

## **Emanuel/Ricardo & May-Treanor/Walsh Jennings top Fantasy Tournament podiums**

Longmont, Colo., USA, May 20, 2020 - While the world's "elite" beach volleyball players were scheduled to be competing at events in China, Brazil, Latvia and the Czech Republic the past month, an on-line tournament featuring past Olympic participants was held to determine "fantasy" gold medal winners for men and women.

To the surprise of no one, three-time Olympic and world champions Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh of the United States finished first in the women's competition while the men's medal matches were tightly contested by American, Brazilian and German pairs in the voting of more than 160 media, coaches and beach volleyball experts around the world.

With total 91 votes received, the top-seeded May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings were listed as the winning team on 81 ballots with a predicted score of 2-0 (21-19, 21-18) by defeating third-seeded Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst of Germany in the gold medal match. Only 31 of the ballots felt that the match would be a three-setter.

For the record, the two teams never met on the FIVB World Tour. May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings claimed Olympic gold medals in 2004, 2008 and 2012 with world championship titles in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Ludwig and Walkenhorst captured the Rio 2016 Olympic gold medal before topping the world championship podium in 2017 at Vienna.

In "live" action, May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings posted an 8-0 FIVB World Tour record against Ludwig and her first Olympic partner Sara Goller Niedrig. Walsh Jennings and April Ross held a 5-2 World Tour lead over Ludwig and Walkenhorst with the Germans winning two of the last three meetings. Walsh Jennings and her current partner Brooke Sweat have a 1-0 match mark against Ludwig and her current teammate Maggie Kozuch.

Voters awarded the men's gold medal to top-seeded Emanuel Rego and Ricardo Santos as the Brazilian Olympic (2004) and world champions (2003) edged second-seeded Americans Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers 47-44 in the voting. The predicted score was 2-1 (22-20, 20-22, 16-14) as 47 voters predicting a three-set finale.

Emanuel and Ricardo won seven of their 11 matches with Dalhausser and Rogers in "live" events. The Americans topped the world championship podium in 2007 followed by their Olympic crown in 2008. The two teams rank as the winningest pairs in FIVB World Tour history with Emanuel and Ricardo topping 33 podiums and the American duo collected 23 gold medals.

In the men's bronze medal match, fourth-seeded Julius Brink/Jonas Reckermann of Germany defeated third-seeded Alison Cerutti/Bruno Oscar Schmidt of Brazil 49-42 with a predicted score of 2-1 (17-21, 21-18, 15-13) with 46 three-setters listed among the 91 ballots received.

Brink and Reckermann were the 2009 world and 2012 Olympic champions. The Germans defeated Emanuel and Alison for the London 2012 Summer Games title after edging Alison and Harley Marques for the 2009 world champion crown at Stavanger, Norway.

Brink and Reckermann met Alison 15 times "live" with his two different partners (Emanuel and Harley) with the Brazilian winning eight times. The Germans met Bruno seven times "live" with his two different partners (Benjamin Insfran and Joao Maciel) with Brink and Reckermann winning of the five matches.

The voters awarded the women's bronze medal to second-seeded Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva as the 1996 Olympic and 1997 world champions defeated Brazilian rivals and fifth-seeded Shelda Bede/Adriana Behar 50-41 with a predicted score of 2-0 (21-19, 21-19) with 23 ballots listing three sets.

Shelda and Adriana, who captured two world titles (1999 and 2001) and finished second twice at the Olympics (2000 and 2004) met Sandra and Jackie once at the 1997 FIVB World Championships in Los Angeles. Sandra and Jackie prevailed in the semi-finals as the two Brazilian pairs combined to win 43 World Tour titles.

Except for Brazil and the United States, who have combined to nine of the 12 Olympic gold medals and 22 of the 36 total Summer Games podium placements, a maximum of two teams per country are allowed in the competition.

