

MEN – #3 Cherif Samba / Ahmed Tijan (QAT)

- QAT gained berth by finishing 3rd in Qualifying (tied with BRA but played 4 more events)
- QAT has played in one World Championship as a team (17th in 2019)
- Finishes during qualifying period (9, 9, 5, 3, 1, 17, 9, 17, 5, 17, 9, 9, 9, 13, 17, 1, 5, 2, 2, 1, 2, 9, 2)
 - Played 23 events, 8 semifinals, 8 medals (3 golds, 4 silvers, 1 bronze)
 - 71-36 match record, 155-86 set record
 - 31-17 in pool play, 1-0 in Lucky Loser, 28-14 in bracket play, 7-1 in semifinals, 1-0 in Bronze medal match, 3-4 in Gold medal match
 - 63-11 when winning the first set, 8-25 when losing the first set, 14-13 in third sets (started 8-3 but then ended 6-10)
- QAT played two events in 2014, finishing 49th in the FIVB U-21 World Championships and 41st in a World Tour event... they duo played with other partners until reuniting in January 2018... the duo won a bronze in their third tournament together after reuniting
- Entering Tokyo the duo has played 36 FIVB World Tour tournaments (2 golds, 4 silvers, 3 bronzes)... they have advanced to the semifinals in 9 of their 36 events (25%)
- QAT has played in the gold medal match in 6 of their last 8 FIVB tournaments entering Tokyo
- This duo has won 2 of the 3 gold medals won by Qatar in the history of the FIVB, 4 of the 6 silvers, and all 3 bronzes... they have a total of 9 of the 12 medals ever won... exactly half of all the medals won by Qatar (6 of 12) have been won in 2021
- In the first of the three bubble events in Cancun in April 2021, QAT began as the #17 seed
- QAT had four straight podium finishes In April-May this year, becoming the first team to accomplish that since October 2015 when USA's Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena did that
- Entering Tokyo QAT has won 17 of its 22 matches, with 4 of the 5 losses coming in three sets
- In their partnership, QAT lost its first 3 semifinal matches, but since then has won its last 7
- The country of Qatar has never won an Olympic gold medal, but 5 of their 10 medals in Olympics history have come in the past two Olympics
- QAT has a 42-34 record against the field... they are 8-3 in three-set matches against teams seeded in the top 10 in Tokyo
- This is the 2nd Olympics for Cherif (finished 9th in 2016 with Jefferson Santos Pereira)... he becomes the first person (male or female) born in Africa to play in two beach volleyball Olympics
- Cherif has played 58 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... he has played 36 times with Tijan, 21 times with Jefferson Santos Pereira (1 gold), and 1 time with Julio Nascimento (9th)
- Cherif's first main draw match on the FIVB World Tour was against ROC's Viacheslav Krasilnikov / Konstantin Semonov, the same team which would eliminate Cherif from the 2016 Olympics
- Cherif has a 2-2 match record in Olympics, including 2-1 in pool play
- This is the 1st Olympics for Tijan
- Tijan has played 52 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... he has played 36 times with Cherif, 14 times with Julio Nascimento (2 silvers), and 2 times with Assam Mahmoud (best of 17th)
- Tijan's first career World Tour main draw match was against USA's Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena in 2016... they next time they faced them was in 2018 when he beat them for the bronze in Doha
- Tijan began his FIVB career by losing 9 of his first 11 matches which went three sets
- Tijan has been part of the team responsible for winning 11 of the 12 medals Qatar has ever won in FIVB history