



2022 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Season Event #10 • Gold Series Event #2

Manhattan Beach, California • August 18–21, 2022

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – The AVP Tour is holding its biggest event of the year in some senses, as there is a lot at stake in the second Gold Series event of 2022 in Manhattan Beach, Calif. This event is the 10th on the 16-tournament schedule that the AVP Tour has this year, and will be the only one that has a 32-team draw. It shares the biggest purse of the year with the other Gold Series events at \$300,000, but it stands alone in that it awards the winners of this longstanding tournament a plaque on the Manhattan Beach Pier, which is generally the pinnacle for most beach volleyball players. As well, this tournament is key for entry into the AVP Championships in Phoenix at the end of September. The season payout totals \$1,975,000 for the AVP, which is in its 39th season.

- The main draw will be a 32-team, double elimination format. For the men 18 teams and for the women 19 teams were granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four events points totals from their last five AVP and AVPNext tournaments). Four teams in each gender earned a spot by being the top finishers in the Tour Series event in Waupaca, Wisconsin July 7-9 and one team from each gender earned a berth based on its best finishes in three CBVA tournaments. Additionally, the men were granted a wildcard to a USAV team, Charlie Siragusa / Wyatt Harrison, as part of a collegiate beach team selection. Manhattan Beach is unique in that it is the only Pro or Gold Series tournament which has an on-site qualifier, which will be a one-day single elimination event on Thursday, August 18. The main draw begins on Friday, August 19 and concludes on Sunday, August 21, and will be played on eight courts at the Manhattan Beach Pier. General admission is free each day while premium seating is available for additional costs. The championship matches will be around 1:00 pm PT for the women and 2:00 pm PT for the men.

- Live streaming of both stadium court and court 1 takes place all three days on the AVP's YouTube channel (@avpbeach). Dain Blanton, Camryn Irwin, Rich Lambourne, Matt Prosser and Mark Schuermann will handle the announcing duties. The finals will be broadcast on a tape-delayed basis on three networks, FS1, Bally Sports regional networks and the Tennis Channel.

MANHATTAN BEACH MAJESTIES– Theo Brunner and Chaim Schalk won in Hermosa Beach, and are now number one (seed) in Manhattan Beach, the third straight event with the top billing. Their partnership on the AVP Tour has been filled with success, as they have been in the semifinals six of their previous seven AVP tournaments and in the championship match four times. Plus, they finished fourth in the World Championships in June, the highest finish by an American tandem in that prestigious event. This marks the fourth time for Brunner with a top seed, the first time was in the 2018 Hermosa Beach Open, which he won with John Hyden. Manhattan Beach will mark the third time ever that Schalk has held the top spot going into an AVP tournament. This year Brunner and Schalk have played 24 matches (18-6 record) entering Manhattan Beach, with 14 of those matches coming against teams seeded eighth or better. Brunner was second place in Manhattan Beach in 2014 with Todd Rogers, one of four semifinal appearances he has had in Manhattan Beach, including last year when Brunner and Schalk were third here.

- Just like the men, the top seeded women's team also won in Hermosa Beach. Terese Cannon and Sarah Sponcil played a pair of events in 2018, then reunited this season, finishing fifth in Austin, winning in Hermosa Beach, placed ninth in Fort Lauderdale and finished second last event in Atlanta. The duo was also seeded first in Hermosa Beach, which was the first time Cannon had ever been seeded first, Fort Lauderdale and Atlanta. Atlanta marks the fifth time being number one for Sponcil (also in Seattle 2019 with Kelly Cheng, finished third). In that 2019 Seattle event, Sponcil became the third youngest woman to ever hold the top seed on the AVP Tour (behind Summer Ross and Kelly Cheng), as she was two months from turning 23 years old at the time. In their AVP partnership, they have played 28 matches entering Manhattan Beach, and are a perfect 19-0 when winning the first set. Six of their nine match losses have come to teams seeded fifth or higher in the tournament. Both of these players have been in the semifinals in the last two Manhattan Beach Opens, with Cannon placing third alongside Kelly Reeves in 2019 and Sponcil finishing third with Kelly Cheng last year.

DIVERSIFICATION – There have been five Pro and Gold Series events thus far, and a different team has won each time on both the men's and women's side. Phil Dalhausser has been on the winning team twice. Including the Tour Series, eight different men's teams have won the nine titles (Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez won twice), and Andy Benesh has won both a Pro Series title as well as a Tour Series event. On the women's side Larissa and Lili Maestrini have won three Tour Series titles, with the other six titles going to six different teams.

CENTURY MARK – With 10 men's teams signed up, this marks the biggest draw since 2019. This marks the 35th time in AVP history that a tournament had at least 100 teams, with all but one of those being on the men's side. As well, this weekend will be the 10th time in Manhattan Beach history that at least 100 teams will battle for a spot on the pier (also each year from 2003 through 2007, 2009, 2017, 2018 and 2019).

SCHEDULE SNAPSHOT – The 2022 AVP schedule looks vastly different than years past in several regards. This season's slate has 16 tour stops, the most the AVP has had since 2009 (also 16 that year), and more than the past 3 years combined. While there have been several years with more men's events, the 16 women's tournaments has been surpassed just twice (18 in both 2007 and 2008). The 12 different states that the Tour is visiting is the most since the 2008 season (also 12 different states). Two tournaments will be held in November plus one in December, which marks a first for the AVP Tour, as previously October was the latest that an event has ever been held up to this point. Three locations are slated to have night sessions (New Orleans, Atlanta, and Phoenix). The combined total of \$1,975,000 in prize money also features the most the Tour has distributed since 2009. This season the AVP has stopped using freeze scoring on match points.

- The Tour is divided into four different classifications. One level is the Tour Series, which comprises seven different events in seven different states from June to November. These events will all have on-site qualifiers the day before the main draw begins. The Pro Series has five events from May through December. Unlike in years past, these tournaments will not have an on-site qualifier. Instead, the first two events will use AVPNext tournaments to round out the field, while the last three will rely on specific Tour Series tournaments to determine the final teams. The Gold Series, with three events, will be held in August and September. Each of the three will have a different manner of qualifying. Atlanta will use a Tour Series event, Manhattan Beach will have an on-site qualifier the day before, and Chicago will use an AVPNext tournament. The last type of event is the AVP championships, which will be held in Phoenix in September. Entry for the six-team draws will be based on the best two out of the three results in Gold Series events.

2022 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$ - TV
May 6 - 8	Austin, Texas	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Andy Benesh gets first career win (with Phil Dalhausser); Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss collect 2nd career win</i>		
May 27 - 29	New Orleans, Louisiana	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Phil Dalhausser / Casey Patterson win in their first event together; Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint win in hostile territory</i>		
June 10 - 12	Muskegon, Michigan	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez win; Larissa Maestrini (with Lili Maestrini) gets first AVP win since 2009</i>		
July 1 - 3	Denver, Colorado	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Andy Benesh wins again (with Miles Evans) while Larissa and Lili Maestrini get second consecutive title</i>		
July 7 - 9	Oshkosh, Wisconsin	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez duplicate their feat in Muskegon; Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary both first time winners</i>		
July 8 - 10	Hermosa Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk win long 3-set title match; Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil both first time winners</i>		
July 22 - 24	Atlantic City, New Jersey	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Cody Caldwell and 40-year old David Lee win; 40-year old Larissa Maestrini and Lili Maestrini win for 3rd time</i>		
July 29 - 31	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb go 10-0 in sets; Tina Graudina wins in her 2nd AVP event ever with Hailey Harward</i>		
Aug 5 - 7	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$300,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Four 1st time winners (Paul Lotman, Miles Partain, Julia Scoles, Geena Urango) after lightning forces modification</i>		
Aug 18 - 21	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$300,000–FS1, Bally's, Tennis Ch.
	<i>Biggest event on the schedule in terms of both main draw and qualifier sizes; Gold Series event #2</i>		
Aug 26 - 28	Virginia Beach, Virginia	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Just the second time since 2002 that the AVP has a tournament in Virginia (along with 2010 in Virginia Beach)</i>		
Sep 2 - 4	Chicago, Illinois	16-team double elimination	\$300,000–FS1, Bally's, Tennis Ch.
	<i>Chicago trails only Manhattan Beach on list of most frequented stops in AVP history; Gold Series event #3</i>		
Sep 23 - 24	Phoenix, Arizona	6-team double elimination	\$100,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN
	<i>Only invitational on schedule; AVP last played in Arizona in 2009; inaugural AVP event in 1984 was in Arizona</i>		
Nov 11 - 13	Huntington Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Huntington Beach is fourth most frequented stop in AVP history; third California stop on 2022 Tour</i>		
Nov 18 - 20	Clearwater, Florida	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
	<i>Florida held second most AVP events behind California</i>		
Dec 2 - 4	Tavares, Florida	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
	<i>Latest date an AVP tournament has ever been held; replaces Atlantic City event scheduled for September</i>		

