

Brazil Men's World Champions for third time in a row

Rome, Italy, October 10, 2010 – World No. 1 Brazil became the FIVB men's world champion for a record-equaling third time in a row after proving too good for the young and talented team of Cuba, beating the world No. 8 in straight sets 25-22, 25-14, 25-22 in front of a sold out PalaLottomatica in Rome on Sunday.

Brazil backed up their titles in 2002 and 2006 with victory in the final against a Cuban side who, despite their obvious talent, couldn't overcome a Brazilian outfit which is top of their game. Whatever Cuba tried, Brazil had an answer for it in what was the first final in an FIVB event featuring these two nations. The win was Brazil's eighth in the past nine matches and 27th in 49 encounters between the two countries.

Brazilian's Giba, Dante and Rodrigo joined the Italian elite of Andrea Gardini (current Italian men's assistant coach), Marco Bracci (current Italian women's assistant coach), Ferdinando De Giorgi and Andrea Giani as three-time champions (1990, 1994, 1998).

Both Brazil – FIVB World League, Grand Champions Cup and World Cup holders- and Cuba completed the FIVB Men's World Championship with seven victories and two defeats, which included a 3-2 (34-32, 18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 15-12) win by Cuba over Brazil in the first round.

Cuba, the youngest team in the competition, have now won two silver and two bronze World Championship medals to increase their overall medal tally to 22. Brazil have now a World Championship record of three gold medals and one silver medal to increase their overall medal tally to 32, behind Russia (43) and ahead of Italy (27).

Earlier, World No. 4 Serbia finished off a superb FIVB Men's World Championship campaign by beating hosts and world No. 5 Italy 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 26-28, 25-19) for the bronze medal. The win represents Serbia's second World Championship medal after winning silver in 1998 and their 28th win in 49 matches against the "Azzurri". Italy missed the chance to add to their impressive World Championship medal collection a silver in 1978.

What they said

"I am ecstatic to have won this third gold medal in a World Championship," Rodrigao said. "We played an exciting final without ever allowing Cuba to gain momentum. This is a great result for me and all of Brazil, but now our next goal is the Olympics in London."

"This an incredible joy for me once again," Dante said. "Our team is capable of resolving difficult situations and this is probably one of the secrets of our success."

"We played united as a team and as a family and that's the reason for our victory," Brazil captain Giba said. "This World Championship means a lot to me since is the last one, so the celebrations will stay with me for a lifetime. We need to work hard for next year's World Cup and also for the Olympic Games, the highest event for any athlete."

"We have played a great match against a great squad," Brazil coach Bernardo Rezende said. "I am very happy about how our team reacted and the strong performance from Visotto. Cuba's young team had to play against very strong opponents and we also had to control some emotions. We have had some problems during the tournament but we finished playing a good match. This is an incredible group, capable of bettering itself with hard work and practice. With this victory we are now tied with Italy that has also collected three world titles, and who in the past have been our role model."

"I think the key is that we only focus on the next tournament as the most important one no matter the previous victories," Rezende said referring to Brazil's long domination. "With that in mind they have reasons to keep working harder. I don't keep track of the numbers."

"Today's match was our worst in the tournament," Cuba captain Robertlandy Simon said. "We also had a bad game against Serbia in the early rounds but not like today. We couldn't do anything. We tried to serve harder and that didn't work. Brazil played great. The silver medal means a lot for us and in the future we can do better."

Final Standings

1) Brazil	7) Bulgaria
2) Cuba	8) Germany
3) Serbia	9) Argentina
4) Italy	10) Czech Republic
5) Russia	11) France
6) USA	12) Spain

Individual Best Player Awards

Most Valuable Player: Murilo Endres (BRA)

Top Scorer: Iban Perez (ESP)

Best Server: Clayton Stanley (USA)

Best Spiker: Maxim Mikhaylov (RUS)

Best Blocker: Robertlandy Simon (CUB)

Best Setter: Nikola Grbic (SRB)

Best Libero: Ferdinand Tille (GER)

Highest Scorers By Day

Day 1 (1st Rd): 28 points by Antonin Rouzier (FRA) in France's 3-2 win over the Czech Republic in Turin

Day 2 (1st Rd): 27 points by Maxim Mikhaylov (RUS) in Russia's 3-1 win over Australia in Modena

Day 3 (1st Rd): 28 points by Fernando Hernandez (CUB) in Cuba's 3-2 win over Brazil in Verona

Day 4 (2nd Rd): 24 points by Gyrgy Grozer (GER) in Germany's 3-0 win over Puerto Rico in Catania

Day 5 (2nd Rd): 30 points by Iban Perez (ESP) in Spain's 3-2 win over Russia in Catania

Day 6 (2nd Rd): 23 points by Ahmed Abdelhay (EGY) in Egypt's win against Spain in Catania

Day 7 (3rd Rd): 25 points by Murilo (BRA) in Brazil's win over the Czech Republic in Rome

Day 8 (3rd Rd): 26 points by Ivan Miljkovic (SRB) in Serbia's win over Russia in Florence

Day 9 (3rd Rd): 28 points by Vladimir Nikolov (BUL) in Cuba's win over Bulgaria in Florence

Day 10 (Semifinals): 26 points by Iban Perez (ESP) in Argentina's win over Spain in Florence

Day 11 (Semifinals/Finals): 30 points by Ivan Miljkovic (SRB) in Cuba's win over Serbia in Rome

Day 12 (Finals): 22 points by Ivan Miljkovic (SRB) in Serbia's win over Italy in Rome

Highest Set Score

34-32 (EGY v JPN in Pool A) (CUB v BRA in Pool B) Both matches played on September 27.

Highest Scoring Matches

233 (BUL v CUB in 3rd Round) 2-3 (25-22, 23-25, 28-26, 28-30, 11-15) played on October 6 in Florence

231 (FRA v BUL in 1st Round) 3-2 (25-22, 23-25, 25-17, 28-30, 19-17) played on September 26 in Turin

230 (CUB v BRA in 1st Round) 3-2 (34-32, 18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 15-12) played on September 27 in Verona

228 (JPN v EGY in 1st Round) 3-2 (32-34, 23-25, 25-19, 25-17, 15-13) played on September 27 in Milan

226 (SRB v CUB in Semifinal (1-4) 3-2 (25-22, 17-25, 29-31, 25-22, 14-16) played on October 9 in Rome

Tournament Top Scorers

173 Iban Perez (ESP)
168 Vladimir Nikolov (BUL)
168 Ivan Miljkovic (SRB)
162 Maxim Mikhaylov (RUS)
157 Facundo Conte (ARG)

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Press Contact - FIVB Press Director Richard Baker, Email: press@fivb.org Mobile. +39 334 914 1332

Coming soon

The FIVB Women's World Championship Japan 2010 (October 29 - November 14, 2010)

The FIVB Club World Championships (December 14-21, 2010) in Doha, Qatar

FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships (June 17-26) Rome, Italy