

## Americans & Brazilians Headline 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Women's Award Recipients

**Lausanne, Switzerland, November 8, 2007** - Led by Brazilians Juliana Felisberta Silva and Larissa Franca and reigning Olympic and world champions Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh of the United States, the top women's players on the 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour were announced here Thursday based on the results of the voting by SWATCH representatives, players, coaches, referees and officials associated with the international Beach Volleyball circuit.

For the third-straight season, Juliana and Larissa were honored as the top team on the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour as the young Brazilians captured five gold medals in 13 international Beach Volleyball starts in 2007 with \$328,400 in earnings, the third-highest annual total in the 16-year history of women's circuit.

In addition, the 25-year old Larissa was named the top setter on the SWATCH circuit for the second-straight season while finishing second to Walsh who is the FIVB's top hitter in 2007. The SWATCH most outstanding player in 2006, Larissa also placed third in the voting as the top defensive player and sportswoman while receiving votes as most inspirational and top offensive player.

With May-Treanor and Walsh sharing the award as the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour's top offensive player in 2007, the 24-year old Juliana finished third in the balloting after topping the list in 2006. Juliana also received votes in the sportswoman, blocking and hitting balloting.

The 29-year old Walsh was honored as the 2007 women's SWATCH most outstanding player as selected by representatives from SWATCH and the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB). The SWATCH and FIVB panel also selected Ana Paula Connelly as the SWATCH top server for the 2007 season.

Ana Paula claimed the SWATCH serving award for the fifth-straight season with her top serve being 83.6 km/h with 114 centre court serves over 70.0 km/h. The 35-year old Brazilian was third in the best offensive category, top hitter, and sportswoman voting. Ana Paula's name was also on ballots for best blocker and setter.

After claiming her 31st SWATCH-FIVB World Tour team gold medal this past weekend in Thailand with the 30-year old May-Treanor, Walsh was also selected as the international circuit's best hitter, top blocker and sportswoman of the year for the third-straight season. The Phuket title tied the FIVB record for most team wins as May-Treanor and Walsh tied Adriana Behar and Shelda Bede for SWATCH crowns.

May-Treanor, who was the 2005 SWATCH most outstanding player, tied Walsh for top offensive and sportswoman honors while edging Brazil's Shelda as the tour's top defensive player. The 34-year old Shelda, who won the previous two defensive honors, was voted the SWATCH most inspirational player for the third-straight season with May-Treanor and Walsh finishing second and third in the voting, respectively.

Tamsin Barnett of Australia and Germany's Laura Ludwig were honored as the most improved players on the 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour while 25-year old April Ross of the United States was selected as the rookie-of-the year.

The 27-year old Barnett captured a gold medal this past May in Seoul with three-time Olympic Natalie Cook while Ross teamed with Jen Boss to win the Norwegian grand slam in Stavanger as the lowest seeded team ever win a SWATCH-FIVB World Tour event. The Americans also placed second in St. Petersburg Open in Russia.

The 21-year old Ludwig teamed with Sara Goller, who tied for third in the most improved voting with Americans Boss and Nicole Branagh, to win two SWATCH medals in Portugal and Austria becoming Germany's top-ranked team on the FIVB tour. The Germans also finished as the top European team on the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour in terms of earnings (\$121,500).

**2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Women's Post-Season Awards****Rank, Most Improved Player**

- 1, Tamsin Barnett, Australia
- 1, Laura Ludwig, Germany
- 3, Sara Goller, Germany
- 3, Jen Boss, United States
- 3, Nicole Branagh, United States

**Receiving Votes** - Nila Ann Hakedal, Norway, Tyra Turner, United States, Ingrid Torlen, Norway, Maria Tsiartsiani, Greece

**Most Inspirational**

- 1, Shelda Bede, Brazil
- 2, Kerri Walsh, United States
- 3, Misty May-Treanor, United States

**Receiving Votes** - Larissa Franca, Brazil, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil, Maria Tsiartsiani, Greece, Sara Montagnolli, Austria, Natalie Cook, Australia, Laura Ludwig, Germany, Annie Martin, Canada, Sara Goller, Germany, Adriana Behar, Brazil, Okka Rau, Germany, Vasso Karadassiou, Greece, Jia Tian, China

**Rookie of the Year**

- 1, April Ross, United States
- 2, Dana Cooke, Canada
- 3, Cristine "Saka" Santanna, Georgia
- 3, Andrezza "Rtvelo" Martins, Georgia

**Receiving Votes** - Marie Antonelli, Brazil, Maloes Wesselink, Netherlands, Marleen Van Iersel, Netherlands, Diane Pascua, Philippines, Heidi Ilustre, Philippines

**Sportswoman of the Year**

- 1, Misty May-Treanor, USA
- 1, Kerri Walsh, United States
- 3, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil
- 3, Larissa Franca, Brazil
- 3, Vasso Karadassiou, Greece

**Receiving Votes** - Jia Tian, China, Sara Montagnolli, Austria, Natalie Cook, Australia, Okka Rau, Germany, Juliana Felisberta Silva, Brazil, Shelda Bede, Brazil, Tyra Turner, United States, Maria Tsiartsiani, Greece, Annie Martin, Canada, Helke Claasen, Germany

**Best Defensive Player**

- 1, Misty May-Treanor, United States
- 2, Shelda Bede, Brazil
- 3, Larissa Franca, Brazil
- 3, Jia Tian, China

