

2017 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships presented by A1 - August 6 QUOTES

Men's Semi-finals: Evandro Goncalves / Andre Loyola Brazil (4) def. Maarten Van Garderen / Christiaan Varenhorst Netherlands (45) 21-15, 21-13 (0:42)

Christiaan Varenhorst, The Netherlands – “Our sideout was a problem and we didn’t play with the guts we did yesterday. Our passing was more from the back side of the court so the attacking was not full power, the setting was sometimes hand, sometimes bump, it should be all hands or all arms. They played a nice sideout. In the first set, I think (Evandro’s serving) gave them the edge. Her served two perfect serves on the line, one was a direct ace. That was the first gap in the first set. The second set right from the beginning we didn’t play our sideout. We made some rally points and got back to 9-9 but we kept on having troubles with our sideout. That was a major issue out there. (playing for a medal) It’s everything. Obviously we wanted to win this one but we still have a chance to win a medal and that would make our tournament almost perfect.”

Maarten Van Garderen, Netherlands – “I’m just sad that we didn’t show our game and we didn’t cope well with the situation. Evandro is a great server but we were passing and setting really bad. And Andre was hitting everything off the block of my partner. They had a good solution on everything and we didn’t. We didn’t execute our plan today. It’s kind of crazy all this rain, but the opponent has the same problem so it shouldn’t be an excuse. I have never played in rain like this. I remember a game in Rio where it was raining lightly. Everything becomes more difficult; the ball slides from your hand, it’s difficult to make a hand set. The Brazilians did much better than us and that is why we lost. (on if he had ever practiced in the rain) No, we have an indoor gym so when it rains like this and we want to prepare for a tournament we go inside. The second match is just as important as this one, it is a game for a medal. We will do everything to prepare good and be on the court with a better level of beach volleyball.”

Men's Semi-finals: Clemens Doppler / Alexander Horst Austria (12) def. Viacheslav Krasilnikov / Nikita Liamin Russia (6) 22-20, 21-19 (0:48)

Alexander Horst, Austria – “It is unbelievable that we won the semifinal of the World Championships. We played really good and played our sideout serves quite good for these conditions in the rain. When we played them in Russia there we played good in the first but in the second they kicked us. I think today we played really, really good today. We served good, a lot better than we did the last games, which was necessary because they have a really good sideout. And our sideout was also really, really good and we didn’t make many mistakes. We served good in the first, not too many aces but a lot of pressure on them. The set point was an ace for me. In the second we didn’t change a lot; we knew what to do. I am just happy that we won. They (Evandro and Andre) are for sure the favorites because they are Brazilians and they have won tournaments. Last time we played in Fort Lauderdale earlier this season they won 17-15 in the third so it was a really close game. They are the favorite but if we play like this we have a good chance.”

Clemens Doppler, Austria – “It’s unbelievable, it’s like a fairy tale. Actually, we were really calm and I’m surprised how calm we can be in the semifinals in the World Championships. The only difference was the weather a little bit because of the rain the ball got heavier and heavier so it was not that easy to keep the pressure on the serve. But we kept clam, we were three points ahead in the second set for the final and it was equal again like it was yesterday and that’s the momentum we have, that’s our strength right now. We come out of difficult situations really well and we have the guts to the end to win those kinds of games. I really don’t know what to expect now because I don’t know how they’re going to react to the World Championship final, for them it’s also the first time. Evandro made a bronze two years ago, for us it’s the first time. I don’t know what we can expect from us, I don’t know what we can expect from them but I know we won’t be nervous. I just have this feeling inside of me because now we can enjoy it. It would be a whole lot different if we were playing for bronze because then you might not win a medal.”

Nikita Liamin, Russia – “Their team played very well. There were small differences in the match. We’ll take some time to relax and then play for the bronze medal.”

Men's Bronze Medal: Viacheslav Krasilnikov / Nikita Liamin Russia (6) def. Maarten Van Garderen / Christiaan Varenhorst Netherlands (45) 21-17, 21-17 (0:42)

Viacheslav Krasilnikov, Russia - "It's good to have such a victory after our defeat in the semifinals. Playing against the Austrians and their home crowd in the semifinals was tough for us, it was really hard to keep our focus. Nikita played a great tournament and our coach and our staff also did a great job on preparing us".

