

## WOMEN – #2 Alix Klineman / April Ross (USA)

- USA is 1 of the 2 countries with the maximum of 4 Olympic teams (also BRA)
  - USA has played in one World Championships as a team (placed 2nd in 2019)
  - USA gained berth by finishing 2nd in Qualifying (same points as CAN but 1 less event played)
  - Finishes during qualifying period (5, 1, 4, 5, 1, 5, 5, 2, 1, 2, 9, 9, 1, 9, 3, 3, 5, 5)
    - Played 18 events, 9 semifinals, 8 medals (4 golds, 2 silvers, 2 bronzes)
    - 74-23 match record, 156-66 set record
    - 30-8 in pool play, 32-9 in bracket play, 6-3 in semifinals, 2-1 in Bronze medal match, 4-2 in Gold medal match
    - 64-5 when winning the first set, 10-17 when losing the first set, 1 forfeit loss, 22-8 in third sets
  - Began their partnership in January 2018... duo won their first ever FIVB event together in The Hague on 1/7/18, winning 10 matches (9 by sweeps) and beat 3 of the top 4 seeds... they became the 3rd team to ever win an FIVB title after first competing in the country quota, and Klineman became first woman to win a gold medal in her first ever FIVB event
  - Entering Tokyo the duo has played 24 FIVB tournaments (5 golds, 2 silvers, 2 bronzes, 1 fourth)
  - USA has gone undefeated in pool play in 13 of their 23 FIVB events with pool play
  - In the 2019 test event in Tokyo, the pair finished 2nd and won three three-set matches
  - On the AVP Tour the duo has played 15 times, winning 10 times (67%), finishing second 3 times, and finishing third 2 times (have been in the semifinals in all 15 events)...they have played in the title match in each of their last 12 tournaments... the 10 wins ranks tied for 6th all-time on the AVP
  - USA has a 43-20 record against the field, with losing records only against #5 AUS (2-3) and #11 NED (1-2)
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- This is the 1st Olympics for Klineman... along with Kelly Claes and Sarah Sponcil, there are now 19 women's players from the USA to be a beach volleyball Olympian
  - Klineman has played all 24 of her FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo with Ross
  - All time on the FIVB, Klineman has a 4- 1 record against teams seeded #1
  - Klineman got her first career victory on the FIVB Tour (before her first AVP win), following in the footsteps of her partner Ross (who got three FIVB wins before securing her first AVP title)
  - This will be Klineman's 25th international tournament (compared to 27 AVP events in her career)
  - Klineman has only one finish below 9th on the FIVB Tour (next fewest is 5 for players here who have played at least 5 events)
  - Klineman played two three AVP qualifiers when she was 15 and 16, then played indoors before returning to the sand 10 years later
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- This is the 3rd Olympics for Ross (silver in 2012 with Jennifer Kessy, bronze in 2016 with Kerri Walsh Jennings)... she is 1 of just 3 Americans (men or women) to win 2+ beach volleyball Olympic medals
  - Ross has played 147 FIVB tournaments prior to Tokyo, winning 26 times (11 times with Kerri Walsh Jennings in 32 events, 10 times with Jennifer Kessy in 78 events, and 5 times with Klineman in 24 events)... she played 1 gold medal match in 6 events with Lauren Fendrick, and played the remaining 7 events with 5 different partners... Ross has made the semifinals in 67 of her 147 FIVB tournaments (46%) and has won 26 times (18%)
  - Ross has won at least one FIVB event in 12 of the 15 seasons she has competed
  - The 26 FIVB wins by Ross is the most in the field
  - Ross has a 12-2 match record in Olympics, including 6-0 in pool play
  - Ross is the oldest women's player in the competition and if she wins the gold, she will become the 4th oldest female player to win any FIVB event