

2017 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships presented by A1 - August 2 QUOTES

Women's 77: Talita Antunes / Larissa Franca Brazil (1) def. Ana Gallay / Virginia Zonta Argentina (34) 21-12, 21-14 (0:30)

Talita Antunes, Brazil – “I think we are playing better and better match by match. We know the tournament is so long. Now that we are starting the single elimination, we are playing good. I feel good about our chances. Laura and Kira are good, they are the Olympic champions. But I think we can beat any team. We know that it is more about our team. When you are playing good and playing together, it is not about the opponent, it is about us all the time.”

Virginia Zonta, Argentina – “We know that Brazil is one of the best teams in the world. We tried to do our best, but I think we didn’t play very well. Sometimes the other team make you play bad or make you commit errors. We would like to win but we knew that it was a very hard team, a very difficult team to beat.”

Women's 78: Joana Heidrich / Anouk Vergé-Dépré Switzerland (17) def. Tatyana Mashkova / Bakhtygul Samalikova Kazakhstan (29) 26-24, 21-18 (0:47)

Anouk Verge-Depre, Switzerland – “The match was really hard because of the conditions. My legs were so, so heavy. The same for Joana. The one who had to sideout was almost dying. After the first set they came back and I was really happy we kept the course just to not let them go away. The first set was important for the mental game after. In the second they were always up. After that we knew our sideout isn’t the best so we knew we had to put more pressure on the serve. At the end it’s the serve and block defense that was the difference because our sideout was not the best. I’m really happy about (reaching the round of 16), a lot of good teams are already out.”

Joana Heidrich, Switzerland – “We had to switch (the serve) because we had to make more pressure and I know she (Bakhtygul Samalikova) is a young girl and it’s her first World Championships so sure she had pressure and she has to do it so I said we have to try something new. We did a great job with block defense and serving. Our sideout was not the best, it was really hard and really hot so it was a tough game for us. We won 2-0 and that’s the most important part.”

Tatyana Mashkova, Kazakhstan – “Swiss just switched serve to my partner and I think she was a little bit nervous. Maybe, I don’t know because I didn’t speak with her. Maybe it was my mistake because I have to help her, maybe tell her which way she can do something. Next time I know what I will do. It’s very good competition, we’re happy specifically to play here because a lot of teams would like to come here but only 48 come here. It was great for us because we had a good four games. We are a new team, we have played maybe five tournaments together and for us it’s a good start.”

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Women's 79: Maria Antonelli / Carolina Salgado Brazil (9) def. Louise Bawden / Taliqa Clancy Australia (11) 20-22, 21-18, 15-12 (0:59)

Carolina Salgado, Brazil – “It was really tough, the Australian girls are amazing. They have a second ball that is one of the best on the tour. Today it was so hot inside the court it was crazy. My and Maria were really strong and I'm very happy. The whole game was at a high level. In the third set I think we served better and my block started to appear. I think that made a difference because in the beginning it was difficult for defense and blocking. Maria in the third set made at least three really good defenses.”

Maria Antonelli, Brazil – “This is a special tournament for all the world. Everybody is prepared for this. I'm very proud of Carolina, she was great and brave today. They were serving me all the time and she gave me all support. We concentrate a lot on our service and tactic, we talked a lot with each other. Now we know each other more, and we only look at each other and we know what we have to do. This is the most important thing to win. We are talking every point and I'm so proud of her because she was brilliant during the game.”

Taliqa Clancy, Australia – “We know that to win matches we have to bring our best game and our best attributes. They did a really good job to push around our offense and the strengths we can bring to the game. Credit to them for that. We just had a few runs of too much missed opportunities. All in all I'm really proud of how we performed and we fought it out until the end. It was a physical match.”

Louis Bawden, Australia – “In these tournaments it's important not to have expectations about opponents, so we came in with an open mind. We did our best but it wasn't enough today. The conditions are the same for both teams so you can't believe that you are suffering more than anyone else. As the conditions and match intensity went up it got harder to maintain our tempo and give ourselves those attacking options. Then they got more transition opportunities. Just some small differences, and they came away with the win.”

