

2017 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships presented by A1 - July 31 QUOTES

Women's 55: Laura Ludwig / Kira Walkenhorst Germany (4) def. Karla Borger / Margareta Kozuch Germany (21) 21-19, 21-18 (0:40)

Laura Ludwig, Germany – “We are definitely satisfied and happy that we won our first three matches. We are getting better and better in game rhythm. We need as many matches as you can get.”

Kira Walkenhorst, Germany – “We need more games to get our performance back and find our rhythm. We are getting better game by game.

Karla Borger, Germany – “They are still a normal team. We respect them a lot, but we can compete with them like everyone else...We love playing on center court. The fans enjoy what we do.”

Margareta Kozuch, Germany – “We were pretty sure before the game that we could win. We knew it would be tough. We are disappointed that we lost, but we had a chance, even after a difficult start. We made too many mistakes, and we will learn from it.”

Women's 61: Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan Canada (7) def. Fan Wang / Yuan Yue China (18) 21-16, 21-13 (0:34)

Sarah Pavan, Canada – “For us, it wasn't just enough to get through, we wanted to get through first in our pool just to set ourselves up for a good draw in the playoffs. China, they've got some serious abilities when they are working so we knew it was going to be a tough game. Luckily we put them in trouble with our serving there at the end and we were able to outlast them.”

Melissa Humana-Paredes, Canada – “That was our goal coming into each game is that each game gets progressively better. We focus on things and we put them into action, we take what we discuss in our game plan and we execute and I feel we've been getting better every game, which is really nice to see especially going into playoffs.”

Women's 64: Taiana Lima / Elize Maia Brazil (32) def. Liocadia Manhica / Vanessa Muianga Mozambique (41) 21-5, 21-8 (0:23)

Taiana Lima, Brazil – “Three big teams in my pool, it's the death pool because Anouk and Joana are having a good season. First in the pool is good for us because of the motivation and good energy for the next fight. It's special for me because it's the fourth World Championships in my career and the last one was second place with Fernanda. Each match is a new opportunity for me, new concentration, a new challenge. At this moment this is the best moment in our season. We had a lot difficulty in the start of the season now I'm proud of my team.”

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Women's 65: Maria Antonelli / Carolina Salgado Brazil (9) def. Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes United States (16) 18-21, 21-16, 15-8 (0:43)

Maria Antonelli, Brazil – “We studied that team a lot. We have known who we would play since one month ago. I am proud of my partner...I like this weather. I hope it stays this hot.”

Sara Hughes, United States – “They are a great team that we've never faced before. We were not as great in the second and third sets, which got us in trouble. We are happy to finish second in our pool.”

Kelly Claes, United States – “We would have loved to finish first, but we are excited to get out of our pool. We will keep grinding and go as far as we can.”

Women's 66: Jamie Broder / Taylor Pischke Canada (33) def. Denyse Mutatsimpundu / Charlotte Nzayisenga Rwanda (40) 21-12, 21-9 (0:27)

Taylor Pischke, Canada – “With every match we play we learn a little more about each other and our game gets a little bit more. Now we have to play a lucky loser match to get into the round of 24. That almost might be better for us just as another game under our belt going into the next games.”

Jamie Broder, Canada – “I'm really happy with our progress. It's always tough coming into a tournament, and especially with this caliber. We had a couple really strong teams right off the bat. Any mistake we made or an area we let up on they obviously exposed and punished us for it. Now our game's tightening up more and I'm excited to see what we can do moving forward.”

Women's 67: Nina Betschart / Tanja Hüberli Switzerland (10) def. Heather Bansley / Brandie Wilkerson Canada (15) 21-17, 21-19 (0:38)

Tanja Huberli, Switzerland – “It was important for our mentality because we had two tough games the first three days. Today we had a really big step forward. We had a good game and were really constant. That gives us a lot of confidence for the upcoming days. Today was a little bit different because we were assured of being in the knockout round. We felt really strong as a team and didn't have many mistakes.”

Nina Betschart, Switzerland – “We knew that we had to play better today to beat them. I think it was good for us to already have a fight yesterday to be under pressure. They (Canada) had won really easy in their first two games, so maybe it was hard for them to get a little bit of pressure today.”

Heather Bansley, Canada – “I'm pretty disappointed in how we played today. We gave Switzerland a lot of points. It was our mistakes, I think we beat ourselves more than they beat us. I won't take away that they played well. Our goal was to win our pool and we didn't do that so that's disappointing. But we do make it on so we're excited for the playoffs.”

Brandie Wilkerson, Canada – “We came in knowing that this wasn't a make it or break it for us. We just had more pressure on ourselves to keep performing at a high level. We tried our best out there. We knew they were going to come out there with some heat and we prepared as much as we could. I know for me personally if I'm making some errors we can't expect to win. It's just about fixing those little things and smoothing out for the next game and learning from that.”

