

2017 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships presented by A1 - August 5 QUOTES

Women's Bronze Medal - Talita Antunes / Larissa Franca Brazil (1) def. Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan Canada (7) 21-12, 16-21, 18-16 (0:59)

Talita Antunes, Brazil - "We played well for the entire tournament, except the semifinal's second set, so I think we deserved the bronze medal. We fought until the end on this match and it was not easy. We never gave up and that was what made us win the match".

"They are a very strong team and are beating everyone in the World Tour. We played perfectly in the first set, but they came back in the second very strongly. They also had a good start in the third set, but we kept our focus and that's why we managed to get the win".

"The event was amazing. I'm obviously not a 100% satisfied because the goal was to win the tournament, but I'm pleased about what we showed here. We go home happy because of the bronze medal".

Larissa Franca, Brazil - "I'm really happy. It was a special match for us because of the history we have together and we wanted to reward our efforts over the last three years with a medal. It's a special feeling, a really emotional one, and I'll celebrate as if it was a gold medal".

"We did what we always do, which is playing as a team. We failed on that in a portion of the semifinal, made several wrong choices and paid a really high price for it. But today we were really locked in. We played together all the time and never gave up. They had 5-0 in the third set and we looked at each other and said 'okay, we can also score five points in a row'. And that's how we turned things around and won the match".

"It was amazing event. A really special tournament, where every athlete wanted to be. And we'll be in the podium, so it means a lot. The best players of the world were here".

Melissa Humana-Paredes, Canada – "Really disappointed that we couldn't close that out but I think we showed really great resilience in that game to come back from such a bad first set. I'm really proud of our fight. In the second we wanted to come out and forget about the first set, start over and play the way we can play. We did that, we just kind of went back to how we can play and we had nothing to lose, so we just played free without any pressure and stress and it worked. We got off to a good start in the third and they just weren't going to give up. Larissa and Talita, they're a real experienced team, they weren't going to go out without a fight. We let that go for sure. Third sets, you always start from scratch again so it's whoever is mentally ready at that point. And you have swings in third sets, it's just whoever can manage it, be most consistent for sure. The last few weeks have been an incredible amount of perseverance and team growth and personal growth. We've learned so much from this. It's been an amazing time to be here in Vienna, it's been an incredible tournament. Even though we finished just off the podium, we won't forget it."

Sarah Pavan, Canada – "It's very disappointing, there is no absolutely excuse. We led 5-0 in the third and lost, we just didn't take care of it. I don't know if we relaxed and thought 'oh, we got this.'" I don't know if we took a breath for a second, but we needed to keep the pressure on. We let them off the hook. Our serve receive got a little messy. At the moment it's hard to see the positives. We've only played seven tournaments together, and we've had a really good season overall. Our future together is very bright and it's exciting because I know we can get a lot better. Melissa is a great player and this is her first season playing on the left side. It was a really good experience overall, it was a great event. We played well, unfortunately we didn't at the very end. It was a great atmosphere on centre court and hopefully we'll get to experience it again."

Women's Gold Medal - Laura Ludwig / Kira Walkenhorst Germany (4) vs. Lauren Fendrick / April Ross United States (14)

Women's Gold Medal: Laura Ludwig / Kira Walkenhorst Germany (4) def. Lauren Fendrick / April Ross United States (14) 19-21, 21-13, 15-9 (1:04)

Laura Ludwig, Germany - "It was definitely a tight match, it was going back and forth. They definitely did a good job and we just had to focus on our side. We knew we could touch every ball and serve better. It was one of our best serving games of the tournament. After the break we said we can do better. I think we can't realize what we achieved the last 10 days. We wanted to play as much as we can. We're just happy to play together and find our self confidence together. A lot of Germans came, a lot of Germans were cheering. Every player loves it, to be on centre court. It gave me goose bumps."