MANHATTAN BEACH HISTORY – There are tournaments in Manhattan Beach, and then there are the Manhattan Beach Opens. In addition to Manhattan Beach Opens listed below, there have been other tournaments held there as well. 2022 will mark the 64th men's event held there, (60th Manhattan Beach Open) and the 53rd women's tournament (54th Manhattan Beach Open). Under the AVP umbrella, there have been 33 men's and 19 women's Manhattan Beach Opens. No other city in the U.S. has hosted more professional beach volleyball events. On the men's side, of the last 14 teams to win there are players from 12 of those teams who are competing this weekend, but last year's winners (Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb) are the only team here which has previously won. Additionally, the other individuals beside Bourne and Crabb who have previously earned a plaque who are competing this weekend include Phil Dalhausser, John Hyden and Casey Patterson. The women do not have any teams competing in 2022 which have previously won an MBO title together, and the only players here who already have a place on the pier are Emily Day and Sarah Pavan.

- There have been 40 unique men's teams which have won an Open, with nine of them winning multiple times led by five each by Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara (the first five in a row) and Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland. Karch Kiraly played in 16 Opens and has eight titles, the most of any player, going undefeated in title matches (8-0). He advanced to the Final Four in 12 of those 16 tournneys, and his titles came with five different partners. In 2018 Phil Dalhausser won his seventh MBO title, having done so with three different partners. Six men's players have won five times. Several players have had the unique experience of getting their first career win at a Manhattan Beach Open, including Fred Zeulich (1973), Chris Marlowe (1976), Steve Obradovich (1976), Randy Stoklos (1981), Ricci Luyties (1988), Mike Lambert (2004), Trevor Crabb (2019) and Reid Priddy (2019). In 1976, the most notable was not just the team that won (Marlowe and Obradovich), but also a team that didn't (Greg Lee / Jim Menges). Until that tournament, Lee and Menges had won a record 14 consecutive tournaments that they entered as partners (although during that stretch Lee played three other tournaments with different partners). Jose Loiola's win in 2000 marked his 50th career win. Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers won for three consecutive years in Manhattan Beach in 2006-2008, becoming the first repeat winners since Kiraly and Kent Steffes won three straight times in 1991-1993, and are just the fourth team to win at least three straight. In the last 40 Manhattan Beach Opens (since 1979), the winning team has featured at least one Olympic beach volleyball competitor in all but six years (and three of those years had an indoor Olympian on the winning team). A total of 49 winners (of the 79) in that span had experience in Olympic beach volleyball, and 30 times that player had won an Olympic medal.

- On the women's side, 37 different partnerships have earned a plaque on the pier. Like the men, nine different teams have won multiple titles, and Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings lead the pack with five Manhattan Beach Open titles, followed by Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies with four. The players who won their first career title in a Manhattan Beach Open include Roseann Wegrich (1970), Rose Duncan (1971), Susie Malpee (1971), Kathy Gregory (1972), Nina Matthies (1972) and Brittany Hochevar (2016). A total of 45 different women have won a title. Kathy Gregory holds the record with eight titles, followed by Nina Matthies and Kerri Walsh Jennings with seven each. Following those two are five players with five wins. While Liz Masakayan won her 20th career title in Manhattan Beach in 1993, it was not a Manhattan Beach Open. However, both Barbra Fontana (2001) and Misty May-Treanor (2003) recorded their 20th career victories with a Manhattan Beach Open win, but the most notable achievement was in 2004, when Holly McPeak made history with her record-breaking 68th career title in her hometown. That also marked the first time in an AVP event that May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings did not win, as they had won each of the previous 12 AVP tournaments they played together in their history. In 2008 May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings won for the fourth straight time, surpassing the record set by the team that won the first three Manhattan Beach Opens; Jean Brunnicardi and Johnette Latreille in 1966-68. Elaine Youngs played in the championship match in each event between 2001 and 2007, advancing to the title game with five different partners in that time, and won again in 2009. April Ross has won four of the past seven Manhattan Beach Opens, and has done so with three different partners but is not competing this year. Listed below are Manhattan Beach Opens (both AVP and non-AVP events):

MEN			
Year	1st	2nd	3rd / 4th
1960	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Higer / Gene Selznick	
1961	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Higer / Gene Selznick	
1962	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Ron Lang / Gene Selznick	
1963	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Colbert / Pete Hogan	
1964	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Rand Carter / Ron Von Hagen	
1965	Ron Lang / Gene Selznick	Rand Carter / Ron Von Hagen	
1966	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Keith Erickson / Gene Selznick
1967	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Bill Leeka / Bob Vogelsang	Spike Boarts / Bob Smith Mike O'Hara / Gene Pflueger
1968	Henry Bergman / Larry Rundle	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Bright / Butch May
1969	John Vallely / Ron Von Hagen	Henry Bergman / Larry Rundle	
1970	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen	John Gonzales / Mitch Malpee	Bob Clem / Ron Lang
1971	Bob Clem / Larry Rundle	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen	Buzz Swartz / Toshi Toyota John Gonzales / Mitch Malpee
1972	Matt Gage / Buzz Swartz	Bob Clem / Larry Rundle	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen Greg Lee / Jon Lee
1973	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich	Matt Gage / Ron Von Hagen	Doug Dunlap / Kirk Kilgour Bob Clem / Greg Lee
1974	Tom Chamales / Ron Von Hagen	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich Matt Gage / Buzz Swartz

MEN (cont'd)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1975	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Tom Chamales / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Carey / Dennis Hare	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich
1976	Chris Marlowe/Steve Obradovich	Mike Carey / Bob Jackson		
1977	Chris Marlowe / Jim Menges	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Matt Gage / Fred Zeulich	Fred Sturm / Buzz Swartz
1978	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Andy Fishburn / Fred Sturm	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Matt Gage / Dane Selznick
1979	Jim Menges / Sinjin Smith	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Chris Marlowe / Fred Sturm
1980	Karch Kiraly / Sinjin Smith	Matt Gage / Jim Menges	Steve Obradovich / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick
1981	Jim Menges / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Jon Stevenson / Tim Walmer
1982	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich
1983	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Jay Hanseth / Tim Walmer
1984	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Jay Hanseth	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1985	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Scott Ayakatubby / Brent Frohoff	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1986	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andrew Smith / Jon Stevenson	Robert Chavez / Jay Hanseth	Scott Ayakatubby / Brent Frohoff
1987	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Andy Fishburn / Todd Schaefer	Kevin Cleary / Brent Frohoff
1988	Karch Kiraly / Ricci Luyties	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Dana Fitzgerald / Eugene LeDuff	Bob Ctvrtlik / Steve Timmons
1989	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Craig Moothart / Steve Obradovich
1990	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Al Janc / Tim Walmer
1991	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Scott Ayakatubby / Steve Timmons	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Ricci Luyties
1992	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Brian Lewis / Craig Moothart	Bruk Vandeweghe / Dan Vrebalovich
1993	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Adam Johnson / Bruk Vandeweghe	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Brian Lewis / Steve Timmons
1994	Adam Johnson / Randy Stoklos	Bill Boullianne / Brian Lewis	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola	Brent Frohoff / Ricci Luyties
1995	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Scott Ayakatubby / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes
1996	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Scott Ayakatubby / Brian Lewis
1998	Pepe Delahoz / Sean Scott			
1999	David Swatik / Mike Whitmarsh	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Dain Blanton / Eric Fonoimoana
2000	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers
2001	Stein Metzger / Kevin Wong	Eric Fonoimoana / Rob Heidger	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers
2002	Eric Fonoimoana / Dax Holdren	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	[3rd] Brent Doble / Karch Kiraly
2003	Eric Fonoimoana / Kevin Wong	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh
2004	Karch Kiraly / Mike Lambert	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	Dain Blanton / Jeff Nygaard	[3rd] Eric Fonoimoana / Kevin Wong
2005	Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Sean Rosenthal / Larry Witt	[3rd] Dax Holdren / Jeff Nygaard
2006	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	Dax Holdren / Sean Scott	[3rd] John Hyden / Jeff Nygaard
2007	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Dax Holdren / Sean Scott	Anthony Medel / Fred Souza	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal
2008	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Nick Lucena / Sean Scott	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Matt Olson / Kevin Wong
2009	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	Matt Olson / Kevin Wong	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	[3rd] Brad Keenan / Nick Lucena
2011	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Billy Allen / Brad Keenan	John Mayer / Matt Prosser	[3rd] Ryan Mariano / Ed Rattledge
2012	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Ryan Doherty / Casey Patterson	Matt Fuerbringer / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Billy Allen / Matt Prosser
2013	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Ryan Doherty / Todd Rogers
2014	Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal	Theo Brunner / Todd Rogers	Brad Keenan / John Mayer	[3rd] Tri Bourne / John Hyden
2015	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2016	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2017	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal	Theo Brunner / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Reid Priddy / Ricardo Santos
2018	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Jeremy Casebeer / Reid Priddy	[3rd] Theo Brunner / John Hyden
2019	Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Eric Beranek / Billy Kolinske
2021	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk	[3rd] Billy Allen / Andy Benesh

