



## Ricardo & Emanuel complete a Brazilian double

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 22, 2007.- The Brazilian duo of Ricardo Santos and Emanuel Rego added today the only missing gem in their huge collection of medals and trophies: The Pan American Gold.

Ricardo & Emanuel defeated Americans Ty Loomis & Hans Stolfus 21-19, 21-13 in the final match of the Men's Beach Volleyball Tournament of the Pan American Games Rio 2007 played on Sunday before a packed arena in the famous Copacabana Beach.

The Athens Olympic champions now have been crowned four times as monarchs of the FIVB World-Tour in 2003-06 and three times as champions of the Brazilian circuit.

The title obtained by Ricardo & Emanuel confirmed the dominance of Brazil in this modality of volleyball adding their first place to the gold medal attained on Saturday by Juliana Silva & Larissa Franca in the women's tournament.



"It was our most difficult match of the tournament," commented Emanuel. "The American team is young and has a lot of energy. We didn't have an idea of their playing style and it took a while before we found a way to the victory. To win this medal here is a lot different than the Olympic gold."

"I am very proud of being a Brazilian and I want to thank all the people for their support," said Emanuel after the match of 47 minutes.

It wasn't just another day at the beach for the Brazilians as they had to battle hard in the first set. With the match tied at 19, Emanuel Rego made an outstanding defensive play that enabled the hometown favourites to go on to win 21-19.

"It was a controversial play and it was up to the referee to decide, but I am certain that I got the ball up from under the sand," commented Rego, "Then Ricardo made a diagonal serve that caused the USA to lose control of the ball. Ricardo was the hero of our win for that set."

It was smooth sailing from that point on, and Brazil took the second set 21-13 to win the match and the gold medal.

"It was absolutely an honour to play in the final against Brazil," Loomis said. "We wanted to get to the medal round, so today we had nothing to lose. So we were enjoying the moment." Loomis and Stolfus earned their silver medal at the Pan American Games despite only having played just three previous tournaments together this season.

The Cuban pair of Francisco Alvarez and Leonel Munder won the bronze medal by edging the Canada team of Jason Kruger and Wes Montgomery 21-19, 17-21, 15-11.

"This bronze medal is for me as important as a gold one. I want to dedicate it to my family and the Cuban people," said Alvarez.

"The support of the fans was fundamental today because there are not many Cubans in Brazil and we wanted to have the Brazilians in our favour especially after the Canadians won the second set." Canada's Jason Kruger was disappointed with the loss, but noted Cuba's greater experience.

"Cuba played well," he noted, "They have a little more experience in international games than us, but we are going to keep working to reach a higher level."