Kira Walkenhorst, Germany - "I really can't believe it and we really wanted to do good here. We believed it and game by game we got better. It was really tough against the Americans. They're a good team, for sure. They haven't played that long together right now. They were really good in this match and we played the first set and really had the focus on our reception. We had to work together and play our game."

April Ross, USA – "I've always thought we had this potential. We could have played better in the final. With the help of our coach (John Daze) we were real diligent in what we needed to do and followed the game plan well and used our strengths. We got better in each and every match. I'm kind of surprised with how much better we got with every single match. The amount we improved in this tournament is big but where we got to I knew that we could get to if that makes sense. (On any advice she gave Lauren): I think I said something like 'Let's have fun no matter what' because I firmly believe when you put yourself in that position you should enjoy it and give your all. Don't think of any what-ifs, you just put yourself out there. She has her own strong mentality and she's going to go with that. Trying to change anybody is not a good idea before a match like that. I was proud of how we approached that match and it was an amazing atmosphere. I wish we would have played a little better but I'm going to come away thinking this was a really good experience."

Lauren Fendrick, USA – "I see so much more potential and I know we can play better especially in that final. But to be up here on this podium with these players is pretty special. It's some amazing company and I'm stoked that April took a chance on me. (On being on the biggest stage in the world): That's where I wanted to be all along playing in front of a crowd like in the World Championships. Doing it with April, she's somebody special and having John with us and Andrew (Fuller) helping out feels right,. It just clicks, the chemistry is there and we have a lot of potential. April was really great yesterday in the quick turnaround from the quarterfinals to the semis. We got back to the hotel, turned on the AC, put our feet up and got food and that was helpful to have her experience there."

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Men's 101: Maarten Van Garderen / Christiaan Varenhorst Netherlands (45) def. Adrian Gavira / Pablo Herrera Spain (9) 20-22, 21-19, 16-14 (1:06)

Maarten van Garderen, The Netherlands – “Physically it’s way more intense, the games are shorter, moving in the sand, jumping in the sand takes much more energy. I felt in the first weeks ... I thought I was physically in shape. Moving in the sand is different plus you are half of a team. They were putting everything on me and I was struggling, obviously. I don’t know how I did it but now I switched to this guy (Varenhorst), he’s been one of the best players for so many years already. The guys around me are so encouraging, so positive even on negative moments we’ve had in the past. I was really struggling, to be honest. I don’t know where it comes from. It’s just maybe in the group stage we beat some good teams, we eliminated the Brazilian team (Alvaro/Saymon) which placed first. We looked at our game it looked smooth and it gives you confidence, freedom in your mind to just go and see what happens.”

Christiaan Varenhorst, The Netherlands – “Medals are eternal. Fifth and ninth would have been good for us but still you want more, especially for me, I’ve been in the situation of playing for medals. My partner is just picking it up so great, I’m just so happy to play for medals again. In general our block defense is really good, we pick up a lot of rally points so we make up for our mistakes. Today and also yesterday it showed that we can fight like tigers, we can keep on fighting even if we are three points behind. This is the deciding factor. People ask me a lot (about 2015 World Championships final) but I don’t believe in revenge and that final has been played and I cannot turn back time. If I make a gold medal here it would not make up for that final but I could make this tournament the best thing of course. I don’t pass that much on to (Maarten) because he works with the coaches really well to improve his Beach Volleyball game play and on court we communicate really well about defense. Sometimes we give each other more energy. Today I had a little thing to say to him, ‘if you dig him, keep on swinging, don’t shoot it.’ And he did on the last ball. We got some luck from the net but I think you deserve it if you play with guts. It’s one thing I learned from (2015), I’ve been in this situation so I know how to keep my cool.”

Adrian Gavira, Spain – “The key was the last five points, I made two or three mistakes in sideout. We lost by two points, it was a very close match. We really wanted to play in the finals here and we believed we would. We were really, really close. We know Varenhorst well, his partner we didn’t know. Our plan was to try to block the defender. Today I didn’t feel good blocking him though. If we made one or two more blocks I think we would have won.”

