

Friday, August 12, 2011 was the final day of competition at the UANA PanAmerican Junior (17U) Water Polo Championships – another warm and sunny day in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The girls' finals began with the bronze medal game between #3 BRA and #4 PUR. At the end of the first period, the teams were tied 1-1. BRA scored the first goal of the game but the host PUR team tied it up with 6 minutes to go in the period, neither team able to score during the rest of the period. That wasn't the case in the second period where PUR was unable to score and the BRA team scored 8 times to take a 9-1 lead into the second half. BRA led 11-1 at three quarters. PUR was finally able to score again in the 4th quarter when each team scored 4 goals. BRA took the bronze medals by a score of 15-5. For PUR, Nicole Schmidt scored twice while Izabella Chiappini led the BRA scorers with 8 goals. [Referees: Alonso (DOM), Navarro (USA)]

The gold medal game was a much anticipated rematch of last year's final between #1 CAN, the defending champions, and #2 USA, seeking to reverse the previous year's results. The USA team jumped into a 3-0 first quarter lead, thwarting the CAN scoring attack. The score was reversed during the second period as CAN tied the game 3-3 at the halftime mark. CAN outscored USA by 2 during the next period taking a 6-4 lead into the final quarter. USA came close, missing a shot that would have tied the game, with 5 seconds left in the game. USA fell short losing the gold medal by one as CAN won the game and took home the gold medals by a final score of 7-6. USA, once again, had to settle for silver. CAN was again led by Gurprecht Sohi with 3 goals while Kacey Avalos and Alessandra Vilches scored 2 each for Team USA. [Referees: Smith (TRI), Rodrigues (BRA)]

After the Girls' Gold Medal Game, and the required change of field, the game to determine the final UANA spot in next year's World Championships was played between #5 CAN, the defending UANA Champions, and #6 PUR, the host. CAN scored the first goal of the game but PUR replied with 2 of their own to take a 2-1 first quarter advantage. The second period saw the CAN attack come to life and they led 5-3 by the half time break. Each team scored once in the next quarter and CAN entered the final frame with a 6-4 lead. PUR pulled to within 1 but was unable to tie the game and CAN took an 8-7 victory and a spot in next year's World Championships in Australia. Fernando Zayas scored 4 goals for PUR in a losing cause while David Lapin, Jarrod Schaeffer and Rodrigo Rojas scored twice each for the winners from CAN. [Referees: Cote (COL), Hackshaw (TRI)].

Next came the bronze medal game, featuring #2 COL and #4 TRI. Both teams played intelligent and controlled water polo showing a good deal of maturity. COL jumped into a 4-1 first period lead. In the second quarter, TRI outscored the favoured COL team 3-2 to trail 6-4 at the half. In the second half, TRI on many occasions came within 1 and threatened to tie the game, but each time COL was able to score. COL led the game 8-6 at three quarters time and won the game by a score of 10-8. The TRI team impressed the spectators with their steady play throughout the tournament. COL, in this game, was able to match their discipline. [Referees: Roque (USA), Murray (CAN)]

The final game of the day was between #1 BRA and #3 USA. USA was in an unaccustomed role as underdog to the favoured BRA team. In a well played and controlled game, neither team was able to score a goal in the first quarter and, starting the second period, the score was USA 0, BRA 0. In the

second quarter, BRA scored 3 times to take a 3 -1 lead into the second half. USA scored the only goal of the 3rd period to pull within one, 3-2 when the 4th quarter began. BRA maintained its composure and took the gold medals by a score of 6-4. Jordan Colina led the USA attack with 2 goals while Pedro Stellet and Gustavo Guinaraes each scored the same number for BRA. BRA thus displaced CAN as UANA Junior Champions. [Referees: Gonzalez (PUR), Painchaud (CAN)]

FINAL STANDINGS:

MEN 1. Brazil 2. United States of America 3. Columbia

4. Trinidad and Tobago 5. Canada 6. Puerto Rico 7. Peru

WOMEN 1. Canada 2. United States of America 3. Brazil

4. Puerto Rico 5. Trinidad and Tobago