Women's 80: Taiana Lima / Elize Maia Brazil (32) def. Valentyna Davidova / Ievgeniia Shchypkova Ukraine (20) 18-21, 25-23, 15-11 (0:58)

Taiana Lima, Brazil – “Hard match. The first set started so well (8-4 Brazil lead) but then we made mistakes, it was our fault. In the second set it was the same situation, they had an opportunity for match point (when Taiana made three digs to save it). This moment of the second set, I figure that's the heart. I wanted every time to dig the ball, make the point and that was all right. In the third set, the balanced sideout, each time we did a great job. (Brazil vs. Brazil round of 16): It's a new game, a hard match, no problem for us, no problem for them. It's another hard match.”

Elize Maia, Brazil – “I think they tried the medical timeout to break our concentration. We knew that because it was in the tiebreak. In the second set I was like ‘Come on, I know we can play more together.’ That was the fire inside us. I thank God first and Taiana was amazing, she is the best partner and that made the difference to get our game up in the third game.”

Ievgeniia Shchypkova, Ukraine - "It was a very interesting and intense game. Playing on this level against the best teams in the world is something new for us. We played really well and could have won the match, but the Brazilians are more experienced than us and that helped them to keep their emotions under control in the most important moments of the game”.

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Women's 81: Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat United States (5) def. Xinxin Wang / Chen Xue China (38) 16-21, 21-12, 15-10 (0:40)

Brooke Sweat, USA – “We started out on the right sider and then switched over to the left sider and we found a rhythm reading her shots and hits. What really set it apart was when Summer starting two-balling when they were serving me. I told her to go up and smash it, she started doing that and they served her a little bit after that, then came back to me. She kept two-balling and they couldn't stop it. It is fun when it goes your way. Our passing and setting broke down a little bit in the first set so we cleaned that up. When we pass and set we're a pretty good team.”

Summer Ross, USA – “It was a super fun match and we got better throughout the match. We started out a little slow but we found our rhythm. We can't wait to play our next game. We're going to go home and watch Real Housewives all night and then we'll be ready for tomorrow.”

Chen Xue, China – “My partner played well this match. We played well in the first set but then they made some changes. They served to me a lot but I didn't pass well, that's why we lost. They give us a lot of pressure in the second and third sets. I need to progress more, watch video to see what I need to improve. It's kind of hard playing with a younger partner. When I play with my old partner, we grew up together and sometimes we can help each other. But with my younger partner I can help her if she doesn't play very well but when I don't play well she can't help me. That's why it's harder for me, I need to keep concentrating and not make any mistakes. Unfortunately, in this match I made a lot.”

Women's 82: Kristyna Kolocova / Michala Kvapilova Czech Republic (13) def. Manon Nummerdor-Flier / Marleen Van Iersel Netherlands (42) 21-12, 21-17 (0:31)

Kristyna Kolocova, Czech Republic – “We are happy it worked out. Our defense was good on the block so and we knew what to expect. We saw the games from The Netherlands so we knew about the good jump serve. We also knew they can do many mistakes on the serve and also on the sideout so we wanted to pressure them and we are really happy it worked out. I think we reached our potential a few weeks ago when we did really good in Porec and we had a good tournament in Gstaad so we are at a level where we want to be. Of course always it could be better but right now I don't think it is something we should worry about. It's my best result of my four World Championships and it's with Micha so it's gorgeous.”

Michala Kvapilova, Czech Republic – “Sometimes I didn't do my block like I wanted to but sometimes it was just a weird situation because (Van Iersel) was hitting some strange lines and so I floated into a diagonal and most of the time our defense worked out.”

Marleen Van Iersel, The Netherlands – “It was a matter of us playing pretty bad. Mostly it was our serving, which worked on the other days. We were trying to find the same pressure but everything went out by this much. They didn't give us an opportunity to get us into our rhythm, then there is a lot of pressure on our sideout and that made it difficult. The pool matches for us are a positive already. A lot of good stuff came out and I think we know now the level we can play at.”

Manon Nummerdor-Flier, The Netherlands – “It was like a game we were playing a couple of days ago. We couldn't find it. The execution was poor, the idea was good and we just kept on believing it will come, trust that hang in there that we will eventually get there in the second set. At one point it looked like that because it was close. But overall they played so much better and we didn't execute, not only our serve but other things.”