Pablo Herrera, Spain - “It is a hard moment, we fought a lot. We are happy with the results, but we wanted more. That is a high level of volleyball at the World Championships. Well maybe tomorrow or in 10 days we will be happy.”

Men's 102: Evandro Goncalves / Andre Loyola Brazil (4) def. Ben Saxton / Chaim Schalk Canada (13) 17-21, 22-20, 15-10 (1:02)

Evandro Goncalves, Brazil - "I'm happy that we made it to the semifinals. It's my second time there in three World Championships. But I know that a different tournament starts now. We're playing well and we're confident, but we have to keep our feet in the ground. We are in the semifinals and we need to keep taking it match-by-match. It's not the time to think about the gold medal yet. Tomorrow will be a new day and we'll play a different match. We were much more comfortable than we should with the big lead we had in the second set and the truth is that we didn't know how to manage the advantage. That was our mistake and they came close. But we were so motivated and wanted to win so match that we managed to win the set somehow and to start the tie-break in a very good level. That gave us an early lead that we kept until the end of the match. We managed to serve better and got some block points on the second set while our side out was more solid as well. This is the way we play".

Andre Loyola, Brazil - "I'm very happy to be in the semifinals. It's my first World Championships, our first season together and we know we still have a lot to improve. We change a lot our strategy during the matches because we are still figuring out the best way to make the team work. We are the less experienced team in here. This victory means a lot but know that we are here I want to win a medal. I was a little bit nervous in the first set and I made some mistakes because of that, but Evandro was really important to keep us in the game. Our strategy worked better in the second set because of his serving and blocking since we putted more pressure on them. We had a few mistakes, but managed to win it. And in the third set we kept the momentum. We've learned from every match here that we can't stop believing on us. We came back after losing the first set in our last two matches to win both, so we will never give up".

Ben Saxton, Canada – “They played really well. Both teams were siding out very well, and in the third they managed to put a lot more service pressure and that put us just enough behind that we couldn’t come back. They served really hard and I struggled passing a bit, that turned the match. (on challenging the foot faults) We know that Evandro gets very close a lot of times on the line and sometimes will foot fault and they don’t call it. If we’re getting aced anyways we might as well challenge and hope for the best. But it didn’t work out for us either time. He was really ripping his serve and finding the lines. We just weren’t able to control our passing. Our passing was on most of the game but he just started stretching me out further and further and then he was hitting sidelines and going for the center and it made it harder and harder to pass. Credit to his serving. It was a good experience overall, we played some really good matches. Obviously yesterday’s match is the highlight. We would have liked to have gone a little further, it’s always tough because you end on a loss most of the time, but we’re happy overall with how we played.”

Chaim Schalk, Canada – “That would have been nice for sure (to win in 2). We had opportunities in the second to take it. They snuck that one out and it gave them a lot of confidence going into the third and then you know how good Evandro is at serving so he ripped a bunch and they had a lead and we just couldn’t make enough stops. They were swinging high off the hands and it’s really tough to get those balls. Credit to them, they played really well and we didn’t put enough pressure on them with our defense and with our serving. The difference was the serving. It’s too bad because we pushed really hard in the second and we had a chance there. It just shows how tight everyone is. We’ve had successful challenges on him in the past and it looks like he foot-faults every time. It’s pretty tough to actually know when it’s a foot fault. Sometimes it is. He got called on that one. He pushes the sand forward and the line bounces up so every time he goes you think it’s a foot fault. Not only are you thinking it’s a foot fault but the ball’s coming at you so you’ve got to pass the ball and you see the line bouncing. You take a chance, challenge it, why not? They have all the momentum at that point anyway so you might as well slow it down a bit. It’s like a free timeout basically. We played our hardest. Just a couple little things we needed to adjust on defense. (On being down 16-10 in the second): We slowly chipped away, we gave ourselves a chance there. Couldn’t push back in the third unfortunately, they were real steady. When they’re playing like that they beat everyone. This tournament shows what we’re capable of. We know we can beat anyone. We need to bring this level on a consistent basis is the biggest thing for me. It’s been an up and down season.”