WOMEN

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1966	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1967	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1968	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1969	Kathy Gregory / Laurie Lewis			
1970	Christie Hahn / Roseann Wegrich			
1971	Rose Duncan / Susie Malpee			
1972	Kathy Gregory / Nina Matthies			
1973	Rose Duncan / Kathy Gregory	Cathy Hahn / Nina Matthies	Sheri Caldwell / Sandy Malpee	
1974	Rose Duncan / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Christie Hahn / Roseann Wegrich	Ginny Fitzgerald / Sandy Malpee
1975	Nina Matthies / Miki McFadden	Kathy Gregory / Roseann Wegrich	Georjean Garvey / Hillary Johnson	Debbie Fonoimoana / Claire McCarty
1976	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones	Eileen Clancy / Georjean Garvey	Kathy Hanley / Ann McCampbell

WOMEN (cont'd)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1977	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Rose Duncan / Jill Durkee	Ann Cunningham / Mary Machado	Kathy Hanley / Maya Thiene
1978	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Eileen Clancy / Barbara May	Nancy Cohen / Susie Jones	Susan Schwartz / Bonnie Toth
1979	Nancy Cohen / Kathy Gregory	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Eileen Clancy / Barbara May	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones
1980	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Hanley / Ann McCampbell	Linda Chisholm / Rhonda Stoklos	Ann Cunningham / Anne Hansen
1981	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Beth Rogers / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Kathy Gregory / Kathy Hanley	Hillary Johnson / Sharkie Zartman
1982	Kathy Gregory / Diane Sebastian	Torrie Dorrell / Dale Keough	Darlene Bailey/Lou Ann Terheggen	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones
1983	Kathy Gregory / Kathy Hanley	Cindy Cochran / Anna Prousalis	Nina Matthies / Julie Thornton	Bev Lidyoff / Liz Masakayan
1984	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis	Jeanne Goldsmith / Kathy Gregory	Torrie Dorrell / Dale Keough
1985	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis	Mary Diamond / Julie Thornton	Darlene Bailey / Gail Castro Kehl	Patty Dodd / Lizz Masakayan
1986	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Linda Chisholm / Heather Hafner	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis
1987	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Gail Castro Kehl / Heather Hafner
1987	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Patty Dodd / Dale Hall
1988	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Janice Harrer / Elaine Roque	Patty Dodd / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Gail Castro Kehl / Lori Forsythe
1989	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque	Linda Chisholm / Janice Harrer	Mary Jo Peppler/Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1989	Linda Chisholm / Janice Harrer	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Dale Hall / Carolyn Kirby	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque
1990	Karolyn Kirby / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Linda Halney	Janice Harrer / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque
1991	Karolyn Kirby / Angela Rock	Linda Chisholm / Liz Masakayan	Gail Castro / Lori Forsythe	Janice Harrer / Elaine Roque
1992	Marla O'Hara / Dennis Shupryt-Knoop	Marie Andersson / Alison Johnson	Charlotte Roach / Gayle Stammer	Heather Hafner / Shannon Millen
1992	Karolyn Kirby / Nancy Reno	Angela Rock / Jackie Silva	Patty Dodd / Elaine Roque	Alison Johnson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1993	Cammy Ciarelli / Holly McPeak	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock	Rita Crockett Royster / Linda Hanley	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva
1993	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Gail Castro Kehl / Elaine Roque	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsythe	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1994	Linda Chisholm / Linda Hanley	Cammy Ciarelli / Holly McPeak	Sandra Pires / Jackie Silva	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock
1994	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsyth	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop	Monique Oliver / Gayle Stammer
2001	Barbra Fontana / Elaine Youngs	Lisa Arce / Holly McPeak	Jennifer Meredith/Wendy Stammer	Dianne DeNecochea / Liz Masakayan
2002	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Carrie Dodd / Leanne McSorley	[3rd] Lisa Arce / Linda Hanley
2003	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Dianne DeNecochea/Nancy Mason	[3rd] Carrie Dodd / Leanne McSorley
2004	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	[3rd] Carrie Dodd / Nancy Mason
2005	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Rachel Wacholder / Elaine Youngs	Jennifer Kessy / Holly McPeak	[3rd] Tyra Turner / Makare Wilson
2006	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Nancy Mason / Elaine Youngs	Dianne DeNecochea/Tammy Leibl	[3rd] Nicole Branagh / Holly McPeak
2007	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Tyra Turner / Rachel Wacholder
2008	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs
2009	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Brooke Niles / Lisa Rutledge	[3rd] Priscilla Lima / Tatiana Minello
2011	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Jennifer Fopma / Tracy Jones	Kristen Batt / Brooke Sweat	[3rd] Emily Day / Heather Hughes
2012	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	Nicole Branagh / Brittany Hochevar	[3rd] Lauren Fendrick / Rachel Scott
2013	Whitney Pavlik/Kerri Walsh Jennings	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	Lauren Fendrick / Brittany Hochevar	[3rd] Jennifer Kessy / April Ross
2014	April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings	Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat	Emily Day / Summer Ross	[3rd] Lane Carico / Kim DiCello
2015	Jennifer Fopma / April Ross	Nicole Branagh / Jenny Kropp	Emily Day / Jennifer Kessy	[3rd] Lane Carico / Summer Ross
2016	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Lane Carico / Summer Ross	Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten	[3rd] Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat
2017	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross	[3rd] Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes
2018	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar	Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman	[3rd] Emily Day / Betsi Flint
2019	Melissa Humana-Paredes/Sarah Pavan	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson	[3rd] Terese Canon / Kelly Reeves
2021	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Emily Day / Betsi Flint	Larissa Meastrini / Lili Maestrini	[3rd] Kelly Cheng / Sarah Sponcil

MANHATTAN BEACH SAND BITS – Out of the 200 men's players competing, seven players have yet to turn 21 (of the ages known), with the youngest being 17-year old Zephyr Dew, and among the 20-year olds is Miles Partain, the winner in Atlanta. There are 20 players who are at least 40 years old, with the oldest being 63-year old Kevin Cleary. Only 10 players here were alive in 1978 when Cleary made his pro beach volleyball debut. The next oldest are 50-year old David Smith and a pair of 49-year olds (John Hyden and Robert Lorch). Alex Amylon (5'8"), Tal Shavit and David Vander Meer (both 5'9") are the shortest players here (of the heights known) while four players stand 6'9" (Andy Benesh, Phil Dalhausser, Charlie Siragusa and Curt Toppel) and seven others are 6'7". A total of 23 players are making their pro beach volleyball debuts, while four have played in at least 200 events (Phil Dalhausser, John Hyden, Adam Roberts and Casey Patterson). Three of those four players also are among the leaders in tournaments won, as Dalhausser has won 61 AVP titles, Casey Patterson 18 and John Hyden 13. As for partnerships, 50 of the 100 are playing together for the first time, and just three partnerships have competed at least 15 times prior to Manhattan Beach (led by Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb and Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk). There are four teams here which have won on the AVP Tour previously, and all have won this season: Bourne and Crabb have won three AVP titles, Brunner / Schalk one, Paul Lotman / Miles Partain one, Andy Benesh / Miles Evans one Tour Series.

