

WOMEN – #21 Brackcides Khadambi / Guadencia Makokha (KEN)

- KEN gained berth by winning the African Continental Cup in Agadir, Morocco
- This is the first FIVB tournament that KEN has ever played in
- This also marks the first time Kenya has had a team in beach volleyball (men or women)
- Kenya becomes the only African country to field both an indoor volleyball team as well as a beach volleyball team, as the women's indoor team has also qualified for Tokyo
- The format of the Continental Cup is each country has two teams and they are matched up for a head-to-head country battle... if the two teams split the matches, there is a golden match to determine the country moving on... after the finals, the winning federation can then decide which of the two teams would represent the country in the Olympics
- In the first round of the Continental Cup, Kenya needed a golden match to get by Cape Verde... both of the first two matches between Kenya and Cape Verde went three sets, then Kenya won the golden match in a sweep
- In the second round Kenya won easily defeated Nigeria (21-11, 21-14 and 21-14, 21-14)
- The quarterfinals saw Kenya outlast Mozambique... Khadambi / Makokha won their match 21-17, 21-14 while the other Kenyans needed a third set to help Kenya move on
- In the semifinals Kenya defeated host Morocco
- In the finals Kenya toppled Nigeria, with the other Kenyan team winning 21-17, 21-10 while Khadambi / Makokha won theirs 17-21, 21-18, 15-10
- In March 2020, Kenya's Ministry of Health prohibited the beach volleyball teams from traveling to Nigeria for what was the originally schedule qualifying tournament for African nations
- This is the 1st Olympics for Khadambi
- Khadambi is the third oldest player in the field at the age of 37 (behind USA's April Ross at 39, and BRA's Agatha Bednarczuk at 38)
- Khadambi was the captain of the Kenyan National Volleyball Team
- She trained indoors in Japan in 2007 after Japanese coach Sadatoshi Sugawara drafted her for the 2007 FIVB World Cup in Japan
- She then played indoors in Turkey as well as France
- A disagreement with the Kenyan Volleyball Federation led the federation to decide not to compete in the Olympic qualifiers for 2016
- Khadambi's father, Richard Khadambi, was a musician and composer, and took part in the writing of the East African Community Anthem while her mother was a teacher
- Khadambi has four children; Brandon (20 or 21), Shirleen (17 or 18), Angellah (15 or 16) and Aviella (2 or 3) – *ages uncertain as pulling from an article last October*
- Khadambi runs a beauty shop and restaurant in Ruiru
- This is the 1st Olympics for Makokha
- Makokha has played 1 FIVB tournament prior to Tokyo and also played one FIVB U-23 World Championships, both times with Naomie Too
- Makokha played the 2013 FIVB U-23 World Championships in Myslowice, Poland, finishing 25th... her first pool play match was against current Olympian Tanja Huberli of SUI (and Sarah Leeman)
- Makokha made her FIVB debut in July 2017 at the World Championships in Vienna, Austria... her first main draw match came against Tokyo's #3-seeded team, BRA's Agatha Bednarczuk and Eduarda "Duda" Lisboa, losing 21-7, 21-8... her next match was against current Olympian Madelein Meppelink of NED (along with two-time Olympian Sophie van Gestel), losing 21-5, 21-17... her third pool play match was against Canada's Julie Gordon and Camile Saxton, losing 21-9, 21-10
- In her three FIVB main draw matches, she has been outscored 126-46, and the total time of the three matches added up to 1 hour, 8 minutes
- Makokha also played indoors, including in Poland