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Women's 83: Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes United States (16) def. Elsa Baquerizo / Amaranta Navarro Spain (23) 21-16, 21-18 (0:37)

Sara Hughes, United States – “It’s amazing, I’m so excited. We grinded and battled and played as one...We are going to watch the next match and analyze it, but regardless we are going to focus on our side of the court...It is very hot on center court. I’m from California, but I can remember the last time I played in this type of heat.”

Kelly Claes, United States – “I am really excited. We played together and aggressive, and that was our goal, to play for ourselves...[Spain] is scrappy and they played hard. We have played against them before, which is fun because we can play better and start to know their tendencies.”

Elsa Baquerizo, Spain – “It is very hot. It is fun to play on center court at the world championships...[USA] has played very well lately. I think they were more consistent today and played better.”

Amaranta Navarro, Spain – “We had a good opportunity but we lost. It was not my best day. I tried and tried about a few details made them beat us. I will improve...I want to improve our game and we did that.”

Women's 84: Laura Ludwig / Kira Walkenhorst Germany (4) def. Fan Wang / Yuan Yue China (18) 21-19, 21-14 (0:37)

Kira Walkenhorst, Germany - "It was really hot on the court and I'm so happy that Laura was next to me. She played a really good match while I was not feeling good into the game, I didn't play the way I wanted. She did it all, she was amazing. I'm really happy that we came back in our match and did better during the match. Two years ago we would have lost this match but now he had a lot of experience and games together, so we were able to change the game".

Laura Ludwig, Germany - "We were probably a little bit intense and nervous, not in the quiet calm way we usually play. But even tough I think it was one of our best games so far. There is definitely still something to improve, staying calm our side out was still now that perfect. This was not the beach volleyball we can normally play, but in block and defense we showed we are ready and that we can put our opponents under pressure".

Fan Wang, China - "I'm very happy. It was so hot, but I think we did good. The Germans are so fast and their blocking is really. I wouldn't see it coming and they would block me".

Women's 85: Lidiannis Echeverria / Leila Martinez Cuba (26) def. Madelein Meppelink / Sophie van Gestel Netherlands (22) 21-16, 21-19 (0:33)

Leila Martinez, Cuba – “Netherlands is a good team, they are strong and play the whole year on the World Tour. We played relaxed without a lot of pressure, just trying to do what we know what to do. We have to sacrifice a lot of things to be here because we study and do other things. The game was just working for us. The first goal was to make it to the round of 32 but now we think we can go farther. It’s worth all the sacrifices we have made.”

Madelein Meppelink, Netherlands – “I feel this is the story of our season. We play really good against good teams but cannot keep the level. We know it’s there, the confidence is there but it’s just dropped. Yesterday was a nice win and gave us confidence. But we were really aware already that we had to keep the high level. We scouted Cuba so we knew what they were doing. We can play a high level but we can also play a really bad level and I think that’s what we showed today. This is not our season but I am very confident that our season will come.”

Sophie van Gestel, Netherlands – “I thought it was a just a set on our side but the referee thought it was on their side and they could hit it. But it’s not just that ball. We didn’t play well and they played okay. I’m disappointed; we have to play better. With every team you have to play your own game. It doesn’t matter who is on the other side. You just have to play your own game but that’s not what we did today.

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Women's 86: Heather Bansley / Brandie Wilkerson Canada (15) def. Karla Borger / Margareta Kozuch Germany (21) 21-16, 21-19 (0:40)

Heather Bansley, Canada – “For us it was just staying patient. We knew it would hot and a long game in the heat, that they would fight point for point and it was good. It was just staying patient and not getting disappointed if they got a steal on us. We just tried to play our game and refocus after every point. (On the approach as a new team) We’re a new team so knowing that we’re going to have to go through a lot of these experiences to be better players to be better teammates, thankfully we’ve got Evie (Matthews), our coach, to help guide us and be prepared for some of those battles.”

Brandie Wilkerson, Canada – “So far the experience has been absolutely amazing, definitely memorable. I’m lucky to have an amazing partner and an amazing coach to share this experience with. I’m looking forward to growing and showing what I have and hopefully it’s the start to something good. (On the heat) It’s something that I mentally prepared for watching all the other players going through the exact same thing. It’s just about powering through it, mind over matter and just wanting it more. (On facing new challenges as a team) It’s being confident in what it is we have to bring to the table, being solid and consistent in what things we can control, and being open and patient with the obstacles and loving the process of challenges and overcoming them.”

