

# Bahrain beaten by USA 3-1

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## Manama

**H**osts Bahrain under coach Yousuf Khalifa Alasbool were defeated 3-1 (28-26, 25-19, 20-25, 25-23) in its second Pool A match last night against the USA coached by Samuel Shweisky in the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The first set action was tightly contested with the score at 13-12 halfway through the set, it was evenly balanced and tied with the scores at 16-16, 20, 24, 25 and 26, before two unanswered points gave the American youngsters the first set.

In the second set, Bahrain held the early lead at 11-9, but the US surged into a 16-14 lead and 23-19 before wrapping up the set for a 2-0 set match lead.

The third set saw the Bahrainis recover from an early 7-5 deficit to dominate at the halfway point at 12-10 and therefore go on to maintain its lead to stay in the match.

Fourth set action began with the USA dominating at 7-3, but Bahrain started to claw back and levelled at 14-14, it was still level

at 17-17, however three unanswered points gave the Americans a 21-18 lead, again the Bahrainis fought back to level at 23-23 only for two unanswered points to give the US a hard fought victory.

Bahrain have a rest day today and resume tomorrow night at 7pm when they take on Puerto Rico and complete their pool matches against Tunisia at the same time on Tuesday. In the other Pool A match, Egypt defeated Puerto Rico 3-1 (29-27, 25-20, 23-25, 25-17) for its first win thanks to Youssef Hamdy Awad (19 points) and Yousef Hafez Elsirgany (15), while top scoring for Puerto Rico were Pedro Molina (16) and Johan Leon (14).

Brazil caused a big surprise in Pool B when they beat the defending champions Poland 3-1 (22-25, 25-13, 25-18, 25-22) thanks to inspired play by middle blocker Guilherme Dos Santos (16) and Welinton

Oppenkoski (15) who top scored, while for Poland it was Remiglusz Kapica (14) and Bartosz Firszt (13) being their main scorers.

In the other Pool B match, France made it two wins from two with a comfortable 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 25-14) victory over Cuba.

Top scoring for France was Celestin Cardin (16) and Remi Bassereau (15) and for Cuba being Rey Isaac Quesada (11).

## Other scores:

**Pool C:** Turkey (Adis Lagumdzija, 15) bt Chile (Vincente Mardones, 10) 3-0 (25-14, 25-19, 25-19). Argentina (Juan Barrera 13, Luciano Palonsky 12) bt Russia 3-1 (20-25, 25-13, 25-23, 26-24).

**Pool D:** Czech Republic (Marek Satola 17, Jan Svoboda 10) bt Mexico (Raymond Zamora 12) 3-0 (28-26, 25-16, 25-17). Iran bt Italy 3-2 (25-16, 23-25, 23-25, 25-19, 15-12).

## Today's Schedule:

**1pm: Pool B: Cuba vs Poland. Pool C: Argentina vs Chile**  
**3pm: Pool B: Japan vs France. Pool C: South Korea vs Turkey**  
**5pm: Pool A: Puerto Rico vs USA. Pool D: Iran vs Mexico**  
**7pm: Pool A: Tunisia vs Egypt. Pool D: China vs Czech Republic**



Action from Czech Republic v Mexico match



Highlights from the matches



## McIlroy confirms he'll return for FedEx Cup opener

Los Angeles

**W**orld number four Rory McIlroy is in the field for next week's Northern Trust Open, first event of the US PGA's FedEx Cup playoffs won by the Northern Ireland star last year.

McIlroy had indicated after a disappointing 22nd-place finish in the PGA Championship that he might sit out the rest of the year.

He said the effects of a broken rib suffered early in the season continued to hinder his practice and had led to back spasms.

But the 28-year-old decided to take a stab at defending his FedEx Cup crown after meeting with fitness adviser Steve McGregor in Belfast, the Daily Telegraph reported.

McIlroy won the second playoff event and the Tour

Championship to clinch the FedEx Cup last year.

Just like last year, he has not won a title prior to the playoff series.

This season's series opens with the Northern Trust in New York next week, followed by the Dell Technologies Championship in Boston a week later.

After a week off, they series resumes with the

BMW Championship before the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings advance to the Tour Championship.

McIlroy seemed confident he would be playing through the BMW Championship when he posted a note to fans on Twitter on Friday -- urging them to enter a contest to win a chance to play 18 holes with him at the tournament in Illinois. (AFP)

