

## WOMEN – #10 Heather Bansley / Brandie Wilkerson (CAN)

- CAN gained berth by finishing 9th in Qualifying (11th but two teams ahead of them not eligible due to country quotas)
- CAN has played in two World Championships as a team (placed 5th in 2017 and 17th in 2019)... Bansley has played in 3 additional World Championships plus an Olympics, and has finished 5th twice and 17th twice
- Finishes during qualifying period (2, 1, 1, 5, 3, 5, 9, 17, 9, 3, 17, 17, 13, 9, 9, 5, 17, 17, 5, 9)
  - Played 20 events, 5 semifinals, 5 medals (2 golds, 1 silver, 2 bronzes)
  - 54-29 match record, 118-77 set record
  - 30-12 in pool play, 17-14 in bracket play, 3-2 in semifinals, 2-0 in Bronze medal match, 2-1 in Gold medal match
  - 47-4 when winning the first set, 7-25 when losing the first set, 19-10 in third sets
- Began their partnership in September 2016... in their first event together, the World Tour Finals in Toronto, they defeated Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan in the country quota en route to a 9th place finish after losing to eventual champions (and 2016 Olympic gold medalists) Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst of Germany
- Entering Tokyo the duo has played 37 FIVB tournaments (3 golds, 1 silver, 4 bronzes)... they have reached the semifinals in 8 of the 37 events (22%)
- CAN won 4 medals in their first 5 events during the Olympic qualifying period, than won just one medal in their next 15 tournaments (last one was a bronze in the 2019 test event in Tokyo in July 2019)... since then have had 11 straight FIVB events without advancing to the semifinals
- The 3 golds won by the team were all won between July and October 2018, and are the only 3 wins for each player in their FIVB careers
- Entering Tokyo, CAN has played three-set matches in 8 of their last 10 matches (5-3 in those)
- As a country, Canada now has 7 different teams which have been in the Olympics but none have played twice
- CAN has a 37-38 record against the field... there are just 3 teams which have played them but never beaten them (1-0 against #9 USA; 3-0 against #14 ESP; 1-0 against #20 CUB)
- This is the 2nd Olympics for Bansley (finished 5th in 2016 with Sarah Pavan)... she joins Annie Martin and Sarah Pavan as the only CAN female players to be in multiple beach volleyball Olympics
- Bansley has a 4-1 match record In Olympics, including 3-0 in pool play
- Bansley has played 105 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... she has played 38 times with Sarah Pavan (3 silvers, 3 bronzes), 37 times with Wilkerson, and 30 times with Elizabeth Maloney (best of 7th 3 times)
- Bansley has won a bronze medal in both of her 2 other events in Japan (with Sarah Pavan in Yokohama in July 2015 and with Wilkerson in Tokyo in the 2019 test event)
- This is the 1st Olympics for Wilkerson
- Wilkerson has played 51 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo... she played 37 times with Heather Bansley, 12 times with Julie Gordon (best of 13th) and 2 times with Claudia Seguin (best of 17th)
- Wilkerson's first career FIVB win came on her 26th birthday (7/1/18 in Warsaw with Bansley)
- Wilkerson is 7-1 in FIVB medal matches in her career
- In 2017 Wilkerson first played on the AVP Tour and lost in the qualifier in both her first two events (with Branagan Fuller)... but then she teamed with 2008 Olympian Nicole Branagh and finished second in Manhattan Beach, 5th in Chicago, then in 2018 was second in New York