

## MEN – #21 Julian Azzad / Nicolas Capogrosso (ARG)

- ARG gained berth by winning the South America Continental Cup in Santiago, Chile... they finished 53rd in Qualifying
  - ARG has played in two World Championships as a team (placed 33rd in 2017 and 37th in 2019)
  - Finishes during qualifying period (25, 25, 41, 17, 37, 41, 25, 33, 33, 33, 17, 41, qualified)
    - Played 13 events, 0 semifinals, 0 medals
    - 15-20 match record, 37-45 set record
    - 9-7 in qualifiers, 6-11 in pool play, 0-2 in bracket play
    - 14-3 when winning the first set, 1-17 when losing the first set, 5-7 in third sets
  - ARG began their partnership in May 2017
  - Entering Tokyo the duo has played 26 FIVB tournaments (1 bronze, 2 ninths)
  - In ARG's first 4 FIVB events together, the duo lost its first qualification match each time... then in the 5th tournament the pair advanced from the qualifier and had to play Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena in their first main draw match... then they defeated two teams that contained a total of three 2016 Olympians (USA's Casey Patterson, ITA's Adrian Carambula and ITA's Alex Ranghieri)
  - Out of the 26 FIVB events that ARG has played, the duo has been seeded directly into the main draw just 7 times, meaning that 19 times they had to play in a qualifier first... of those 19 qualifiers, ARG were eliminated prior to getting to the main draw 12 times
  - ARG has a 15-20 match record on the FIVB during the qualification period, with 4 of the wins coming in their final tournament, the South America Continental Cup in late June, when they 3-1 in pool play to secure their Olympic berth... of the other 12 wins they had during that span, 9 wins were in the qualifiers and the highest seeded team they beat in the main draw was #17
  - The country of Argentina has won 8 men's golds on the FIVB Tour, which ties with Austria for the 11th most among all countries... all 8 of their victories have come against teams from Brazil (Argentina is 8-14 against Brazil in gold medal matches, and 0-1 against Norway)
  - ARG has a 1-14 record against the field... their lone win came against the 2013 World Champions, NED's Alexander Brouwer / Robert Meeuwssen in the 2019 World Championships... in the 15 matches against the other teams in Tokyo, ARG has won a total of 7 sets
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- This is the 1st Olympics for Azaad
  - Azaad has played 51 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... he has played 26 times with Capogrosso, 17 times with Pablo Bianchi (best of 9th twice), 5 times with Ian Mehamed (best of 9th), 2 times with Santiago Aulisi (17th both times), and once with 4-time Olympian Martin Conde (41st)
  - Azaad's first ever FIVB World Tour event came in April 2012 in Brasilia, Brazil alongside one of the 6 players to have competed in at least 4 Olympics (including Tokyo), Martin Conde... It was Conde's last ever tournament he played, and was his only finish in 175 World Tour events below a 25th... Conde, who was 40 years old, had retired 4 years prior to competing in that event
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- This is the 1st Olympics for Capogrosso
  - Capogrosso has played 34 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... he has played 26 times with Azaad, 8 times with Ian Mehamed (best of 5th twice)
  - Capogrosso played his FIVB World Tour main in October 2014 in Argentina when he was 19 years old alongside Ian Mehamed... in his second pool play match, he defeated USA's Trevor Crabb and Adam Roberts, in what was Crabb's FIVB debut as well... both advanced to bracket play, and both lost to CAN's Chaim Schalk and Ben Saxton
  - Capogrosso went 4-2 in matches in his first FIVB event, then in the next 7 events he played before teaming with Azaad he went 6-15 in matches