The Americans and Brazilians were allowed three teams in each gender's competition. All five confederations were included in the fantasy men's and women's competitions along with pairs from Japan. A Japanese women's team qualified outright due to a fourth-place finish in Sydney. The Japanese men's team is placed in the competition as a host country entrant for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

In the cases where players competed in different Olympics with different partners, only one team was entered. As an example, Emanuel competed in five Olympics (three medals) with four different Brazilian partners. Since he medaled twice with Ricardo Santos, that team advanced by winning gold in Athens and bronze in Beijing. Therefore, Ze Marco de Melo (Atlanta), Jose Loiola (Sydney) and Alison Cerutti (London) were not included. Alison was included due to winning with Bruno Oscar Schmidt in Rio while Ze Marco was excluded due to playing with Ricardo in Sydney.

The third Brazilian spot in the women's field was awarded to Agatha Bednarczuk/Barbara Seixas as the pair placed second at the Rio 2016 Olympics as compared to a third-place finish by Juliana Felisberta and Larissa Franca at the London 2012 Summer Games. Both teams were world champions with Juliana/Larissa winning in 2011 and Agatha/Barbara in 2015. Juliana and Larissa are the all-time leaders in 45 FIVB World Tour titles with 45. May-Treanor/Walsh Jennings have captured 40 World tour gold medals to rank second all-time.

## Men's Beach Volleyball Fantasy Tournament Results

**Gold medal match** (votes for winner-votes for loser) - **Emanuel Rego/Ricardo Santos, Brazil** (1) def. Phil Dalhausser/Todd Rogers, United States (2), 47-44 (predicted result 2-1 (22-20, 20-22, 16-14)).

**Bronze medal match** - **Julius Brink/Jonas Reckermann, Germany** (4) def. Alison Cerutti/Bruno Oscar Schmidt, Brazil (3), 49-42 (predicted result 2-1 (17-21, 21-18, 15-13)).

**Semi-finals** - **Emanuel/Ricardo** def. Brink/Reckermann, 62-35 (predicted result 2-1 (21-16, 19-21, 17-15)).

**Dalhausser/Rogers** def. Alison/Bruno, 81-16 (predicted result 2-1 (21-17, 18-21, 18-16)).

**Quarter-finals** - Emanuel/Ricardo def. Reinder Nummerdor/Richard Schuil, Netherlands (17), 82-8;

**Brink/Reckermann** def. Daniele Lupo/Paolo Nicolai, Italy (8), 60-30; Alison/Bruno def. Karch Kiraly/Kent Steffes, United States (7), 54-38;

**Dalhausser/Rogers** def. Alexander Brouwer/Robert Meeuwse, Netherlands (10), 76-14.

**Elimination 1st-round** - **Emanuel/Ricardo** def. Nivaldo Diaz/Sergio Gonzalez, Cuba (23), 66-2; **Nummerdor/Schuil** def. Viacheslav Krasilnikov/Konstantin Semenov, Russia (19), 36-32; **Lupo/Nicolai** def. Javier Bosma/Pablo Herrera, Spain (11), 46-22; **Brink/Reckermann** def. John Child/Mark Heese, Canada (12), 62-6; **Alison/Bruno** def. Dain Blanton/Eric Fonoimoana, United States (5), 54-14; **Kiraly/Steffes** def. Patrick Heuscher/Stefan Kobel, Switzerland (13), 54-14; **Brouwer/Meeuwse** def. Marcio Araujo/Fabio Luiz Magalhaes, Brazil (9), 42-26; **Dalhausser/Rogers** def. Julien Prosser/Mark Williams, Australia (18), 62-6.