Women's 87: Lauren Fendrick / April Ross United States (14) def. Nicole Branagh / Emily Day United States (25) 10-21, 21-18, 15-11 (0:49)

April Ross, USA – (On what happened in the first set) “We were trying to figure that out. A little bit of it was our warmup and we weren’t focused on being game ready when we got into the match and adding to that you’re playing a USA team, nobody’s cheering, and we didn’t show up to go really hard. There was no energy, it just did not work in the first set. We were trying to change energy, adapt, it just took us a set to get going and that’s not acceptable. We’re going to get with our coaches and change it for the next one.”

Lauren Fendrick, USA – “We stuck with it and didn’t get frustrated with the prior plays that didn’t go our way. We were going to make the adjustments because we always have done that really well.”

Nicole Branagh, USA – “We played well, honestly. We followed our game plan well and we executed it. It’s one of those matches like single elimination and you’re playing your own country so there are probably some nerves involved. We played a steady game the first game and kept the pressure on them. And they’re going to play better after that. We had a chance there in the second until the momentum shifted a little bit and just a couple of points here and there. I’m proud of what we did here this week after just two practices together. We got better as the tournament went on and we hate to lose of course but this was a great opportunity to play in the World Championships in this great setting and with an amazing partner.”

Emily Day, USA – “They started playing better. It went back and forth the entire match, just one or two missed sideouts or missed transitions and that’s the match. We knew April and Lauren were going to play a lot better. We served tougher. It was a point for Nicole and I to stick together and play aggressive and with emotion and energy and we did that. Nicole’s an easy player to play with. She’s awesome, communicates very well, makes it easy to play with on the court. She lets me be my own player, I don’t have to worry about what she’s doing or what she’s thinking. The chemistry came naturally.”

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Men's 29: Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena United States (3) def. Kacper Kujawiak / Mariusz Prudel Poland (27) 21-12, 21-19 (0:31)

Philip Dalhausser, USA – “We won our pool but it hasn’t been smooth so we have to play better to make it deep in this tournament. Sometimes we just aren’t in rhythm and the last few matches we haven’t been in rhythm. We have to find that tomorrow because it’s about to get real. Ryan (Doherty) and John (Hyden) played so well against us Saturday night that we are lucky we aren’t 2-1. So we’ll take it and hopefully we can build from today. One loss and you are out of here now. Single elim is a draw so you can get a bad draw. In Rio last year we won our pool and played Alison and Bruno in the quarterfinals. In Beijing Todd (Rogers) and I did not win our pool and we were on the easier side of the bracket.”

Nicholas Lucena, USA – “Phil was on fire in the first, he scored a lot of points and made it easy on us. That took a lot of pressure off the siding out. In the second I thought I made a couple plays but it was pretty dusty so it was hard to pick it up. At the end it kind of died down some. We had a game plan and it worked, we were able to score a lot of points off of them. I thought the young kid made a couple errors, but that’s what young kids do. They are a good team, they took a fifth last weekend so they can do some damage. Now the real tournament starts so hopefully we can keep it up.”

Mariusz Prudel, Poland – “It was disappointing to lose. Still, we can play so we will fight this evening (in the lucky loser match). We will concentrate on that match. This morning we did not play good, so I hope next one we will. Every game is different so I think that we will make it.”

Men's 30: Ryan Doherty / John Hyden United States (22) def. Luis Garcia / Andy Leonardo Guatemala (46) 21-7, 21-11 (0:22)

Ryan Doherty, USA – “We come out of our pool now guaranteed so we’re happy with how we’ve played so far and hopefully we can keep this going in the elimination rounds. It was a very different year than I was picturing it because I was planning on playing with Johnny Mayer. Tri going down with that weird illness threw a little wrench in the works with most of the American teams. I was able to glide into Hyden and play pretty well. We’re happy with where we’re at but want to see if we can continue to do well for our last three tournaments here. (On the heat) The best advice we have is to think of it in Celsius because us Americans don’t know that 40 degrees Celsius is all that hot.”

John Hyden, USA – “Any time you get two wins in pool play it’s good. I wish we could have gotten that third but it doesn’t matter now. It’s luck of the draw and who you match up against. Sometimes you match up well, sometimes you’re going to have a really tough first game. We’ll have to wait and see the draw and see from there. (On the new partnership with Doherty) We definitely need more practice time. We’ve been learning as we go. Ryan’s been soaking up a lot that I’ve been giving him and it’s been working.”

