



EXPERT BIO

MARIAFE ARTACHO DEL SOLAR

OLYMPIAN & BEACH VOLLEYBALL CHAMPION

WHEN MARIAFE ARTACHO DEL SOLAR WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH A VOLLEYBALL AT THE TENDER AGE OF JUST THREE, SHE SET IN MOTION A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT WOULD TAKE HER ALL THE WAY TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

The beach volleyball champion, currently ranked third in the world, has had a career beyond her wildest dreams, but the true mark of success for her is being able to inspire others to pursue their passions – just as Aussie stars Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook once did for her.

Mariafe spent her early childhood in Lima, Peru, where she would practise digging the ball on the sidelines while her older sister competed in volleyball tournaments. At age 11, the family moved to Australia, where her brother first introduced her to beach volleyball at Manly, Sydney. It was love at first spike.

At age 13, Mariafe became a breakout star, making her international debut at the Under 19 World Championships. She went on to compete in eight world junior representative teams before qualifying for the 2016 Rio Olympics at age 21, and winning a silver medal five years later in Tokyo. That achievement – her career highlight – was the fulfilment of a goal sparked by a postcard signed by Kerri and Natalie that Mariafe had come across in her childhood. From the moment she'd seen the sporting legends' words urging people to chase their dreams, Mariafe had set her sights on becoming an Olympic medallist one day.

Now, she's determined to add to her collection of more than 20 international medals, which also includes two Commonwealth Games silvers (won in Birmingham and the Gold Coast). Not surprisingly, she's been widely tipped to earn another Olympic medal at Paris in 2024 with her teammate Taliqua Clancy.

A strong role model for aspiring athletes, Mariafe is passionate about building resilience and courage in the community. Beach volleyball is a mental game, says Mariafe, and playing in all types of weather conditions (sometimes extreme) has helped build the inner strength, discipline and confidence that she exudes in interviews and public events. And as her name suggests, she always brings a touch of sunshine.

Mariafe has launched a loungewear label called 'del Solar the Label' with her husband Jack, in response to a need for "stylish and comfortable but not daggy" clothing to wear while not competing. Like everything she does, the range reflects Mariafe's core values of being genuine and accessible.

Mariafe is available for media and PR opportunities, corporate hosting and speaking as well as brand partnerships.

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