Pool	Team, Country (overall seed)	Pool Results						Elimination Bracket Match Mark	Placement
		Average	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pool Rank		
A	Emanuel Rego/Ricardo Santos, Brazil (1)	1.14	40	2	2		1	4-0	Gold
	Patrick Heuscher/Stefan Kobel, Switzerland (13)	2.07	2	37	5		2	0-1	9th
	John Child/Mark Heese, Canada (12)	2.80	2	5	37		3	0-1	9th
	Colin Pocock/Gershon Rorich, South Africa (24)	4.00				44	4	NR	19th
B	Phil Dalhausser/Todd Rogers, United States (2)	1.05	42	2			1	3-1	Silver
	Javier Bosma/Pablo Herrera, Spain (11)	2.43	1	24	18	1	2	0-1	9th
	Nivaldo Diaz/Sergio Gonzalez, Cuba (23)	3.02	1	12	16	15	3	0-1	9th
	Jorg Ahmann/Axel Hager, Germany (14)	3.50		6	10	28	4	NR	19th
C	Alison Cerutti/Bruno Oscar Schmidt, Brazil (3)	1.23	36	6	2		1	2-2	4th
	Alexander Brouwer/Robert Meeuwse, Netherlands (10)	1.95	8	30	6		2	1-1	5th
	Martins Plavins/Janis Smedins, Latvia (15)	3.32		4	22	18	3	NR	17th
	Grzegorz Fijalek/Mariusz Prudel, Poland (22)	3.50		4	14	26	4	NR	19th
D	Julius Brink/Jonas Reckermann, Germany (4)	1.27	35	6	3		1	3-1	Bronze
	Marcio Araujo/Fabio Luiz Magalhaes, Brazil (9)	1.93	9	30	4	1	2	0-1	9th
	Jan Kvalheim/Bjorn Maaseide, Norway (21)	3.27		5	22	17	3	NR	17th
	Joao Brenha/Miguel Maia, Portugal (16)	3.52		3	15	26	4	NR	19th
E	Daniele Lupo/Paolo Nicolai, Italy (8)	1.66	23	13	8		1	1-1	5th
	Reinder Nummerdor/Richard Schuil, Netherlands (17)	2.05	12	18	14		2	1-1	5th
	Dain Blanton/Eric Fonoimoana, United States (5)	2.32	9	13	21	1	3	0-1	9th
	Renato "Geor" Gomes/Jorge "Gia" Terceiro, Georgia (20)	3.98			1	43	4	NR	19th
F	Karch Kiraly/Kent Steffes, United States (7)	1.45	24	20			1	1-1	5th
	Viacheslav Krasilnikov/Konstantin Semenov (19)	1.89	18	15	9	2	2	0-1	9th
	Julien Prosser/Mark Williams, Australia (18)	2.91	2	8	26	8	3	0-1	9th
	Kentaro Asahi/Katsuhiro Shiratori, Japan (6)	3.75		1	9	34	4	NR	19th

## Women's Beach Volleyball Fantasy Tournament Results

**Gold Medal Match** (votes for winner-votes for loser) - **Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh Jennings, United States** (1) def. Laura Ludwig/Kira Walkenhorst, Germany (3), 81-10 (predicted result 2-0 (21-19, 21-18)).

**Bronze Medal Match** - **Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva, Brazil** (2) defeated Shelda Bede/Adriana Behar, Brazil (5), 50-41 (predicted result 2-0 (21-19, 21-19)).

**Semi-finals** - **May-Treanor/Walsh Jennings** def. Shelda/Adriana, 87-10 (predicted result 2-0 (21-17, 21-18)); **Ludwig/Walkenhorst** def. Sandra/Jackie, 60-37 (predicted result 2-0 (21-18, 21-18)).

**Quarter-final** - **May-Treanor/Walsh Jennings** def. Natalie Cook/Kerri Pottharst, Australia (4), 76-4; **Shelda/Adriana** def. Agatha Bednarczuk/Barbara Seixas, Brazil (9), 42-38; **Ludwig/Walkenhorst** def. Jennifer Kessy/April Ross, United States (7), 58-22; **Sandra/Jackie** def. Chen Xue/Xi Zhang, China (10), 46-34