MANHATTAN BEACH SAND BITS cont'd –

• Of the ages known, there are six teenagers plus two 20-year olds in the field of 134 women with the youngest being 17-year old Ashley Pater and a pair of 18-year olds (Sophie Moore and Savannah Standage). The two oldest players are 40-year old Larissa Maestrini and 40-year old Lauren Fendrick. Katie Lindstrom and Jade Race (both 5'4"), and Lisa Reed and Katie Spieler (both 5'5") are the shortest competitors of the heights known, while at the other end of the spectrum Sarah Pavan at 6'5" and are five 6'4" players. There are 11 players who are making their pro beach volleyball debuts, while two women's players have played more than 200 events previously (Lauren Fendrick and Emily Day). Larissa Maestrini is the all-time FIVB wins leader (62) and has the most AVP wins in 2022 of any player here (three, along with Lili Maestrini). Emily Day, with nine AVP victories, leads the pack, and Betsi Flint has six. Of the 67 women's tandems, 29 of the teams are playing alongside each other for the first time and just two other tandems have played more than 15 times prior to Manhattan Beach (Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten and Audrey Nourse / Nicole Nourse). There are seven different women's teams who have won a title on the AVP Tour this season (including Tour Series), and six of them are competing here (only Tina Gaudina / Hailey Harward, who won in Fort Lauderdale). The only other team competing here who has previously won an AVP Tour is Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten, who won in New Orleans 2016.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING – Larissa and Lili Maestrini, who are partners on the court, are married. Jeremy Casebeer and Maria Clara Salgado are married. Billy and Kelley Kolinske are also a married couple competing here. Piotr and Karolina Marciniak are a married couple who are both competing here. Travis and Delaney Mewhirter are a married couple who are both playing here. Connor and Sara Hughes are siblings who are competing in different genders. David and Vitaly Aspidov are brothers who are competing together. Chase and Duncan Budinger are brothers playing on separate teams. Taylor and Trevor Crabb, who are brothers and former partners, are now on separate teams. Ian and Sean Carlson are brothers who are on separate teams. Ric and Shane Cervantes are brothers who play on separate teams. Blake and Thatcher Fahlbusch are brothers competing together. Charles Porter and Clark Porter Jr. are brothers who are on the same team. Brenden and Taylor Sander are brothers on different teams. Ben and Matt Shassol are twin brothers who are on the same team. Chloe and MacKenzie Kleespies are sisters who are playing together in Manhattan Beach. Audrey and Nicole Nourse are twin sisters who are playing on the same team. Abby and Tessa Van Winkle are sisters who are playing on different teams.

GOLD SERIES HISTORY – The AVP Tour introduced the Gold Series in 2017. Each season, with the exception of 2020, there have been three events which have comprised the Gold Series, and to date a total of 13 tournaments have been held. Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena have won four times while the women's team leader is Alix Kleinman / April Ross, with six titles. Individually, Ross has won seven times to lead all players. On the men's side, there have been 12 different individuals win a Gold Series event, and every team to have won has included at least one Olympian (beach or indoors). On the women's side there have been 14 different players to claim a title, with April Ross, Alix Klineman, and Sarah Hughes (two titles) the only players to have won more than once. In Manhattan Beach there are four teams playing, two in each gender, that have previously won a Gold Series event (Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb and Paul Lotman / Miles Partain on the men's side and Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Julia Scoles / Geena Urango on the women's side).

Date	Location	Men's Winners	Women's Winners
6/11/17	New York City	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross
8/20/17	Manhattan Beach	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar
9/3/17	Chicago	Ryan Doherty / John Hyden	Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes
6/10/18	New York City	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Sara Hughes / Summer Ross
8/19/18	Manhattan Beach	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Alix Klineman / April Ross
9/2/18	Chicago	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
6/9/19	New York City	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/18/19	Manhattan Beach	Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy	Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan
9/1/19	Chicago	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/15/21	Atlanta	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss
8/22/21	Manhattan Beach	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
9/5/21	Chicago	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/7/21	Atlanta	Paul Lotman / Miles Partain	Julia Scoles / Geena Urango

AVP STANDS FOR ALL VAN PLAYERS – Manhattan Beach seems to have a bunch of Van players competing. Teegan Van Gunst, who has a twin sister that is not competing here, is the only one already in the main draw. Van Gunst finished second with Aurora Davis in the Tour Series event in Atlantic City. Sisters Abby Van Winkle, who has the second most match wins in UCLA history, and Tessa Van Winkle, who just completed her first year on UCLA's beach team, will be competing her but on different teams. Kendra VanZwieten, who comes from a big volleyball family and who won an AVP event in 2016, is one of the qualifier teams favored to advance to the main draw. Torrey Van Winden, who ranked sixth in the nation in kills per set while playing both indoor and beach volleyball, is in the qualifier despite a ninth-place finish in Atlanta last event. Brooke Van Sickle will be making her pro beach volleyball debut after becoming just the second player in the University of Hawai'i history to earn All-America honors in both indoor and beach volleyball in the same year. David Vander Meer, whose father David is a ref this weekend, will be in the qualifier.

2022 QUALIFIER LIST – In on-site qualifiers for both the men and women, all top-seeded qualifier teams have advanced to the main draw. So far three men's and two women's qualifier teams have been one match win away from reaching the semifinals. Here's a look at the teams who have qualified this season and how they finished in the main draw:

AUSTIN - Men (qualifier in Panama City, Fla.)

Caleb Kwekel / Marty Lorenz (2nd in QT) – 13th

Mark Burik / Dave Palm (3rd in QT) – 13th

Raffe Paulis / Jeff Samuels (5th in QT) – 13th

Lev Priima / Silila Tucker (5th in QT) – 13th

Burik replaced by Roberto Rodriguez in MD

NEW ORLEANS - Men (qualifier in San Antonio, Texas)

Noah Dyer / Chase Frishman (2nd in QT) – 7th

Skylar del Sol / Andrew Dentler (3rd in QT) – 5th

Lev Priima / Silila Tucker (3rd in QT) – 13th

Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez (5th in QT) – 13th

Cody Caldwell / Adam Roberts (5th in QT) – 13th

Caldwell / Roberts replaced a MD team

MUSKEGON - Men (on-site qualifier)

Kyle Friend / Brandon Joyner (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Christian Honer / David Vander Meer (#3) – 17th

TJ Jurko / Dylan Zacca (#4) – 9th

Nolan Albrecht / Tomas Goldsmith (#6) – 17th

Devon Bruki / John Schwengel (#7) – 17th

Bradley Connors / Brett Greiner (#8) – 13th

Mark Bucknam / Jake Fleming (#12) – 17th

Frank Field / Tyler Penberthy (#15) – 17th

Jurko / Zacca 2 MD losses were to #1, #3 seeds

DENVER - Men (on-site qualifier)

Travis Mewhirter / John-Michael Plummer (#1 QT seed) – 5th

Caleb Kwekel / Max Martin (#2) – 17th

Brian Miller / Raffe Paulis (#4) – 17th

Angel Dache / Alex Diaz (#5) – 17th

TJ Jurko / Dylan Zacca (#7) – 17th

Gage Basey / Lars Basey (#14) – 17th

Jeffrey Houghton / Trenton Sellers (#22) – 17th

Jordan Hoppe / Diego Perez (#41) – 9th

2nd time since 2015 a seed 41st or lower advanced

WAUPACA - Men (on-site qualifier)

Devon Burki / John Schwengel (#1 QT seed) – 17th

Gage Basey / Ryan Smith (#4) – 13th

Nolan Albrecht / Kevin Knight (#5) – 9th

Kevin Coyle / Daniel Leathers (#8) – 13th

Lars Basey / Ian Carlson (#10) – 17th

Zephyr Dew / Kacey Losik (#15) – 9th

Jordan Hoppe / Diego Perez (#19) – 17th

Guille Jimenez / Tyler Penberthy (#27) – 5th

Basey brothers split but still both qualified

ATLANTIC CITY - Men (on-site qualifier)

Michael Groselle / Nathan Yang (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Max Martin / Dylan Zacca (#2) – 9th

Bradley Connors / Brett Greiner (#5) – 13th

Nolan Albrecht / Tomas Goldsmith (#6) – 17th

Guille Jimenez / Tyler Penberthy (#8) – 17th

Nathaniel Miller / Garrett Peterson (#10) – 17th

Christian Honer / Ben Vaught (#13) – 17th

Spencer Loch / Alex Ukkelberg (#14) – 17th

Just 2 of 26 QT matches went to a third set

AUSTIN - Women (qualifier in Panama City, Fla.)

Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary (2nd in QT) – 13th

Jessica Gaffney / Molly Turner (3rd in QT) – 9th

Toni Rodriguez / Savvy Simo (3rd in QT) – 7th

Aurora Davis / Teegan Van Gunst (5th in QT) – 9th

Carly Skjodt / Geena Urango (5th in QT) – 9th

Skjodt / Urango replaced a MD team

NEW ORLEANS - Women (qualifier in San Antonio)

Jessica Gaffney / Molly Turner (1st in QT) – 9th

Toni Rodriguez / Savvy Simo (3rd in QT) – 5th

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton (3rd in QT) – 9th

Mackenzie Ponnet / Chelsea Rice (5th in QT) – 9th

Macy Jerger / Abby Van Winkle (5th in QT) – 13th

Megan Gebhard / Kahlee York (5th in QT) – 13th

Last 2 teams replaced MD teams

MUSKEGON - Women (on-site qualifier)

Ashley McGinn / Sarah Wood (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Makenzie Griffin / Eunyce Vercosa (#2) – 17th

Tambre Nobles / Melissa Powell (#3) – 17th

Jenna Johnson / Raelyn White (#5) – 13th

Kaeli Crews / Lexie Hamilton (#7) – 17th

Denise De Vine / Anna Dunbar (#9) – 17th

Kylie Bryan / Jessica Jendryk (#11) – 17th

Kylie Deberg / Kahlee York (#13) – 17th

14-year old Wood youngest to ever qualify

DENVER - Women (on-site qualifier)

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Tiffany Creamer / Megan Gebhard (#2) – 17th

Josephine Kremer / Payton Rund (#5) – 17th

Iya Lindahl / Tessa Van Winkle (#6) – 17th

Olivia Beyer / Maria Kliefoth (#9) – 17th

Kaylie McHugh / Kristi Tekavec (#14) – 17th

Charlie Ekstrom / Amy Ozee (#20) – 17th

Taylor Nutterfield / Avery Poppinga (#23) – 13th

Two teams seeded 20th or lower advance for the first time since Manhattan Beach 2019

WAUPACA - Women (on-site qualifier)

Denise De Vine / Angela Rego (#1 QT seed) – 17th

Kelly Bryan / Jessica Jendryk (#2) – 13th

Sarah Senft / Hannah Wentland (#3) – 17th

Kristein Heldt / Jessica Horwath (#4) – 17th

Julia Borges / Ainsley Patrick (#5) – 17th

Amy Ozee / Maria Whalen (#6) – 5th

Kaeli Crews / Abbie Hughes (#7) – 7th

Parker Bracken / Hannah Brister (#9) – 17th

The top 5 QT seeds did not have to play in QT

ATLANTIC CITY - Women (on-site qualifier)

Tiffany Creamer / Kristi Tekavec (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Kathryn Hogan / Bree Scarbrough (#2) – 17th

Heather Friesen / Agniesszka Pregowska (#3) – 17th

Iya Lindahl / Tessa Van Winkle (#4) – 13th

Amy Ozee / Mariah Whalen (#5) – 7th

Julia Colina / Regan McGuire (#6) – 17th

Tambre Nobles / Eunyce Vercosa (#9) – 17th

Avery Poppinga / Sara Putt (#10) – 17th

Just 1 of the 20 QT matches went to a third set

AUSTIN ANALYSIS – The first day of the AVP season opener in Austin was a bit of a surprise, as despite the numerous new pairings all 24 matches between the two genders were all won by the teams with the better seedings. There was quite the divergence in the two genders' winning teams though. On the women's side, Taryn Kloth and 5'6" Kristen Nuss won (who last year became the shortest women's player to win an AVP event since 5'6" Barbra Fontana won an AVP event in August 2001 in Manhattan Beach). On the men's side, the first domestic team ever to play in which both players were at least 6'9" tall paired up for the first time and won the title (Andy Benesh and Phil Dalhausser).

- Especially with the start to the tournament which saw no upsets on Friday, and with #1 seeds winning five of the prior six AVP events, it seemed quite likely that top-seeded Melissa Humana-Paredes and Sarah Pavan were on course to winning in Austin. The pair lost just one set in reaching the title match, and would face Kloth and Nuss, who were playing their third match of the day in the Texas heat, which saw the heat index over 100 degrees. The youngsters took an 18-13 lead before the Canadian pair closed the gap to 20-18, but Kloth and Nuss prevailed 21-18. In the second set Kloth and Nuss scored five straight points early and cruised to a 21-13 win for their second career victory.

- The top four men's seeds advanced to the semifinals for the first time since Austin 2017 (since then the AVP had 29 tournaments without that happening). Benesh and Dalhausser lost just two sets en route to winning the title, the first ever for Benesh. Dalhausser won an AVP season opener for the ninth time in his career (most ever by any player) and got his 60th career AVP title. And his success in Texas continued, as he has won seven of the nine times he has played an AVP event in Texas, with a 42-4 match record (winning 38 of the last 39). Chase Budinger and Troy Field, also a team playing together for the first time, had swept all four opponents leading up to the championship match. In the first set of the title match, Budinger and Field held a 19-17 lead, but Benesh had one block and Dalhausser had a pair of blocks in closing out the set on a 4-0 run.

#6 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss def. #1 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan 21-18, 21-13 (:42)

#1 Andy Benesh / Phil Dalhausser def. #4 Chase Budinger / Troy Field 21-19, 21-18 (:52)

NEW ORLEANS NOTATIONS – The big storyline about the AVP Tour returning to New Orleans for the first time since 2016 was the connections to the area, especially on the women's side. Four of the 32 women's players had competed in beach volleyball at LSU, including both players on the second-seeded tandem of Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss.

- None of the men's teams competing in New Orleans had ever won an AVP title together, so it came down to individual experience. And the team with the most experience (both in terms of age and AVP titles) was the tandem of Phil Dalhausser and Casey Patterson, who were seeded first and playing together for the first time as well. The duo was the sixth oldest to ever play in an AVP main draw, but they were the strongest on Sunday when it mattered the most. In the semifinals and championship match on Sunday, Dalhausser had 10 blocks and five aces, while Patterson had 55 kills and 26 digs. The duo outlasted third-seeded Taylor Crabb and Taylor Sander in three sets after the Taylors won the first set and led 17-15 in the second set.

- The partisan crowd got what it wanted with former LSU stars Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss advancing to the championship match. However the team across the net, Kelly Cheng and Betsi Flint, was seeded first for a reason. Cheng and Flint played a nearly flawless match, as Cheng hit an outstanding .720 (20 kills in 25 attempts with just 2 hitting errors) and Flint hit .533 with eight digs. Uncharacteristically, Kloth had just one block in the match and Nuss only six digs. Cheng / Flint took a 4-3 lead in the first set and didn't trail in the match after that point.