Men's 49: Nivaldo Diaz / Sergio Gonzalez Cuba (24) def. Saymon Barbosa / Alvaro Filho Brazil (1) 17-21, 21-15, 15-10 (0:45)

Nivaldo Diaz, Cuba – “This match was really hard. It might not be the most important game because both teams will qualify for the next round. We had the opportunity to show our skills and show our level against Brazil. The Olympics was our best tournament, it was the greatest for us. We are doing very well here. Now we have more intelligence and know more the level of the beach volleyball of the World Tour.”

Alvaro Filho, Brazil – “We started out good, but then the Cubans changed their tactics and it worked. The new round of the tournament starts tomorrow, so we’re just thinking about that. We want to win this match for sure, nobody wants to lose. But we know that tomorrow starts a new type of competition. They are two guys who play very well, and have played together for a long time. They have good serves, just like all Cubans, and aggressive attacks. Their attacks work more than others so that’s why they won.”

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Men's 50: Christoph Dressler / Thomas Kunert Austria (25) vs. Marlon Phillip / Daneil Williams Trinidad and Tobago (48) 26-24, 21-8 (0:38)

Christoph Dressler, Austria - "We were kind of tense because we knew we had to win this game to make out of the pool. It is still not enough as we'll have to play one more time to compete in the Round of 32, which would be amazing. There were good parts and bad parts, but I think that the most important thing in such a big tournament is to focus on the good things".

Thomas Kunert, Austria - "He (Dressler) is worth the birthday present since he played well, especially on the second set. I am really happy that we won. It was really tough to find our rhythm in the first set, where we made some mistakes and they played really well. We changed it in the second set. We had some really nice plays and it was so much easier to get into our rhythm".

Daneil Williams, Trinidad & Tobago - "It was lovely. We did what we promised, which was to come here and put up a show and try our best. Hands off to my partner. On the first set especially he was on fire. They couldn't stop him. That's all we could be asked, to give 100%, and I think we did it. I hope everybody back home is proud".

Marlon Phillip, Trinidad & Tobago - "I was very excited to play against the crowd, to play against all these people. First set was quite good, I was scoring non stop. In the second set I don't know what happened, maybe I lost my focus a little bit. It was a good experience here. I hope we can improve and come back in two years".

Men's 57: Alison Cerutti / Bruno Oscar Schmidt Brazil (5) def. Esteban Grimalt / Marco Grimalt Chile (20), 21-14, 21-13 (0:29)

Bruno Oscar Schmidt, Brazil – "We are not having the best season by far. After we had the last two years we pushed so much, pressure and everything. Sometimes it is important to go a little bit down to come back stronger and I think we are doing this. This is a year to have patience. There are a lot of teams are coming on, and they want our position. We need to balance everything and keep strong and smart. For us this match was the most important one of the day. But tomorrow we have another important match. It doesn't matter what the other teams are doing we just have to take it step by step."

Esteban Grimalt, Chile – "Alison played very well, and Bruno was very good in defense. We played against Brazil a lot of times, and before we had better matches. They are the World Champions, there is no doubt about it. We want to think about the next round now. We need to prepare physically and mentally for the next round. We will do whatever we can to win the next match."

Men's 58: Martins Plavins / Haralds Regza Latvia (29) def. Aldevino Nguvo / Justino Tovela Mozambique (44), 21-15, 21-16 (0:29)

Martins Plavins, Latvia – "I think we will be in Lucky Loser because we needed to win at least one set against Brazil and the cousins from Chile. It was a very tough game against Brazil and today we couldn't show our best performance (against Mozambique), I don't know why. It might be because of the heat but we are happy we won and we are still in the tournament. We hope we will win in the evening and qualify for the elimination phase. Maybe we'll show our best game, who knows? We are not satisfied because we didn't prepare for the season as we wanted because of the injuries, especially my knee problems. I couldn't do some gym stuff. Still, it's this tournament and after that the European Championships in Latvia so maybe the fans will help us to show our best performance."