Pool	Team, Country (overall seed)	Pool Results						Elimination Bracket Match Mark	Placement
		Average	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pool Rank		
A	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh Jennings, United States (1)	1.00	41				1	4-0	Gold
	Greta Cicolari/Marta Menegatti, Italy (13)	2.32		28	13		2	0-1	9th
	Doris Schwaiger/Stefanie Schwaiger, Austria (12)	2.68		13	28		3	0-1	9th
	Doaa Elghobashy/Nada Meawad, Egypt (24)	4.00				41	4	NR	19th
B	Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva, Brazil (2)	1.56	24	13	2	2	1	3-1	Bronze
	Heather Bansley/Sarah Pavan, Canada (14)	2.27	11	8	22		2	0-1	9th
	Holly McPeak/Elaine Youngs, United States (11)	2.44	4	20	12	5	3	0-1	9th
	Isabelle Forrer/Anouk Verge-Depre, Switzerland (23)	3.73	2		5	34	4	NR	19th
C	Laura Ludwig/Kira Walkenhorst, Germany (3)	1.17	34	7			1	3-1	Silver
	Chen Xue/Xi Zhang, China (10)	1.88	7	32	2		2	1-1	5th
	Ekaterina Birlova/Evgeniya Ukolova, Russia (15)	3.12		2	32	7	3	0-1	9th
	Guyline Dumont/Annie Martin, Canada (22)	3.83			7	34	4	NR	19th
D	Agatha Bednarczuk/Barbara Seixas, Brazil (9)	1.27	32	7	2		1	1-1	5th
	Natalie Cook/Kerri Pottharst, Australia (4)	2.12	7	26	4	4	2	1-1	5th
	Kristyna Kolocova/Marketa Slukova, Czech Republic (16)	3.17	2	4	20	15	3	NR	17th
	Elsa Baquerizo/Liliana Fernandez, Spain (21)	3.44		4	15	22	4	NR	19th
E	Shelda Bede/Adriana Behar, Brazil (5)	1.17	36	3	2		1	2-2	4th
	Jia Tian/Jie Wang, China (8)	2.12	3	32	4	2	2	0-1	9th
	Stephanie Pohl/Okka Rau, Germany (17)	3.27	2		24	15	3	NR	17th
	Laura Bruschini/Annmaria Solazzi, Italy (20)	3.44		6	11	24	4	NR	19th
F	Jennifer Kessy/April Ross, United States (7)	1.22	34	5	2		1	1-1	5th
	Louise Bawden/Taliqua Clancy, Australia (19)	2.46	1	24	12	4	2	0-1	9th
	Joana Heidrich/Nadine Zumkehr, Switzerland (18)	2.63	6	10	18	7	3	0-1	9th
	Yukiko Takahashi/Mika Teru Saiki, Japan (6)	3.68		2	9	30	4	NR	19th

**Elimination 1st-round** - **May-Treanor/Walsh Jennings** def. Ekaterina Birlova/Evgeniya Ukolova, Russia (15), 56-0; **Cook/Pottharst** def. Jia Tian/Jie Wang, China (8), 34-24; **Shelda/Adriana** def. Heather Bansley/Sarah Pavan, Canada (14), 34-24; **Agatha/Barbara** def. Joana Heidrich/Nadine Zumkehr, Switzerland (18), 44-14; **Ludwig/Walkenhorst** def. Holly McPeak/Elaine Youngs, United States (11), 52-6; **Kessy/Ross** def. Greta Cicolari/Marta Menegatti, Italy (13), 58-0; **Xue/Zhang** def. Louise Bawden/Taliqua Clancy, Australia (19), 40-18; **Sandra/Jackie** def. Doris Schwaiger/Stefanie Schwaiger, Austria (12), 58-0.