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Women's 68: Ana Gallay / Virginia Zonta Argentina (34) def. Norisbeth Agudo / Gabi Brito Venezuela (39) 21-17, 21-18

Maria Zonta, Argentina – “I feel bad from the weather. In Argentina it's winter so we don't have a lot of hot weather. Also we know that this was a critical match because we know we have to win so I was nervous with the weather. I felt in my head that I couldn't think, I couldn't breathe, I couldn't jump, I couldn't move so I took a medical timeout. I was going to continue playing, yes, of course. We won so that is the important thing for us. Ana helped me a lot. Sometimes she told me 'More, More, More' and I couldn't breathe. But that was important for me because she stood up for me and she is very experienced in these kinds of tournaments.”

Women's 69: Lauren Fendrick / April Ross United States (14) def. Louise Bawden / Taliqua Clancy Australia (11) 21-16, 21-13 (0:36)

Lauren Fendrick, USA – “They are a real athletic team and we knew that going in. But we had a great game plan and executed well. April served really, really well. As soon as we partnered up we both were talking about World Champs and that being our big goal of the year. Obviously a little hiccup in there with the toe injury but we've gotten better with each match and we are getting in a good rhythm.”

April Ross, USA – “It went back and forth at the beginning of both games and then towards the end we kind of figured out what we could do to clamp down and get those points that we needed. Lauren adjusted her block a little bit which helped a ton. We adjusted on the on two which has been real effective for them, and that helped us pull ahead. We want to put ourselves in the best possible position to go the farthest we can in this tournament.”

Taliqua Clancy, Australia – “It's disappointing, we wanted to take some momentum with us. But we'll definitely take some lessons from this and move on to the next round. We are just going to recoup. We are ready; we can beat any team out here.”

Louise Bawden, Australia – “There are parts of it that weren't our best and we have to accept that and deal with it. We have to make sure that we are responding to it and come out hard in the first round. Pool play is done now and it's a whole new tournament really. We'll just be making sure that we take care of business on our end and get really strong for that next match. It's the World Championships and everybody here is hungry and here to win, and its single elimination for everyone, there is no safety net. You have to fight and play hard, that's what everyone will be doing, so that's all we're focused on.”

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Women's 70: Xinxin Wang / Chen Xue China (38) def. Nicole Laird / Jessyka Ngauamo Australia (35) 21-11, 21-17 (0:31)

Chen Xue, China – “Not really nervous. If we lose this is the last match of this championship, if we win, we continue and we have more matches to play. Either way, we have to perform better. Today I think it was good. In pool play, in the three matches, my partner (Xinxin Wang) played very well, and me also. The fans are more active here and the fans can enjoy around the court and that can bring everyone together with Beach Volleyball.”

Nicole Laird, Australia – “There were definitely nerves, there are nerves in every game and I think the fact that it was do or die didn't really change our mindset too much in what we were working on and talking about in preparation for this tournament. We knew we had an opportunity if we played our side of the net at our best. We didn't quite convert today. We showed some resilience through patches of not our best volleyball (in this tournament) and we showed some character in every game we played being able to find a way toward the back end of the second sets. Hopefully we see that from point one in the next opportunity we get.”

Jessyka Ngauamo, Australia – “They executed their service plan really well. They put pressure on us on our sideout and they did well in converting their opportunities and not making too many unforced errors, which we did a bit more than they did.”

Women's 72: Ekaterina Birlova / Nadezda Makroguzova Russia (36) def. Varapatsorn Radarong / Tanarattha Udomchavee Thailand (37) 21-15, 21-16 (0:34)

Ekaterina Birlova, Russia – “We are so glad. We tried a lot to concentrate and keep a good level in this game and make less mistakes. We think that Thailand made more mistakes and also we had a game plan and we tried to play like we discussed with the coaches. We were focused in the previous two matches as well but today maybe more because it was the chance to pass the pool.”

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**Men's 5: Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena United States (3) def. Luis Garcia / Andy Leonardo Guatemala (46)
21-18, 21-18 (0:35)**

Philip Dalhausser, USA – “Considering what time of year it is I can't complain about my health. Usually about this time there are some nicks and bumps. We have to win out now. There are so many good teams; parity has been kind of crazy this year. There are probably 10 teams that could win this tournament.”

Nicholas Lucena, USA – “We have to play a little better. Strike that. We have to play a lot better. We kind of took our foot off the gas. We have to step it up so hopefully by Wednesday that happens. Wednesday's match doesn't matter except us wanting to win and build momentum. The real tournament starts Thursday, you never know you are going to get with the draw so we just have to worried about our side right now.”

Luis Betancourt, Guatemala – “We are in a really tough pool. We knew this would be a nice game. I think we played well but had some mistakes in defense and reception. I think we will do better in the next one. We got a lot of confidence today so we are looking forward to the last game, we'll see how it goes.”

**Men's 6: Ryan Doherty / John Hyden United States (22) def. Kacper Kujawiak / Mariusz Prudel Poland (27)
21-14, 21-15 (0:32)**

Ryan Doherty, United States – “John was tremendous on defense. He made a lot of digs, which makes things a lot easier. He's like Benjamin Button—he's the guy who keeps getting younger.”