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Men's 63: Gustavo "Guto" Carvalhaes / Pedro Solberg Brazil (8) def. Theo Brunner / Casey Patterson United States (17) 16-21, 21-17, 15-7 (0:50)

Pedro Solberg, Brazil – “I am happy that we came back and won the match. Casey is one of the best players in the world. I am very satisfied to see who we play next. We will get ready.”

Casey Patterson, United States – “We played OK, but we didn’t finish that well. It is a big court with lots of open space. That’s a really good team. They are scrappy and made adjustments to what we were doing...I prefer the heat over snow, rain and freezing weather any day.”

Theo Brunner, United States – “I normally am good in the heat but we didn’t do well today. We got in a funk, but not because of the heat. We will make adjustments.”

Men's 64: Robin Seidl / Tobias Winter Austria (32) def. Jamaine Naidoo / Leo Williams South Africa (41), 21-17, 21-16 (0:32)

Robin Seidl, Austria – “I am really happy with the win. It was do-or-die, and I like it like that. Hopefully we can do it again...Now we will relax, save our energy, eat and recover at the hotel.”

Tobias Winter, Austria – “[South Africa] is really athletics. We knew that from the start when we first saw them here crushing balls. The main thing is we played our own game at the end...It means a lot to play here. I have lived in Vienna since 2012. People here love the sport and love to celebrate. It is Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and the stadium is so full. It shows the people here love it.”

Jamaine Naidoo, South Africa – “It is really exciting to be at our first world championships playing in front of a crowd like that. I was a little nervous but it was awesome. We gave it our best shot. We need to more experience...We got to see and train with champions. We will learn from them and use what we saw to get better. It is amazing to see so many champions. It will push us to get better.”

Leo Williams, South Africa – “This proves Africans can play at any level. We just need people and support to get to events to get better. The more we play the better we get, but we need the support other teams get...All of the fans are unbelievable. There was a nice big crowd. They pushed us to perform or best and get better. Hopefully we will have more opportunities like this.”

Men's 73: Martins Plavins / Haralds Regza Latvia (29) def. Aaron Nusbaum / Ryan Vandenburg Canada (37) 21-11, 21-18 (0:34)

Martins Plavins, Latvia – “In this game we wanted to show our best game. This Canadian team usually doesn’t go to FIVB tournaments so we haven’t seen them. So we just served to the small guy. In the first set I got some defenses and my partner played without many mistakes, so that is why we won. They made adjustments in the second set, and started to block better. Tomorrow I hope we show our best performance in front of our fans.”

Aaron Nusbaum, Canada – “I thought the match started a little slow. We did a lot of good things but had some difficulty executing in transition. Kudos to them, they did a real good job when they got the opportunity. Their serves put us out of system. In the second set we fought with them all the way but just a few errors at the end. That’s a good team. Plavins is a real experience guy and Regza is a young, solid blocker. But we got better throughout the tournament so we’re happy about that.”

Ryan Vandenburg, Canada – “We’re right there, it’s just little errors we’re making. We feel like we can compete at this level. We’re right there to taking the next step. It’s the little things that make the difference. We played a very experienced team, and congratulations to them. They played a great game and found a way through, that’s what matters. There are little things that they picked up on, and that’s the reason they won the game and we didn’t. We’re going to go back and work harder than ever and make sure those points go our way next time.”

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Men's 74: Kacper Kujawiak / Mariusz Prudel Poland (27) def. Julian Azaad / Nicolas Capogrosso Argentina (31) 21-19, 21-17 (0:37)

Mariusz Prudel, Poland – "It was an important day, we're happy that we won and we're looking forward to tomorrow. We expect (a tough draw). Every single team we play is single elimination and it will be hard and tough but we know we will prepare with tactics but we will do our work."

Men's 75: Robin Seidl / Tobias Winter Austria (32) def. Christoph Dressler / Thomas Kunert Austria (25) 25-23, 22-20 (0:51)

Robin Seidl, Austria - "We stuck together and that was the most important thing. I've never lost that set (the first) on my mind and we actually didn't lose it. It's a pity because only one of the Austrian teams could advance. We are opponents but we are also friends. However, it was the perfect atmosphere. Everybody was happy during the game, applauding every play".

Tobias Winter, Austria - "I don't know what the difference was on both sets, but what for sure worked really well for us was that we stuck together and played as a team from start to end. We knew what we had to do and we executed it pretty well. The feeling is awesome, unbelievable. I was so looking forward to this event and making out of the pool and the lucky loser round is just the nicest feeling ever. I think now anything is possible".

