



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Team Los Angeles' Alex Freire kicks the ball while facing off against Northern California in the Team USA Footvolley qualifying matches on Saturday in Seaside.

Foot: New sport not an official event

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Each rally for points begins after one team serves the ball to the other side by kicking it off of a mound of sand on the backline.

Utilizing different parts of the body to control the ball can set up more strategic returns for teammates, as they dive around the court and try keep the ball in the air. Instead of spikes, like in volleyball, the most tactical hit is called a "shark attack, where a player goes upside down in the air to slam the ball down with their foot.

Footvolley was created in Rio in response to their national sport of soccer being banned on the beaches. Players would kick around a ball until police showed up, and then would start volleying it over the net to stay out of trouble.

Eventually, the game caught on and players started setting up boundaries and creating official rules.

Because of the foot skills and juggling it requires, most footvolley players have a strong background in soccer.

Sergio Menezes, president of the U.S. Footvolley Association and competitor in the weekend tournament, said the organization chose Seaside to show the sport to the Pacific Northwest. "We've never had any competitions or events here before and really wanted to plant the seed," he said.



Fans react during the Team USA Footvolley qualifying final on Sunday in Seaside. Team Miami defeated Team Los Angeles 2-1 and will represent the U.S. Footvolley team as a demonstration sport in Rio.

Teams for the weekend's tournament came from all across America, including places like: Miami, Santa Cruz, California, and even Washington, D.C., but Menezes' plan has already started to take root.

One pair of Oregonians made the trip to Seaside and tried out the sport for their first time. Felyx Tsoi and Matt LaPlant are former club

soccer players at University of Portland. While still involved in beach matches and pickup games, they found out about footvolley only a week before and decided to give it a shot.

"The community was great, but it's tough playing a new sport against some top athletes," said Tsoi.

"Portland is a big soccer city,

but it still has room for the sport to grow," said LaPlant, "We just need more people to get out playing on the beach."

The qualifying match served as the Northwest's first taste of footvolley, but with television coverage and exposure expected from the Olympic hype, the sport is poised to grow.

Road to Rio: Top footvolley qualifiers head to Olympics

The Daily Astorian

Only two female teams competed in the Team USA Footvolley qualifying matches in Seaside, so the players rotated partners and tallied the results for the title of "Queen of the Court." In the end, Melony Poviones of Miami and Leah Morales of Oakland, California, proved to be the best pair and will make the trip across the world for a demonstration event of the sport at the summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Both are former collegiate soccer players but have never played at this level of competition.

"There's really nothing better than getting to travel and continue doing what you love," Poviones said.

Six male pairs faced off over the weekend for the opportunity to represent America in Rio de Janeiro.

While Sergio Menezes serves as president of the U.S. Footvolley Association, he also was on the winning team of the beach battle. His partner, Lucas Roque, is a native to Brazil and has played soccer professionally, as well as with the U.S. indoor team. "I've played many tournaments with big prizes before," Roque said after the tournament. "But this chance ... who doesn't want to play in the Olympics?"

Tsui: Key leader with Music Festival

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to the United States in 1986, earned her university degrees and embarked on a professional career that has taken her around the world.

Clark describes her as "one of the finest violinists in Los Angeles."

"I first met her many years ago when I needed an assistant and she was recommended by Sidney Weiss, concertmaster of the LA Philharmonic.

She had played in the orchestra when I had conducted in LA and was on some of my best-selling recordings."

Clark appreciated her "formidable" violin skills and leadership potential. "I saw her as someone who has a lot to offer," he recalled. "I encouraged her to train as a conductor. Now she has played all over Europe and conducted in Europe."

Tsui's resume lists assignments in Russia, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Mexico, as well as around the United States. She is grateful that Clark boosted her career. "I am a great admirer of Maestro Clark. We have been friends for decades," she laughed, having minutes earlier declined to reveal her age, "and I support everything he is



Submitted Photo

Olivia Tsui will conduct a concert featuring emerging young artists Wednesday, June 29 at the Astoria Masonic Lodge as the Astoria Music Festival completes its 14th season this week. Mentoring young musicians is among the highlights of her professional work, she says

doing to bring great performers from all around the country to the Astoria Music Festival."

Tsui's key appointments included serving as the first female music director of the Glendale Symphony Orchestra, a California post previously held by Clark. As well as classical works, she has conducted modern music at the Hollywood Bowl and elsewhere. She judges young artists' contests and serves as music director of the Silicon Beach Philharmonic and

LA Virtuosi. The City of Los Angeles has honored her for her educational work.

She views it as a mission to help young people embrace music. Recent collaborations have linked music with visual arts or used digital techniques designed to reach youth audiences. "I am trying to bring classical music and art to a new generation, and expose children to great culture," she said.

Clark commends the way Tsui works with the festival's

young musicians and singers in Astoria. "She is extremely articulate in expressing her love and joy of music, and generous in taking as much time as it takes to mentor and inspire the next generation of artists," he said.

Tsui appears coolly in control when she steps up to the podium, usually clad in a white jacket, baton poised to bring a couple of dozen artists together in harmony. But she does feel stress when her two sons take the spotlight.

The boys, aged 7 and 12, both play the piano. And one has shown exceptional promise as a solo singer in Los Angeles.

Some artistic parents steer their children in other directions. Not Tsui. "I couldn't be more pleased," she said, when asked about her boys' musical successes. "It's beyond description." One just sang the title role in the opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

But even for a professional musician, there is a down side to watching them at competitions or auditions with the Los Angeles Opera and LA Philharmonic.

"I have never been so nervous in my life!" Tsui said.

— Patrick Webb

Cape: Design Review hopes for second chance

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The county plans to discontinue the committee again, but this time through a land use process that would include public hearings before the committee, the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners.

"We agreed we will go through the land use process instead of the appeal," Community Development Director Heather Hansen said.

Supporters of the Arch Cape Design Review Committee see the opportunity for public comment at the upcoming hearings as a second chance. The committee is the last active citizens advisory committee in the county and is 39 years old.

For now, the committee is alive and will discuss its future at a meeting July 12. The committee's recommendation will be heard by the Planning Commission later in July. The land use process to dissolve the committee is expected to reach the Board of Commissioners in August.

"Now there is more time for them to try to convince the board to keep them



Lyra Fontaine/The Daily Astorian
The Arch Cape Design Review Committee will get a second chance after it was dissolved by the county earlier this year.

around," Hansen said.

The committee screens all major construction design applications for the unincorporated community of Arch Cape submitted to the county planning office.

County commissioners have heard complaints about the committee from people who wanted to build or sell homes in Arch Cape.

Former committee members and others in the community have argued, however, that the committee is valuable for maintaining the community's livability.

"I feel very strongly that the community should have a say in Arch Cape's development and future," Jensvold said.