John Hyden, United States – “We came out and played well. I am really happy with where we are at. This could be my last world championships, so this is special.”

Mariusz Prudel, Poland – “It was really hot. We started playing well then made mistakes, and they didn't make any mistakes.”

Kacper Kujawiak, Poland – “I was too nervous on the court and made too many mistakes. Maybe it was the stress. I was tired and I should be. I think that was the nerves too. Sometimes you lose, then you stand up again. That's volleyball. We will compete again.”

**Men's 25: Saymon Barbosa / Alvaro Filho Brazil (1) def. Christoph Dressler / Thomas Kunert Austria (25)
21-17, 21-17 (0:41)**

Alvaro Filho, Brazil - "We're very happy that our strategy worked against the Austrians, who played really well despite of the pressure of being at home. Saymon's serve was really important and helped us to get some points when we most needed them, so he deserves the credits for this victory".

Saymon Barbosa, Brazil - "We've set up a good game plan for this match and I'm glad we managed to execute it. We're doing our best to get the results and represent our country in the best possible way. We need to do the same against the Cuba, work on our strategy and play with happiness".

Christoph Dressler, Austria - "We'll make sure we remember about what we did well on this game but, at the same time, put some more effort in the points where we were not so good. Because of the temperature, our heart rate goes high and we needed to focus on keeping the reception low and make good sets to have a more efficient side out. It's important to understand where we can improve".

Thomas Kunert, Austria - "We prepared to play under this hot weather throughout the season, competing in Brazil, Mexico and the USA. We are used to it and it was not such a problem now. It will definitely get hotter in the next days".

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Men's 26: Nivaldo Diaz / Sergio Gonzalez Cuba (24) def. Marlon Phillip / Daneil Williams Trinidad and Tobago (48) 21-17, 21-14 (0:31)

Sergio Gonzalez, Cuba - "We've played against them a lot of times before on NORCECA tournaments, so we pretty much knew what we had to do to keep the game under our control. It was a good game for us and our focus was on doing what we needed to do to win it".

Nivaldo Diaz, Cuba - "It helped a lot that we knew how to play them because of our previous meetings. We finished ninth in the last edition of the World Championships and hopefully we can do better this time".

Daneil Williams, Trinidad & Tobago - "There were a lot of nerves on the first game, but I think this time we did well. We got more used to the surroundings and realized that we had nothing to lose. Other than that, we knew what to expect from them. They are an excellent team, one of the best here, and we definitely represented our country in a proper way. I am happy about our performance".

Men's 37: Piotr Kantor / Bartosz Losiak Poland (7) def. Julian Azaad / Nicolas Capogrosso Argentina (31) 21-15, 21-15 (0:32)

Piotr Kantor - "We're very pleased that we won this match. It was really hot inside the court and it was not easy to play under these conditions. The level of the match was not the best, but we managed to keep our usual way of playing".

Bartosz Losiak, Poland - "We started slowly, but in the end we played the way we should. We executed the game plan really well and the Argentinean played exactly the way our coach told us they would. In general, it was a good result for us and now we have the chance to play for the first game of the pool".

Julian Azaad, Argentina - "We didn't play well. It was very hot today and we couldn't handle it. We simply couldn't cover the spaces in the court in the way we wanted to. They are a very good team and have a very unique way of playing and they were too much for us today".

Men's 38: Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb United States (18) def. Roger Battilana / Gregorio Godoy Paraguay (42) 21-13, 21-14 (0:29)

Jacob Gibb, USA – "Getting ready for a big match tomorrow. We have Poland to win our pool and we're excited for that. I've always been a fan of building through the tournament. It's just important to build that momentum throughout the tournament and keep winning and getting more and more focused. Winning your pool out here can be huge out here, to be able to play a three seed."

Taylor Crabb, USA – "I'm feeling good and think we are playing real consistent. Our coach is preparing us well and we're excited to have a chance to win our pool. I believe we have a chance to win it all. I feel we are playing some of our best ball right now. If we both prepare well and come out with intensity we can beat any team in the world."

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Men's 45: Daniele Lupo / Paolo Nicolai Italy (11) def. Christopher McHugh / Damien Schumann Australia (35) 21-15, 21-12 (0:36)

Paolo Nicolai, Italy – (On losing to Australia in three sets in Moscow in June) “We played a little bit better. We tried to serve better than we did in Moscow, which we did. We played consistent sideout, and we played high level beach volleyball today so we won. Today I am so proud of our play.

Christopher McHugh, Australia – “Paolo has been a very good blocker, one of the world’s best for a very long time. We just didn’t quite execute our game the way we wanted to today. That brought one of their biggest strengths into the game – their block. By moving around just enough to get him out of position so we know what we have to do, we have to bring it tomorrow against Sierra Leone. It’s a must-win match for us so we are looking forward to it.

Damien Schumann, Australia – “Those guys served really, really well today. That put a lot of pressure on our game. We made a few defensive plays here and there but they were really strong so it was hard to play. We don’t really need changes at this stage, as its one of the last events of the season. But we need to talk about a few things we can work on.”