#1 Phil Dalhausser / Casey Patterson def. #3 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander 17-21, 21-19, 15-13 (1:07)

#1 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint def. #2 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss 21-15, 21-15 (:37)

MUSKEGON'S MEMORIES – The AVP Tour was making history with its first ever Tour Series Event in Muskegon, Michigan. But on the first day that history was overshadowed by a 14-year old. Sarah Wood, at the age of 14 years, 1 month and 16 days old, became the youngest player (male or female) to advance from the qualifier into an AVP main draw, beating the previous mark by over two years.

- The men's championship match featured two teams that reached the title match undefeated, but not without some serious tests. Second seeded Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske won four matches, three of them in three sets, to reach the finals. Across the net was ninth-seeded Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez, who had teamed up this season only due to a late injury to Palm's partner before the season opener. Palm and Rodriguez won a pair of three-set matches, and in the title match were playing their fourth straight match against a team seeded fourth or better. Palm and Rodriguez won the first set handily, 21-14, then held off Cory and Kolinske 26-24 in the second to capture the title. In that second set neither team led by more than two points and there were 16 ties. Palm had seven blocks in the match.

- The women weren't done making history in the qualifier. Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the top seeds in the event, won the title and in doing so make Larissa the first woman at least 40 years old to win a domestic event since 2009. The couple achieved the mark by beating seventh-seeded Julia Scoles and Geena Urango as Lili had four blocks and Larissa added 13 kills and 14 digs. Urango, who had five aces in the semifinal match, was unable to register any in the finals.

#1 Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini def. #7 Julia Scoles / Geena Urango 21-17, 21-16 (:46)

#9 Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez def. #2 Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske 21-14, 26-24 (:48)

DENVER DOCUMENTED – The AVP Tour played at altitude for the first time since 2008 with a Tour Series event in Denver. And just like the towering Rocky Mountains in the backdrop, the top teams were able to peak with their performance as the number one seeds won in both genders. That was a bit of a surprise as early on the results indicated something very different. On Saturday, there were 36 main draw matches for each gender. The men had 11 upsets and 19 three-set matches, while the women had 12 upsets and 18 three-set matches. But in the end, the top teams prevailed.

- Andy Benesh was seeded number one and was the tallest (tied) player in the event at 6'9". He was also playing his fourth AVP tournament of the year with a fourth different partner. Joining him on the sand this event was Miles Evans, who had previously advanced to one AVP semifinal in his career (second in Hermosa Beach 2019 with Ryan Doherty). The duo suffered a loss in the first round, then had to win six straight elimination matches to reach the championship match, which they won. In that stretch of must-wins, they beat Phil Dalhausser, won in the rematch against the team which defeated them in the first round, and beat the number three and four seeds in the semis and finals. Across the net in the finals were Evan Cory and Billy Kolinske. Kolinske and Evans had been teammates for 30 international events. Benesh had four blocks and three aces in the title match, while Evans had 23 kills and 15 digs, while Cory had 13 kills and 12 digs and Kolinske had five blocks.

- Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the top seeds in the event, continued to live up to their billing. Although they weren't immune to the upset bug, losing to the 13th-seeded team, they rebounded with consecutive wins over the teams seeded second and third to reach the championship match. The semifinal was a rematch of the Muskegon championship match against Julia Scoles and Geena Urango, and it did not disappoint, with Larissa and Lili winning 18-16 in the third set. In the finals they faced a team playing for just the second time on the AVP Tour, Carly Kan and Kaitlyn Leary. Larissa and Lili trailed just once in the match, at 1-0 in the second set, cruising to a second consecutive title. Larissa had eight digs and two aces while Lili was outstanding all round, hitting .600 (18 kills with just three hitting errors) and adding three blocks and two aces. Kan had 12 kills, six digs and one block while Leary had eight kills.

#1 Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini def. #7 Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary 21-13, 21-13 (:33)

#1 Andy Benesh / Miles Evans def. #4 Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske 22-20, 21-17 (:47)

WAUPACA'S WONDERMENTS – For the first time since 1988 the AVP had concurrent events. And for the Tour Series event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, it was also concurrent with the Waupaca Boatride Tournament, one of the world's largest outdoor volleyball tournaments, as this one consisted of 348 grass courts for a four-day event. Both the men's and women's winners began the tournament seeded number one and ended up taking home the title.

- Dave Palm and Roberto Rodriguez earned their top seed partly due to winning together in Muskegon. In the Waupaca Open, the duo lost just one set while advancing to the championship match. On the other side of the net was sixth-seeded Timothy Brewster and Kyle Friend, who were perhaps more impressive in their run to the finals, having swept all four matches and winning each set by an average score of 21-15. Palm / Rodriguez seemed destined to cruise to another title, winning the first set 21-16 behind the strength of Palm's five blocks in the set. The second set was a game of runs, as both teams had early 4-0 runs, then both teams exchanged 5-0 runs. Palm added another six blocks in the set but Brewster / Friend, playing together for just the second tournament, withstood six match point tries to win the set and force a tiebreaker. In the third set the four players combined to have 24 kills and just one hitting error, and Palm / Rodriguez prevailed 15-12, with Palm ending with 12 blocks and Rodriguez with 29 kills and 18 digs. Brewster finished with 25 kills and 17 digs, while Friend had 17 kills and three blocks.

- The best two teams on Friday morning, number one-seeded Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary and second seeds Katie Dickens / Jennifer Keddy, found themselves the top two teams on Saturday afternoon when it was time for the title match. Both teams, however, took a difficult route, as an early morning loss for both pairs on Saturday meant they had to play four matches that day including the finals. Dickens / Keddy had two leads in the entire championship match, at 1-0 to start each set. Outside of that, the finals were mostly error-free, with the four athletes combining for 62 kills and just five hitting errors in the match. Kan was a difference-maker, with 19 kills, eight digs and three aces, while Leary had 13 kills. Dickens had 12 kills and eight digs, while Keddy had 18 kills and just one hitting error to go with a service ace.

#1 Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary def. #2 Katie Dickens / Jennifer Keddy, 22-20, 21-16 (:38)

#1 Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez def. #6 Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend 21-16, 26-28, 15-12 (1:07)

HERMOSA BEACH'S HAPPENINGS – In Hermosa Beach the men saw players win who hadn't won since 2018 and 2019, while both of the champions on the women's side were first-time AVP winners. The fans in California, seeing their first AVP tournament of the year in the state, were treated to a pair of three-set finals, something that has happened just once prior in the 22 previous tournaments (including Tour Series), as it also happened in Atlanta 2021.

HERMOSA BEACH'S HAPPENINGS cont'd

• In the first round of the men's tournament, there was just one upset in the eight matches. But was it ever a big one. The 16th-seeded team, Jake Dietrich / Hagen Smith, who gained entry into the tournament based on CBVA results, knocked off top-seeded Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb. In the second round Dietrich and Smith upended eighth-seeded Billy Allen / Jeremy Casebeer in a round that saw seeds two, four, six and eight all sent to the contender's bracket. Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk, the second seeds, were able to rebound from the loss to advance to the title match, meeting up with fifth-seeded Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander, who had lost just one set en route to the finals. This was the 12th time Schalk had ever played against Crabb, with Crabb winning 10 of those meetings. The two Schalk wins, though, have both come in AVP finals after Brunner and Schalk won in three sets for the Hermosa Beach title. Brunner had 20 kills and three blocks while Schalk had 22 kills and 13 digs, with both players hitting at least .500. Crabb had 25 kills, 11 digs and two aces, and Sander had 12 kills and three blocks.

• In 34 women's events leading up to New Orleans earlier this year, just once did the championship match pit the top two seeds. Excluding the Tour Series events, Hermosa Beach marked the second straight time the top two tandems met for the title. Both of the teams in Hermosa Beach were undefeated in matches leading up the finale, but they both required a third set several times in order to stay in the winner's bracket. This match between #1 Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil and #2 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint came with some emotions, as Cheng and Sponcil had been teammates for 10 AVP events and 25 FIVB tournaments, including placing ninth in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Cannon was playing in her first ever AVP championship match and Flint was looking to defend her Hermosa Beach title, having won in 2019 the last time the AVP played here. Cannon / Sponcil held a slim 7-6 lead in the first set before scoring six straight points to take control. In the second set Cheng and Flint had their only lead of the match at 2-1. In the match Cannon had seven kills, no hitting errors and six blocks, while Sponcil had 17 kills, 15 digs and two aces. Cheng had 12 kills and one block while Flint had seven kills and 14 digs, but the team committed 13 hitting errors compared to just two by their opponents.