Thomas Kunert, Austria - "It's really tough that we lost and we are really disappointed. But we enjoyed a lot playing here in front of these amazing spectators and showed our best beach volleyball. We had some really good points and played with fun. They know us really well, in our strengths and our weaknesses".

Men's 76: Adrian Carambula / Alex Ranghieri Italy (34) def. Markus Bockermann / Lars Fluggen Germany (26) 21-10, 18-21, 15-8 (0:40)

Adrian Carambula, Italy - "If we play like this, as concentrated as we were and giving each other energy, it's good volleyball. Feeding off from this crowd we can go a long way. They gave us a lot of energy on the most important moments. We need to keep focusing on the big points".

Alex Ranghieri, Italy - "It is a super nice feeling. We live one and a half hour from here, so it really feels like home. I'm happy that we gave the big crowd the show they deserved and that we are still alive. We need to keep taking it game after game. Every match is difficult, so we need to put ourselves a lot of effort so we can keep moving forward".

Lars Fluggen, Germany - "The Italians played pretty well and we had some problems with their game. Our service was not good and our side out was extremely inconsistent. We're not happy about the way we played on this tournament since we lost three matches out of four. We expected more when we came here, so we feel disappointed".

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Women's 88: Barbora Hermannova / Marketa Slukova Czech Republic (6) def. Agatha Bednarczuk / Eduarda "Duda" Lisboa Brazil (3) 21-16, 19-21, 16-14 (0:50)

Barbora Hermannova, Czech Republic – “That was quite a big surprise to see the draw. We didn’t expect such a hard draw for the first round. But we were thinking if Agatha and Duda finished third in the group there must be something going on. We went through all stages; we were angry and saying it was so unfair, then a little bit sad. But then we realized it’s just another game and we have to fight against them. We want to be on the top of the world so it doesn’t matter if we want to win against them in the first round or the semifinals. We just want to win against all teams. (On her block that ended the match) It was amazing. When it is so tight, we only had one time there was a two-point difference in the third set. There was a bit more luck on our side. We knew Duda had a strong hit and I was just there with my arms and it worked. (On the two defending World Champions both losing in the first round) I think it doesn’t matter who won the last tournament because on the podium there is always somebody new. There are many strong teams in the main draw, we can count about 15 teams who we could guess could win this tournament.”

Marketa Slukova, Czech Republic – “It feels great. It’s always really nice to beat such a team. I have such a huge respect for them. Duda, I think, is the best talent I have ever seen for her age and Agatha is one of the most complete players on tour. When we won the pool and knew we were getting a third-place team from the pool, and we saw we got Agatha and Duda we thought our pool victory didn’t pay off at all. But that was our first impression. Then we talked to our coaching team and I have to say they did a great job preparing us. We were really focused and we wanted to play our best volleyball, no matter if it goes towards a victory or a loss. I am really proud of us.”

Agatha Bednarczuk, Brazil – “I think my team is a very good team, we had some beautiful results this year. But sometimes we can’t do on the court what we know because we are a new team and I have a young girl on my side. I think this is normal. When we lose we are using this for learning more, so that we don’t make the same mistakes in the next game or in the next tournament. We need to stay together to be strong. When I start with Duda our plan is to stay together until Tokyo. This is our first year, and it was a good year.

Women’s 89: Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan Canada (7) def. Fernanda Alves / Barbara Seixas Brazil (8) 21-16, 21-10 (0:35)

Sarah Pavan, Canada – “It was definitely a tough draw. We played them in the Porec semifinal. They are an awesome team. We put pressure on them with our serving and played very consistently, which is important against a team like that.”

Melissa Humana-Paredes, Canada – “I am so excited. We played really well, and each match we are getting better and better. They are a phenomenal team. It felt like a semifinal match...We drank a lot of water last night and all morning. We have been going to the bathroom all day.”

Barbara Seixas, Brazil – “I thought it was a tough matchup before because they are a great team. I am disappointed of course because we prepared hard and couldn’t do better. We are a new time and we are focusing on difficult moments because how you learn. We have a long way to go.”

Fernanda Alves, Brazil – “We have a lot to learn about each other to grow as a team...Canada’s defensive system worked well. They are hard to play against.”