Nikita Liamin, Russia - "It's a very good feeling. It was difficult for us to regroup and refocus after we lost in the semifinals. I'm happy that we could play at this level. It was a great experience for my partner and me and we'd like to thank all the organizers and the public for such an amazing tournament".

Christiaan Varenhorst, Netherlands – “We would have loved to have won a medal here. We had two chances to get a medal and we didn’t, so it’s the (crappiest) place to finish. I think if I’m realistic, the teams were just better than us today, more focused. In some time I will be really happy with fourth place. It wasn’t necessarily one play or one moment that changed the game. We were having trouble on the sideout and passing – Krasilnikov has a tough serve. They had a good blocking defense as well. I’m proud of what we did but right now it’s a bad feeling. I’m not happy with that.”

Maarten van Garderen, The Netherlands – “We missed a big opportunity, not only in the first match (semifinals) and once again (for the bronze medal). We lost against a better opponent. If we had shown the level we’ve shown before we could beat anybody. We were in such a good rhythm and flow and things were going so smoothly. Both teams (today), the Russians and the Brazilians, are big pressure servers and we lost too many easy points and then it’s too hard to get other points back against experienced teams like them. It’s difficult to be positive right now but I think it’s never been shown before so we have to be proud. We know the importance of today and we were completely focused on that. Now it’s over and we realize we missed a big opportunity for something very special.”

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Men's Gold Medal: Evandro Goncalves / Andre Loyola Brazil (4) vs. Clemens Doppler / Alexander Horst Austria (12)

Andre Loyola, Brazil – (On being the youngest World Champion at 22): “I didn't know about that so I'm really happy and emotional about that but there's no way I can talk about this game and this tournament without talking about what Evandro did, especially in the first set when he got those aces. I look at him now and I see a superhero. He made the difference not only in this game but in the entire tournament.”

Evandro Goncalves, Brazil – “I've been training really hard with my serving, something I've done for awhile. It's nothing new for me, the last two years I've been serving well on the World Tour. At the end of the first set it was good to have some serves that changed the game a little bit but this is not all about me. My coaching staff, my partner Andre, they all helped me get better so it's not just my serves, it's my serves and my staff. The last tournament we played before the World Championships was Poland and we did really bad. Being the more experienced of the two of us I knew that when he got here, it's a new tournament, a new story so we were really strong mentally for this tournament. All we wanted was to play well every match and we actually went further than we expected to, so when we got to the finals it was just something that every athlete wants. I have this strong feeling of giving this gift to Andre and help making him the youngest World Champion, this is amazing.”

Clemens Doppler, Austria – “First of all I'm really proud we got so far in this tournament because our preparation for this World Championships was hard and long. It's nice to see again that hard work is paying off. Of course we weren't expecting the final here but we knew our level of Beach Volleyball could be as good as a team playing in the finals. Most of the days were really good. It was easy to see we were enjoying playing in front of this crazy audience. They were the third man behind us and they pushed us to the limit. We had so many close games which we won but I think it was because of the spectators. In the end it was an incredible journey for us and especially for Hannes (Jagerhofer). His team did an amazing job. It was for sure it was the best Beach Volleyball event I've seen in my life. Like Alex said, they deserved it more today because Evandro was risking everything at the end. The bad thing for us was it worked. He had four really good serves when we were leading by (20-16). If you risk and the risk pays off, you deserve it more.”

More Doppler, Austria – (On admitting a block touch instead of forcing Brazil to challenge): “If there won't be the challenge I don't know if I would (laugh). The challenge system is really good and we had the same thing like this at the last World Championships and it's a really important thing in certain kinds of games like a World Championships final. I think it's very obvious to everybody that I touched it and I wasn't thinking that I would hide it.”

Alex Horst, Austria – “Of course it's been like a fairy tale because there has been no Austrian team winning a medal at the World Championships. We reached the final at home with this amazing, crazy crowd. I think it's the best tournament in Beach Volleyball in history. Of course we're a little bit disappointed we didn't win but they deserved to today a little bit more and for us it's the biggest success we've had in our career.”

More Horst, Austria – “We will remember this first set for a long time because we had four set points in a World Championship final, which is only possible every two years. We didn't lose gold, we won silver. It will take a little more time but I think we can be proud of our team and everybody who worked with us to win this medal.”