# Beach Volleyball Men's Fantasy Tournament

Seed	Pool	Men's Team, Country (vs. field, vs. pool)	FIVB Breakdown												
			Events	Won	Lost	Earnings	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Medals	4ths	Finals 4s	5th-9ths	13th-25ths	33rd-lower
1	A	Emanuel Rego/Ricardo Santos, Brazil (53-32 10-5)	101	478	122	\$2,021,530	34	13	12	59	8	67	29	5	0
12	A	John Child/Mark Heese, Canada (8-14, 1-5)	115	317	225	\$791,800	1	5	9	15	8	23	54	36	2
13	A	Patrick Heuscher/Stefan Kobel, Switzerland (26-18, 9-10)	84	190	112	\$595,010	8	5	7	20	3	23	34	18	9
24	A	Colin Pocock/Gershon Rorich, South Africa (1-1, 0-0)	12	7	17	\$9,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	7
2	B	Phil Dalhausser/Todd Rogers, United States (53-24, 0-0)	58	310	70	\$1,422,600	23	7	10	40	4	44	10	4	0
11	B	Javier Bosma/Pablo Herrera, Spain (8-5, 0-0)	14	40	27	\$87,750	1	1	0	2	0	2	4	8	0
14	B	Jorg Ahmann/Axel Hager, Germany (4-9, 0-0)	104	187	202	\$367,760	0	2	2	4	1	5	35	60	4
23	B	Nivaldo Diaz/Sergio Gonzalez, Cuba (1-3, 0-0)	17	41	26	\$67,900	1	0	2	3	0	3	8	5	1
3	C	Alison Cerutti/Bruno Oscar Schmidt, Brazil (22-12, 11-4)	41	191	52	\$1,090,500	12	4	3	19	4	23	15	3	0
10	C	Alexander Brouwer/Robert Meeuwse, Netherlands (21-26, 7-12)	93	291	152	\$906,225	6	7	6	19	6	25	39	21	8
15	C	Martins Plavins/Janis Smedins, Latvia (6-17, 1-3)	33	88	61	\$242,300	1	1	1	3	1	4	11	14	4
22	C	Grzegorz Fijalek/Mariusz Prudel, Poland (28-35, 10-10)	88	266	167	\$937,800	1	4	5	10	6	16	46	26	0
4	D	Julius Brink/Jonas Reckemann, Germany (29-13, 0-0)	33	162	46	\$657,500	5	7	9	21	3	24	7	2	0
9	D	Marcio Araujo/Fabio Luiz Magalhaes, Brazil (31-24, 2-0)	70	298	110	\$1,048,600	11	8	10	29	5	34	22	11	3
16	D	Joao Brenha/Miguel Maia, Portugal (8-27, 2-2)	134	234	250	\$531,915	2	0	0	2	6	8	39	79	8
21	D	Jan Kvalheim/Bjom Maaseide, Norway (0-3, 0-2)	93	270	172	\$778,750	7	2	9	18	9	27	44	22	0
5	E	Dain Blanton/Eric Fonoimoana, United States (5-0, 0-0)	31	105	62	\$194,400	1	1	1	3	3	6	16	9	0
8	E	Daniele Lupo/Paolo Nicolai, Italy (30-30, 3-3)	85	291	146	\$932,675	3	9	10	22	3	25	41	18	1
17	E	Reinder Nummerdor/Richard Schuil, Netherlands (31-32, 7-5)	75	257	129	\$890,250	9	5	2	16	5	21	32	19	3
20	E	Renato "Geor" Gomes/Jorge "Gia" Terceiro, Georgia (6-27, 2-4)	101	193	201	\$400,200	0	0	0	0	1	1	27	53	20
6	F	Kentaro Asahi/Katsuhiro Shiratori, Japan (3-19, 0-0)	44	76	71	\$115,500	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	20	16
7	F	Karch Kiraly/Kent Steffes, United States (2-0, 0-0)	1	5	0	\$0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
18	F	Julien Prosser/Mark Williams, Australia (4-8, 0-0)	20	48	39	\$102,800	0	0	1	1	1	2	6	10	2
19	F	Viacheslav Krasilnikov/Konstantin Semenov, Russia (10-11, 0-0)	32	106	58	\$340,775	1	3	1	5	4	9	16	7	0