**Receiving Votes** - Vasso Karadassiou, Greece, Okka Rau, Germany, Laura Ludwig, Germany, Shaylyn Bede, Brazil, Annie Martin, Canada, Sara Montagnolli, Austria, Renata Ribeiro, Brazil, Xi Zhang, China, Chen Xue, China

**Best Offensive Player**

- 1, Kerri Walsh, United States
- 1, Misty May-Treanor, United States
- 3, Juliana Felisberta Silva, Brazil
- 3, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil

**Receiving Votes** - Larissa Franca, Brazil, Xi Zhang, China, Jia Tian, China, Nicole Branagh, United States

**Best Blocker**

- 1, Kerri Walsh, United States
- 2, Talita Antunes, Brazil
- 2, Elaine Youngs, United States
- 2, Jie Wang, China

**Receiving Votes** - Juliana Felisberta Silva, Brazil, Xi Zhang, China, Tyra Turner, United States, Liesbeth Mouha, Belgium, Stephanie Pohl, Germany, Virginie Sarpaux, France, Sabine Swoboda, Austria, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil

**Best Setter**

- 1, Larissa Franca, Brazil
- 2, Adriana Behar, Brazil
- 3, Misty May-Treanor, United States
- 3, Vasso Karadassiou, Greece

**Receiving Votes** - Shelda Bede, Brazil, Sara Goller, Germany, Kerri Walsh, United States, Teru Saiki, Japan, Emilia Nystrom, Finland, Jia Tian, China, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil, Natalie Cook, Australia, Laura Ludwig, Germany, Elaine Youngs, United States, Nila Ann Hakedal, Norway

**Best Hitter**

- 1, Kerri Walsh, United States
- 2, Larissa Franca, Brazil
- 3, Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil
- 3, Elaine Youngs, United States

**Receiving Votes** - Juliana Felisberta Silva, Brazil, Inese Jursona, Latvia, Nicole Branagh, United States, Laura Ludwig, Germany, Sara Goller, Germany, Xi Zhang, China, Misty May-Treanor, United States, Jie Wang, China, Maria Tsiartsiani, Greece, Jen Boss, United States, April Ross, United States, Nila Ann Hakedal, Norway, Antje Roder, Germany

## Women's SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Award Winners

### Most Outstanding

2007 - Kerri Walsh, United States  
 2006 - Larissa Franca, Brazil  
 2005 - Misty May-Treanor, United States

### Best Blocker

2007 - Kerri Walsh, United States  
 2006 - Walsh, United States  
 2005 - Walsh, United States

### Best Defensive Player

2007 - Misty May-Treanor, United States  
 2006 - Shelda Bede, Brazil  
 2005 - Shelda, Brazil

### Best Hitter

2007 - Kerri Walsh, United States  
 2006 - Walsh, United States  
 2005 - Walsh, United States

### Best Offensive Player

2007 - Kerri Walsh & Misty May-Treanor, United States  
 2006 - Juliana Felisberta Silva, Brazil  
 2005 - May-Treanor, United States

### Best Server

2007 - Ana Paula Connelly, Brazil  
 2006 - Ana Paula, Brazil  
 2005 - Ana Paula, Brazil  
 2004 - Ana Paula, Brazil  
 2003 - Ana Paula, Brazil

### Best Setter

2007 - Larissa Franca, Brazil  
 2006 - Larissa, Brazil  
 2005 - Misty May-Treanor, United States

### Most Improved Player

2007 - Tamsin Barnett, Australia & Laura Ludwig, Germany  
 2006 - Leila Barros, Brazil  
 2005 - Vassiliki Arvaniti, Greece

### Most Inspirational

2007 - Shelda Bede, Brazil  
 2006 - Shelda, Brazil  
 2005 - Shelda, Brazil

### Sportsperson(s)

2007 - Misty May-Treanor & Kerri Walsh, United States  
 2006 - Kerri Walsh, United States  
 2005 - Walsh, United States

### Team of the Year

2007 - Juliana Felisberta Silva/Larissa Franca, Brazil  
 2006 - Juliana/Larissa, Brazil  
 2005 - Juliana/Larissa, Brazil

### Top Rookie

2007 - April Ross, United States  
 2006 - Chen Xue, China  
 2005 - Talita Antunes, Brazil

## Women's SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Points Champions

Season .....	Team, Country
1992-93.....	Karolyn Kirby/Nancy Reno, United States
1993-94.....	Kirby/Liz Masakayan, United States
1994-95.....	Monica Rodrigues/Adriana Samuel, Brazil
1995-96.....	Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva, Brazil
1996.....	Pires/Silva, Brazil
1997.....	Shelda Bede/Adriana Behar, Brazil
1998.....	Shelda/Adriana, Brazil
1999.....	Shelda/Adriana, Brazil

Season .....	Team, Country
2000.....	Shelda/Adriana, Brazil
2001.....	Shelda/Adriana, Brazil
2002.....	Misty May/Kerri Walsh, United States
2003.....	Ana Paula Connelly/Pires, Brazil
2004.....	Shelda/Adriana, Brazil
2005.....	Juliana Felisberta Silva/Larissa Franca, Brazil
2006.....	Juliana/Larissa, Brazil
2007.....	Juliana/Larissa, Brazil