#1 Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil def. #2 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint 21-12, 21-15 (:36)

#2 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk def. #5 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander 22-20, 24-26, 15-9 (1:14)

ATLANTIC CITY'S ACHIEVEMENTS – What is becoming more frequent on the AVP Tour is having players who have turned 40 winning the title, especially on the men's side. In Atlantic City there was a first for the Tour, an event in which both a men's (David Lee) and women's (Larissa Maestrini) champion were at least 40 years old. That feat was made all that more impressive given the high heat (in the air and on the sand). In the qualifier there were a combined total of 46 matches, and just five of them went three sets. But it was a different story in the main draw, as of the 90 combined main draw matches, 33 required a tiebreaker.

• Cody Caldwell and David Lee were playing together for the first time ever. Caldwell entered this tournament having won four AVP main draw matches in his short career. In Atlantic City the duo went 6-0 in matches, including defeating seeds two, three, four and five. They needed a third set in three of their wins, but as the 10th seeds manage to pull off five upsets in winning the title. Their opponents in the championship match, Avery Drost and Chase Frishman, were considerably more experienced, as this was their 17th overall tournament together. But a loss on Saturday meant the duo had to play four matches on Sunday, against seeds one and three followed by a 1:28 minute semifinal before the title match. The championship match saw very few hitting errors, as all four players hit at least .563. The big difference in the match was the serving of Caldwell (six aces) and Lee (three aces).

• Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the top seeds in the event, continued their roll in the Tour Series, capturing their third title in as many events. The duo has a 15-1 match record on the Tour Series and have lost just six sets total. The finals was a rematch from a Sunday morning match against Aurora Davis and Teegan Van Gunst. Davis and Van Gunst suffered both of their losses against the top seeds, going 4-0 in all other matches. In the championship match, Larissa had 12 kills in 15 attempts with no hitting errors, and added eight digs. Lili had a pair of blocks and seven digs to go with her 14 kills. Davis had 10 kills and nine digs plus a pair of aces, while Van Gunst had 10 kills, one block and one ace.

#1 Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini def. #5 Aurora Davis / Teegan Van Gunst 21-16, 21-15 (:47)

#10 Cody Caldwell / David Lee def. #4 Avery Drost / Chase Frishman 21-15, 21-18 (:51)

FORT LAUDERDALE'S FEATS – Friday's play began with 15 consecutive sweeps between the two genders, but the day ended with seven of the last nine matches going to a third set. The men saw the top four seeds all advance undefeated into the winner's bracket semifinals, which is somewhat of a rarity that it also happened in Austin, marking just the first time since 2017 that it has happened twice in a season. In the fourth Pro Series event of the year, both genders saw the fourth different winning team of 2022.

FORT LAUDERDALE'S FEATS cont'd-

- The men's championship match in Fort Lauderdale was rare in that it was the top two seeds battling for the title, something that had happened just twice in the previous 31 events (excluding Tour Series) before this one. The top seeds, Theo Brunner and Chaim Schalk, entered the match having won nine consecutive AVP matches including four against teams seeded fifth or better. Their opponents, second-seeded Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb, had won six of their last seven matches, with the only loss coming to Brunner and Schalk in Hermosa Beach. The first set was tight, with Bourne / Crabb winning 23-21, but in the second set Bourne and Crabb did not have a single hitting error while cruising to a 21-14 win. For the match, Bourne had 14 kills and six blocks, while Crabb had 10 kills and eight digs. Brunner had 13 kills and three blocks, and Schalk had a double-double with 11 kills and 11 digs.

- The women had had two straight Pro Series events with the top two seeds in the championship match, but in Fort Lauderdale it was the complete opposite. In fact, the combined seeds of the teams (19) was the highest ever for a women's title match on the AVP Tour. Either team winning would be just the sixth time an AVP event was won by a team seeded eighth or lower. All four players had played at Southern Cal, and this match in particular meant a certain household was getting a trophy regardless of the result, as Hailey Harward and Julia Scoles are roommates. As the eighth seeds, Harward was teaming with Tina Gaudina, who was playing in just her second AVP event ever. And while this was their first pro tournament as partners, they entered the tournament on a 30-match winning streak when the pair played together at USC in 2022. Scoles and Geena Urango, seeded 11th, had dropped a match on Friday which sent them to the contender's bracket. That meant that in the heat of Florida, they had to win four straight elimination matches to reach the finals. The title match ended up being their sixth consecutive three-set match, and Gaudina and Harward claimed the title. Gaudina had 16 kills, nine digs and six blocks, while Harward had 20 kills and 17 digs. Scoles, facing heat exhaustion, had seven kills and two aces while Urango took 48 swings, getting 16 kills and 16 digs.

#8 Tina Gaudina / Hailey Harward def. #11 Julia Scoles / Geena Urango 19-21, 21-15, 15-6 (1:03)

#2 Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb def. #1 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk 23-21, 21-14 (:53)

ATLANTA'S ACCOLADES – Atlanta was a tournament of firsts. On Friday around 5:15 pm, lightning moved into the area, halting play, with heavy rains following shortly thereafter. The venue was cleared and competition resumed at 8:00 pm, but with the decision to only play the first round of the winner's bracket (and not the second round as scheduled). Due to that, Saturday's play began much earlier, at 10:00 am. On Saturday, a bit after 7:30 pm, lightning struck again, along with a steady rain, and after about an hour and a half wait it was decided to postpone play until Sunday. Because of the number of matches still to play the AVP had a first (or at least in a long while); changing the format of a match in a main draw once it has started. There have been other instances of qualifier matches changing, or even main draw changing from a double elimination to a single elimination, but this was the first in anyone's memory that during a main draw the scoring format had changed. The third round of the winner's bracket, as well as the seventh and fifth place matches, were all changed to one set to 28 points. The end result of all this was another first, well, four firsts to be exact. Each of the four winners were first time AVP champions.

- Trevor Crabb had guaranteed a victory, but his younger brother Taylor sent him home with a ninth place finish, his worst AVP placing since June 2018 in New York City (also ninth place). Top-seeded Theo Brunner and Chaim Schalk looked poised to collect their second win of the season despite an early loss which sent them to the contender's bracket, as they hadn't lost a single set from that point in reaching the championship match for the fourth time in their seven events together. On the other side of the net were a pair of players competing in an AVP finals for the first time, Paul Lotman and Miles Partain. The nerves were apparent as Lotman and Partain had six hitting errors and three service errors in a first set won by the number one seeds 21-17. Whatever adjustments were made after that set clearly worked, as the sixth-seeded duo had just two hitting errors and one service error in the next two sets combined. Partain became just the second player, male or female, to win an AVP event before turning 21, as he was 20 years, 6 months, 22 days old and only Scott Ayakutubby (twice in 1984) had won at that young an age. Lotman finished with 12 kills and two blocks, while Partain had 27 kills (and a .512 hitting percentage) and 16 digs. Brunner had 19 kills and three blocks and Schalk ended with five kills and eight digs.

- Top seeds Terese Cannon and Sarah Sponcil looked much more like the team that won in Hermosa beach than the team that finished in ninth place in Fort Lauderdale. The duo hadn't lost a single set in reaching the title match, and had the advantage in playing two women who had never experienced a victory on the AVP Tour. The seventh-seeded Julia Scoles / Geena Urango duo mirrored what the men's underdogs had done; lost a second round match but then did not drop a set in reaching the finals. Scoles / Urango took the first set but then in the second set had just six kills compared to four hitting errors. The third set was tight, with Scoles / Urango taking a lead at 4-3 that they would not relinquish, but Cannon / Sponcil fought off three match points before falling 16-14. Scoles had 15 kills and two blocks and Urango had 14 kills and 14 digs, while Cannon notched 21 kills and five blocks and Sponcil had 15 kills and 16 digs.