# Women's Beach Volleyball Fantasy Tournament

Seed	Pool	Women's Team, Country (vs. field, vs. pool)	FIVB Breakdown												
			Events	Won	Lost	Earnings	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Medals	4ths	Finals 4s	5th-9ths	13th-25ths	33rd-lower
1	A	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh Jennings, United States (84-24, 8-2)	77	435	55	\$1,941,140	40	14	6	60	3	63	13	1	0
12	A	Doris Schwaiger/Stefanie Schwaiger, Austria (23-41, 2-6)	128	272	239	\$712,100	0	3	3	6	2	8	52	55	13
13	A	Greta Cicolari/Marta Menegatti, Italy (23-29, 3-5)	40	132	79	\$408,750	0	3	4	7	4	11	16	13	0
24	A	Doha Elghobashy/Nada Meawad, Egypt (0-1, 0-0)	1	0	3	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2	B	Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva, Brazil (1-0, 0-0)	29	142	26	\$502,300	12	6	10	28	1	29	0	0	0
11	B	Holly McPeak/Elaine Youngs, United States (24-16, 0-0)	23	118	26	\$367,515	6	3	5	14	3	17	6	0	0
14	B	Heather Bansley/Sarah Pavan, Canada (18-16, 5-1)	38	186	111	\$456,450	0	3	3	6	1	7	17	12	2
23	B	Isabelle Forrer/Anouk Verge-Depre, Switzerland (16-29, 1-5)	61	129	130	\$354,650	1	1	3	5	2	7	17	30	7
3	C	Laura Ludwig/Kira Walkenhorst, Germany (34-15, 2-3)	43	183	60	\$991,275	11	3	4	18	3	21	17	5	0
10	C	Chen Xue/Xi Zhang, China (58-38, 2-0)	82	374	111	\$1,446,100	15	13	11	39	7	46	32	4	0
15	C	Ekaterina Birllova/Evgeniya Ukolova, Russia (13-28, 2-3)	70	163	145	\$387,969	2	1	2	5	2	7	26	30	7
22	C	Guyllaine Dumont/Annie Martin, Canada (3-14, 0-0)	22	53	42	\$75,650	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	10	6
4	D	Natalie Cook/Kerri Pottharst, Australia (13-13, 0-0)	62	236	109	\$580,095	3	6	10	19	12	31	31	0	0
9	D	Agatha Bednarczuk/Barbara Seixas, Brazil (21-15, 5-3)	41	166	55	\$699,200	4	6	5	15	0	15	19	3	4
16	D	Kristyna Kolocova/Marketa Slukova, Czech Republic (27-40, 6-5)	65	178	117	\$556,650	2	0	1	3	2	5	44	16	0
21	D	Elsa Baquerizo/Liliana Fernandez, Spain (30-51, 6-9)	120	291	222	\$898,350	0	5	2	7	4	11	58	39	12
5	E	Shelda Bede/Adriana Behar, Brazil (49-40, 17-4)	120	587	139	\$2,207,965	31	30	24	85	11	96	19	4	1
8	E	Jia Tian/Jie Wang, China (29-19, 6-5)	39	175	60	\$688,600	4	12	9	25	2	27	9	3	0
17	E	Stephanie Pohl/Okka Rau, Germany (14-47, 6-18)	91	229	181	\$586,790	1	0	2	3	3	6	42	42	1
20	E	Laura Bruschini/Annamaria Solazzi, Italy (6-15, 4-6)	72	153	137	\$283,670	0	0	0	0	3	3	32	31	6
6	F	Yukiko Takahashi/Mika Teru Saiki, Japan (0-1, 0-0)	28	69	53	\$148,650	0	1	2	3	1	4	14	10	0
7	F	Jennifer Kessy/April Ross, United States (45-27, 3-0)	78	337	115	\$1,205,950	10	12	9	31	4	35	35	6	2
18	F	Joana Heidrich/Nadine Zumkehr, Switzerland (17-18, 2-3)	44	118	90	\$400,300	2	2	2	6	0	6	19	18	1
19	F	Louise Bawden/Taliqua Clancy, Australia (11-24, 2-4)	47	104	106	\$403,225	0	0	1	1	2	3	27	17	0