

MEN – #6 Arnoud Gauthier-Rat / Youssef Krou (FRA)

- FRA finished 28th in Qualifying but France received host bid as well as won a spot in the European Continental Cup held in Latvia (defeated Austria in the finals for the spot)
- FRA has played in 2 World Championships as a team (17th in 2022 and 37th in 2023)
- FRA played 27 events, 4 semifinals, 4 medals (1 gold, 2 silvers, 1 bronze)
 - Career 55-49 (52.9%) FIVB match record and a 28-30 (48.3%) record in 2023-24
 - They are 44-14 (75.9%) when winning the 1st set, with 37 wins by sweeps and 7 in three sets. They are 9-32 (22.0%) when losing the 1st set, with 21 losses by sweeps and 11 in three sets. They are 16-25 in 3rd sets.
- FRA began their partnership in April 2022... in their 1st event together in Brazil, the duo advanced from qualifier and placed 5th (defeated Budinger / Field and Alvaro / Evandro)... in 2022 they played 11 events, finishing 9th or better 9 times including winning the their last outing in an Elite 16 event in Australia
- Entering Paris the duo has won 4 medals, with the bronze coming in France (June 2023 in Futures event in Lille)... in their first 18 events together they had just 3 finishes below 9th, but in their last 9 tournaments they have placed below 9th 7 times
- In the 2023 World Championships in Mexico, the duo went 0-3 in matches, with all 3 going to a 3rd set (and twice FRA won the first set)
- The country of France had a men's Olympic team in each of the first 3 Olympics (1996, 2000 and 2004), but then failed to gain a berth in the last 4 Olympics before this year
- FRA has a 17-25 record against the field... against teams seeded #1-13 in Paris, FRA is a combined 3-19 but against teams seeded #14-24 FRA is 14-6... FRA is 5-2 all time against the other 3 teams in its pool, including a semifinal win in April against Budinger / Evans in China
- This is the 1st Olympics for Gauthier-Rat
 - Gauthier-Rat has played 67 FIVB tournaments prior to Paris... he has played 27 times with Krou (1 gold, 2 silvers, 1 bronze), 24 times with Quincy Aye (1 gold, 2 silvers) and the other 16 events with 3 different partners (1 silver)
 - Gauthier-Rat had success against Americans on the World Tour in 2018 in his first full year... he beat Casey Patterson / Stafford Slick, Miles Evans / Billy Kolinske and Chase Budinger / Sean Rosenthal before losing to John Mayer / Trevor Crabb... in 2019 he beat Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb and in 2021 he beat Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena (25-23 in the 3rd)
 - Both Gauthier-Rat and Krou have partnered with 6'8" Quincy Aye for 20+ times
 - Gauthier-Rat played 1 FIVB event with Remi Bassereau (also a 2024 Olympian), winning a silver medal in a Futures event in Montpellier in September 2023
- This is the 1st Olympics for Krou
 - Krou has played 85 FIVB tournaments prior to Paris... he has played 34 times with Edouard Rowlandson (1 gold, 3 bronzes), 27 times with Gauthier-Rat (1 gold, 2 silvers, 1 bronze), 21 times with Quincy Aye (1 gold, 2 silvers, 1 bronze) and 3 times with Olivier Barthelemy (best of 17th)
 - His first year playing on the FIVB was 2014 and he played in 5 qualifiers (advancing twice)... then in the next 3 events he was seeded directly in the main draw and won a medal each time
 - Krou began playing on the FIVB the week before turning 25... his partner here (Gauthier-Rat) is 27 now and also began playing in 2014 in U-19 World Championships
 - Krou's 2nd FIVB match ever was in a qualifier in Moscow in 2014, losing to Esteban and Marco Grimalt in 3 sets
 - Krou is the 9th oldest player in Paris and is playing in the oldest pool (5 of the 8 players are among the 11 oldest players in Paris)