#7 Julia Scoles / Geena Urango def. #1 Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil 21-17, 12-21, 16-14 (1:05)

#6 Paul Lotman / Miles Partain def. #1 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk 17-21, 21-14, 15-9 (1:07)

IRONMAN AWARDS – Prior to this weekend there have been nine AVP tournaments, and since two were overlapping, the most any one player could have played is eight so far. Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez, who won in Muskegon and Waupaca, will be missing their second tournament of the year as they did not play in Atlanta and won't in Manhattan Beach either yet they still have played in seven events, which is tied for the most. Evan Cory and Billy Kolinske are tied for the lead currently and are in the main draw in Manhattan Beach so they will take over sole place atop the list of tournaments played. Individually, Avery Drost and Logan Webber will both be competing for the ninth time, the most of any players. Six other players have played in seven events so far, with Cory, Kolinske, Andy Benesh and Lev Priima in that group that are also going to play in Manhattan Beach.

- On the women's side Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the winners in Muskegon, Denver and Atlantic City, will be competing for the ninth time this year, the most of any women, and all as partners. They are a full two tournaments ahead of the next competitors, as 13 women have played in six AVP events so far this year. Team-wise, Larissa and Lili have played eight times as partners, and three teams have played six times previously; Aurora Davis / Teegan Van Gunst, Deahna Kraft / Allie Wheeler and Karolina Marciniak / Megan Rice. All but Marciniak / Rice will be in the main draw in Manhattan Beach, while Marciniak and Rice will be playing with different partners.

SEEDINGS, SCHMEEDINGS – There have been just 10 previous AVP tournaments which have been won by women's teams seeded 7th or lower, but it has now happened consecutive tournaments:

- 2001 Muskegon – #7 Linda Hanley / Sarah Straton
- 2001 Santa Barbara – #7 Dianne DeNecochea / Liz Masakayan
- 2013 Cincinnati - #14 Emily Day / Summer Ross
- 2015 Cincinnati - #7 Betsi Flint / Kelley Kolinske
- 2015 Huntington Beach - #11 Lauren Fendrick / April Ross
- 2017 Chicago - #12 Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes
- 2019 Manhattan Beach - #11 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan
- 2021 Atlanta - #14 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss
- 2022 Fort Lauderdale - #8 Tina Gaudina / Hailey Harward
- 2022 Atlanta - #7 Julia Scoles / Geena Urango

OLYMPICALITY – This weekend's Manhattan Beach Open draw does not include either Alix Klineman or April Ross, who won the Olympic Gold medal in Tokyo one year ago and the defending Manhattan Beach Open champions. But it does have many other Olympians, with eight men and seven women who have played either indoors or on the beach.

- Men with Olympic experience:

- Tri Bourne played beach in 2020 (as a substitute for Taylor Crabb)
- Phil Dalhausser played beach in 2008 (won gold), 2012, 2016, and 2020
- John Hyden played indoors in 1996 and 2000
- David Lee played indoors in 2008 (won gold), 2012 and 2016 (won bronze)
- Paul Lotman played indoors in 2012
- Casey Patterson played beach in 2016
- Taylor Sander played indoors in 2016 (won bronze) and 2020
- Chaim Schalk played beach for Canada in 2016

- Women with Olympic experience:

- Kelly Cheng played beach in 2020
- Lauren Fendrick played beach in 2016
- Carli Lloyd played indoors in 2016 (won bronze)
- Larissa Maestrini played beach for Brazil in 2008, 2012 (won gold) and 2016
- Sarah Pavan played beach for Canada in 2016 and 2020
- Sarah Sponcil played beach in 2020
- Brandie Wilkerson played beach for Canada in 2020

THE STATE OF THE STATES – The 200 men's players currently live in 28 different states, with 126 from California, 15 from Florida, and nine each from Colorado and Texas (no other states have more than three residents). Six of the players are originally from outside of the United States, Seain Cook from Scotland, Phil Dalhausser from Switzerland, Alexi Gabriel from Greece, Piotr Marciniak from Poland, Salvador Pastor from Spain and Chaim Schalk from Canada. Out of the 101 men's partnerships, 63 of them have both partners living in the same state, meaning 38 live in different states. Nine of the top 11 seeds live in the same states.

- The 134 female players currently live in 22 different states. California leads the pack with 77 players, followed by Florida with 17 and Texas with seven. Between the men and women, a total of 34 states are represented here. Eleven women were born or raised outside of the U.S, including Ana Costa (Brazil), Anaya Evans (England), Arina Gersimova (Ukraine), Larissa Maestrini (Brazil), Lili Maestrini (Brazil), Karolina Marciniak (Poland), Andrea Nucete-Elliott (Italy), Agnieszka PREGOWSKA (Poland), Maria Clara Salgado (Brazil), Eunyce Vercosa (Brazil) and Brandie Wilkerson (Switzerland / Canada). Just over half of the teams (34 of 67) have both partners living in the same state.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS – The NCAA first sanctioned women's beach volleyball in 2016 and there have been six national champions crowned since then (none in 2020 due to COVID). Southern Cal won the first two (in 2016 and 2017), then UCLA claimed the next two (2018 and 2019). After the one year hiatus, Southern Cal, with coach Dain Blanton, have won the past two titles (2021 and 2022). Here is a look at the women who competing in Manhattan Beach who have won a national championship (believed to be a complete list but...). The notable players on this list are Abby Van Winkle and Sunny Villapando, who are the only ones of the 14 players who have won just one national championship.

Jenna Belton (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017
 Terese Cannon (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017
 Kelly Cheng (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017
 Hailey Harward (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
 Sara Hughes (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017
 Megan Kraft (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
 Zana Muno (UCLA), 2018, 2019
 Audrey Nourse (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
 Nicole Nourse (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
 Julia Scoles (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
 Savvy Simo (UCLA), 2018, 2019
 Abby Van Winkle (UCLA) 2019
 Sunny Villapando (Southern Cal) 2022
 Allie Wheeler (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – There are four players here who will have a birthday during the four-day event, Agnieszka Pregowska turns 36 on Thursday, David Updegrove turns 35 on Thursday, Spencer Sauter turns 28 on Thursday and Julia Borges turns 25 on Friday

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – There are no international events conflicting with this week's Manhattan Beach Open.

• Here is a look at AVP players / teams which have been in the semifinals of an FIVB event this year:

MEN

Andy Benesh / Miles Evans – Silver Medal – Songkhla, Thailand – April 17
 Miles Evans / Logan Webber – Silver Medal – Rhodes, Greece – May 22
 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk – 4th place – Rome, Italy (World Championships) – June 19

WOMEN

Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint – 4th Place – Rosarito, Mexico – March 27
 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – Coolangatta, Australia – April 3
 Zana Muno / Toni Rodriguez – Bronze Medal – Coolangatta, Australia – April 3
 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske – Gold Medal – Itapema, Brazil – April 17
 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – Kusadasi, Turkey – May 22
 Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil – Bronze Medal – Kusadasi, Turkey – May 22
 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan – Gold Medal – Jurmala, Latvia – June 5
 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske – 4th Place – Jurmala, Latvia – June 5
 Jessica Gafney / Molly Turner – Bronze Medal – Klaipeda, Lithuania – June 5
 Sophie Bukovec / Brandie Wilkerson – Silver Medal – Rome, Italy (World Championships) – June 19
 Megan Kraft / Savvy Simo – Gold Medal – Balikesir, Turkey – June 19
 Brook Bauer / Katie Horton – Silver Medal – Balikesir, Turkey – June 19
 Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman – Gold Medal – Bialystok, Poland – June 26
 Brook Bauer / Katie Horton – 4th Place – Bialystok, Poland – June 26
 Corinne Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn – Silver Medal – Espinho, Portugal – July 17
 Madelyne Anderson / Molly Turner – Gold Medal – Ciro Marina, Italy – July 17
 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan – Gold Medal – Birmingham, England (Commonwealth Games) – August 7
 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint – Gold Medal – Hamburg, Germany – August 14

NEXT UP – The AVP returns to the East Coast for a Tour Series event in Virginia Beach August 26-28. The top four teams from this event will gain a main draw berth in the season finale in Tavares, Florida from December 2-4. The week after Virginia Beach will be the third Gold Series tournament in Chicago September 2-4.