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Men's 103: Viacheslav Krasilnikov / Nikita Liamin Russia (6) def. Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena United States (3) 21-15, 21-18

Viacheslav Krasilnikov, Russia - "We stuck to our game plan and that gave us an opportunity to win. Our side out was good and Nikita did a great job on blocking. That's one of the top teams of the world. We had to play a very good game and to do our best even when the game looked over because you have to give everything on every second."

Nikita Liamin, Russia – "We are very happy with the win. We have good side out and good service. Sometimes it was a lucky moment for us."

Phil Dalhausser, USA - "They played really well. First set they were on fire with the serve and sided out great. They also made some good defensive plays. They were the better team today for sure. There's a lot of parity in the World Tour right now. If you don't play well against a team like this you can go home. It was obviously disappointing. We were never able to get it going, really. We never played that great, which is unfortunate. With that said, the tournament has been amazing. Beautiful venue, beautiful city. Other than the fifth place finish I'll have good memories of it."

Nick Lucena, USA - "It obviously hurts to lose but I think they played really well. Krasilnikov played really, Nikita was siding out at a high level and that's the kind of team they are. You need your best to beat them. They are a top team and I expected that. I thought that Viacheslav served the ball real tough. The first game he outplayed us, he had three aces. His defense was good but we couldn't score any points but they made plays. We couldn't get them into any passing trouble. They've won two tournaments so it's not like they're not a good team. When they are on they are hard to beat."

Men's 104: Clemens Doppler / Alexander Horst Austria (12) def. Piotr Kantor / Bartosz Losiak Poland (7) 31-33, 21-18, 15-11 (1:20)

Clemens Doppler, Austria – "I said it yesterday but today was even tougher, the hardest game in my life because we knew if we take that step, we're playing for the medals. We lost the first set with a set ball in our hands, very close. We came back in the second set, we were leading 8-3 in the third set. It was tough mentally to go to the end but it was possible. Our goal here was to go through pool, our big goal was top 10 and now we're playing for the medals in our hometown with this crowd. That's once in your life. It's the week of our life. Like I said before the tournament, if we have a good day, we can beat all of the teams, if we have a bad day, we can lose to all of them. It's so tight between each team. (The most important thing after the first set): That we don't give up, that we keep on fighting because we saw we have a chance if we play our game. Mentally it's very hard if you lose this set. I don't know how much we lost, 33, 34, 35, I don't know. We had the set ball in our hands and we didn't get it and that's something that works in your head. But the other games in the other days we came back and we were fighting to the end. For the spectators it was a thriller, for us it was very tough to keep focused. (The fans) do everything. I mean, we have a strategy, we have a game plan, how we want to play against the teams and then you step out on the court and you see over 10,000 people screaming for you. They are just pushing it to the limit 100 percent and it helps to win those tight games."

Alexander Horst, Austria – "They are really good friends of ours. We go to training camp every year together so we know each other very well. In Rio (in May, a 21-17, 21-12 Poland win) they played really good and we didn't play our best, so that is why they kicked us out quite easily there. We knew that it's not going to be that easy for them today because we are playing at home and we are not playing as bad as we did in Rio. To win this game was something really, really special for us, especially against a team like this. They are one of the best teams in the world. We lost the first set, and we had a lot of chances. But we didn't give up. Usually when you play a set like this it can happen that you lose the second set quite easily because you are still mentally down. We fought back at the beginning of the second and started really good, and kept playing like this in the third. Clemens decided to make some blocks, which was of course very helpful. We changed the tactic a little bit. We started to serve more in the middle, more float serve. With jump serve, which is usually our weapon, it didn't work out more or less. So we had to change something and we did and I'm very happy that it did. Now our goal right now is to get a medal, I don't really care which color it is as long as it is somehow a medal. For sure this is the best World Championships there will ever be, and not just because we are in the semifinals."