45. After a 3-minute dry run, Canada sank two 3-pointers, but Venezuela still maintained their lead by 20.

Slow and steady does it, persistence paid off and Venezuela pocketed the win by 30 points, 94-64.

The Venezuelan team had 32 steals (#5, 7 & 8 had 3 each).

Game #4

USA vs Brazil

Head Coach Jim DeStefano had the daunting task of preparing his team for Brazil. Brazil was decimated by Argentina by 131 points the day before. Two of Brazil's players are over 45 years old, and it was painful to watch them lumber back and forth on the court against Argentina.

DeStefano started his usual USA starters, Josh McGriff, Orion Palmer, Preston Kelly, Robert Haney and Raymond Nelson.

Brazil's porous defense led to USA's quick lead with a 25-0 run. USA did their best not to run up the score, instead, took their foot off the pedal as much as possible to allow Brazil play a decent game, with a few exception of several breakaway lay-ups. The first half ended 83-8, USA.

When asked what he said to his troop in the locker room at halftime, Assistant Coach Kevin Kovacs replied, "We told them that we could not let today's game affect our game tomorrow."

At 4:12 in third quarter, the score stretched to 108-8, with USA slowing down like molasses, but still dominating the game with their height, size and speed.

Game ended with 154-24 at the buzzer.

A positive note out of this blowout: There was one fine example of the host's generosity toward the visiting Pan Am team: Maryland's Lorraine Stoltz bought a Brazilian player a pair of new basketball shoes. His old shoes were being held together with duct tape.

FACES IN THE NEWS



Nice to see the tearful reunion of two of the most influential deaf female leaders, Maria de Bendeguz, former President of PanAmDes; Venezuela Deaf Sports Federation, long time deaf leader in South America, with Shirley Platt, former Executive Director of the AAAD, Commissioner of USA Deaf Basketball and long time Deaf sports leader in the USA.