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Women's 90: Nina Betschart / Tanja Hüberli Switzerland (10) def. Katharina Schutzenhofer / Stefanie Schwaiger Austria (12) 21-14, 21-17 (0:37)

Tanja Huberli, Switzerland - "I'm really happy about our game, we played really well on side out. Our receiving and setting was sharp, so we had some easier situations to score. We also touched a lot of balls on defense and scored several points in transition. We are really pleased about how we played today".

Nina Betschart, Switzerland - "It was hard as we expected. It means a lot for us to be in the Round of 16. Our side out was really solid and we managed to keep the plays going when we were blocked. I also think we were a little bit luckier than they were. It was a good feeling. They had the crowd on their side and we had to keep pushing".

Katharina Schutzenhofer, Austria - "I'm disappointed that this was our last game in the tournament and we couldn't go further. Our side out was not good in the last games and without a solid side out we can't win against a very good team. Our first goal was to advance from the pool and we did it with the second place. Unfortunately we couldn't go further".

Women's 91: Taru Lahti / Riikka Lehtonen Finland (19) def. Julie Gordon / Camille Saxton Canada (27) 21-14, 21-15 (0:36)

Riikka Lehtonen, Finland – "I knew that the concentration was there and after we could stay relaxed enough. We tried to stay focused on the things we know to do. (Canada) is a really good team, they have been playing great Beach Volleyball lately. Our tactics were good enough to take the points we needed to take, our serve was also working well. The main thing is we were together on the court."

Taru Lahti, Finland – "They changed positions, the defensive player went to the left side and it worked really good and we didn't find the rhythm with that at the beginning but after a while we found how we needed to play. We played against (Laboureur/Sude) in Porec and they played really good. We need to concentrate on our service but we'll see what our coach will plan."

Camille Saxton, Canada – "They had really strong service pressure. They started off attacking our seams. It was making me, tough to pass and two, tough for the setter to release in time, so our pass-set was off right at the beginning. But they played really well, I think we're disappointed in how we both played. It's hard after having such a good tournament and then just not playing our best. We would have liked to have finished on a better performance. I feel overall positive but right after a loss it stings. Tomorrow or the next day we'll be able to see that we did a lot of things we haven't done all season against some amazing teams so I'm proud of that."

Julie Gordon, Canada – "They've been in this situation many more times than we have but at the end of the day you have to pass-set and the team who has a better pass-set is going to win and that obviously wasn't us today. We kind of found our rhythm in the middle of the second set and then it got away from me specifically at the end of that set."

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Women's 92: Chantal Laboureur / Julia Sude Germany (2) def. Nadja Glenzke / Julia Grossner Germany (28) 21-14, 21-12 (0:32)

Julia Sude, Germany – “We stuck to our tactics and did everything precise in the end. They had a little problem in sideout and weren't so precise. Of course we know them very well what they are doing, and we took our chance. If you are a little bit ahead it's easier to focus on other things and not on your part. You can watch the opponent and what they are doing. It's nice that we have four German teams here so that means we are a very strong country in beach volleyball in women. That is not a big disadvantage that three teams were in one pool because two would pass anyways and one got in the lucky loser.”

Chantal Laboureur, Germany – “We had to analyze a bit what they were doing in the beginning. In the end we tried to stay very patient. We spoke a lot about the next ball, and we only focused on the next ball. That was a key to this game. When Julia is blocking one direction I can be sure that no ball will go there so it really helps. I can focus on the other parts, so it was a good job by my partner. She was also very determined, and I am very proud of her. I don't know what happened here. The god of drawing like to draw Germany – Germany.”

Julia Großner, Germany – “Three times out of five matches we have played German teams, so we are already practicing for the German Championships. The middle of the first set the other girls took all the chances and we lost a bit of our focus. Honestly I thought we would make more points so I was a bit upset with the outcome. The disappointment will hold for a while but after that I think we can be happy about this place.”

Nadja Glenzke, Germany – “It was Germany but it was like an opponent just like anyone else. They had a really good season and we wanted to make pressure on them. We knew that we had to play a really good game to beat them. Until the middle of the first set it worked well but then they had some really nice defenses and we couldn't hold that level until the end of the game. Julia is a really good blocker, she reads the attacker. I tried different solutions but she always had the right answer.”