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Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh to Reunite for First Time in 2009 at Westgate in the “AVP World Challenge – USA vs. Brazil Presented by Sanderson Ford”

Back-to-Back Gold Medalists Join World’s Best to Compete in International Showdown

(GLENDALE, Ariz., September 16, 2009) - The world’s best professional beach volleyball players, including the much-anticipated reunion of Gold Medalists Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor, will compete at [Westgate City Center](#)’s “AVP World Challenge – USA vs. Brazil Presented by Sanderson Ford” September 25-27. Brazil recently accepted the USA’s challenge to compete in the AVP’s first-ever head-to-head competition to be played on U.S. sand, and the player line up includes the best of the best.

“These two countries are bringing in their all-stars – Olympic gold, silver and bronze medalists as well as world champions, and we’re thrilled to host” said Dave Groff, President, Westgate Sports and Entertainment. “Adding the Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh reunion to the mix is the icing on the cake. Local and international fans will literally get to watch the world’s best beach volleyball players right here at Westgate.”

The three-day tournament will feature the top four men’s and top four women’s teams from both the USA and Brazil. May-Treanor and Walsh have not played competitively as a team on a domestic or international stage in more than a year. Walsh returned from maternity leave to regular-season play in August; May-Treanor has been sidelined for the first 15 events of the 2009 season due to an Achilles tendon injury incurred during her participation on “Dancing with the Stars.”

“It’s hard to believe it has been an entire year since I last played on tour,” May-Treanor said. “I’ve been working hard to get back into shape after the injury and I think it will be a lot of fun getting back on the sand and playing with Kerri in this unique event.”

“I’m so excited to play with Misty again,” Walsh said. “I know she’s been training on her own and I think we’re going to find our rhythm really quickly. I couldn’t ask for a better partner for this event, and her decision to play with me means so much. We have such a special relationship and I think that will really show on the court.”

May-Treanor and Walsh have 105 and 103 career wins, respectively, which rank them first and second all-time for women. They were named AVP Team of the Year every season from 2003-2008 and went on a record-breaking 108-match win streak from 2007-2008.

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Players were selected based on their rankings from regular-season play:

USA Players:

Men:

Todd Rogers/Phil Dalhausser
Jake Gibb/Sean Rosenthal
John Hyden/Sean Scott
Brad Keenan/Nick Lucena

Women:

Kerri Walsh/Misty May-Treanor
Nicole Branagh/Elaine Youngs
Jennifer Kessy/April Ross
Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan

Brazilian Players:

Men:

Fábio Luiz Magalhaes / Márcio Aruajo
Harley Marques / Alison Cerutti
Benjamin Insafran / Pedro Salgado
Ricardo Santos / Emanuel Rego

Women:

Larissa Franca / Juliana Felisberta Silva
Talita Antunes / Maria Elisa Antonelli,
Ana Paula Connelly / Shelda Bede
Maria-Clara Salgado / Carolina Salgado

In round robin-style pool play, each team from the US will play each Brazilian team in their respective gender pools. Scoring will resemble the Ryder Cup. In total, there will be 36 matches (18 per gender) with the tournament championship gold and bronze-medal matches Sunday:

- Friday Day, September 25 - (10 matches): 8:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Friday Night, September 25 – (Six matches): 4:30 pm to 10:30 pm
- Saturday Day, September 26 – (10 matches): 8:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Saturday Night, September 26 – (Six matches): 4:30 pm to 10:30 pm
- Sunday Day, September 27 – (Four matches): 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tournament tickets range in price from \$10 to multiple-day packages and VIP suites. They can be purchased at www.westgatecitycenter.com or www.ticketmaster.com. For additional tournament information, visit www.westgatecitycenter.com or www.avp.com.

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