

Chicago – Sunday, September 1, 2024 – Men’s Championship

3:00 pm – #2 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain vs. #3 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander

NOTE: The notes below do not include events on the Tour Series unless specifically stated

Head to Head

- These two teams have met just once before in Manhattan Beach 2024... Benesh / Partain won that in a sweep, 21-16, 27-25

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/17/24	AVP	Manhattan Beach Heritage Series	Winner 4	Benesh/Partain	3	Crabb/Sander	2	21-16, 27-25	0:46

Title Tidbits

- Benesh / Partain have now advanced to the title match in each of their first 5 AVP tournaments together, becoming just the 2nd team to ever do that... Mike Dodd and Karch Kiraly played for the title in each of their first five tournaments together in 1985 (even though they had played with different partners throughout that season)... they did not play together in 1986, but then reached the finals twice more in 1987 before finally finishing in fifth place.
- In the last nine tournaments here, just twice has a player in his 20s won (Taylor Crabb when he was 26 and 27) while in that span four times a player in his 40s won... the average age of the winner in those nine events is over 35 years old... in the last 15 Chicago tournaments, the only other player in his 20s to win was 28-year old Phil Dalhausser in 2008, with the average age of the winners being 34 in that span... both Benesh and Partain are still in their 20s
- Each of the last 5 AVP titles have been won by a Crabb (Taylor in Manhattan 2023, Trevor in Chicago 2023, Taylor in Huntington Beach 2024, Trevor in Manhattan Beach 2024)
- In the last 16 AVP championship matches (including today’s), at least one of the Crabb brothers has played 12 times and has won 11 times... that means that in that span the only time a Crabb lost a title match was when playing against another Crabb (last time a Crabb lost against a team without a Crabb on it was in Hermosa Beach 2022 with Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander lost to Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk)
- This marks the just the 7th time in the last 24 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour and Contender Series) that the top-seeded team has not played in the championship match
- The last #3 seed to win an AVP event was in Atlanta 2021 (Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson)... since then the #3 seed is 0-6 in AVP finals
- There have been 24 different men’s teams which have won titles on the AVP in Chicago, including nine different winners in the last 10 tournaments here... since neither of these teams has previously won here it will become the 25th different team and 10th different one in the last 11 events here
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 40 of the last 49 times
- 12 of the last 25 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- There have been 16 AVP events held in Chicago since 2001... in those title matches, the team winning the first set has won the match all 16 times... in fact, just three times has the finals even required a third set (in 2004, 2009 and 2022) and all three of those saw the team winning the first set claim the title.
- Just twice in the last 14 AVP tournaments has a team been able to win the event when coming from the contender’s bracket... those two instances were Benesh / Partain in Huntington Beach 2023 and Crabb / Sander in Manhattan Beach 2023

Benesh / Partain are playing together for the 5th time on the AVP and 26th time overall

- The duo's AVP finishes as partners: win, win, 2nd, 2nd
- In Chicago the tandem has not lost a single set... this is the 4th time in their 5 AVP events in which they advanced to the finals without having lost a match first (only in their debut in Huntington Beach 2023 did they come through the contender's bracket)
- Entering the title match in 2 seasons together on the AVP they have a 23-3 match record... they are 20-1 when winning the first set and 3-2 when losing the first set... they are 5-1 in three-set matches
- They are 2-2 in AVP finals... Benesh is 4-2 in his career while Partain is 3-3
- Benesh in the tournament has had 34 kills and just 5 hitting errors... in the last two tournaments he has played 10 matches entering the championship match, and has had more than 2 hitting errors in just 1 of those matches (had 5 in the three-set semifinal match against Chase Budinger / Miles Evans)
- Partain has had at least 10 kills in every match since July 25, 2020 against Theo Brunner / Casey Patterson in Long Beach (finished with 9 kills)... since then he has had 10+ kills in 76 consecutive main draw matches... he barely kept the streak alive this event as he logged 10 in the second-round sweep of Billy Allen / Paul Lotman

Taylor Crabb / Sander are playing together for the 20th time on the AVP Tour and 31st time overall

- The duo has won 5 times on the AVP Tour (Phoenix 2022, Huntington Beach 2022, Miami 2023, Manhattan Beach 2023 and Huntington Beach 2024), finished 2nd five times (including Contender Series) and 3rd four times
- They have been in the finals (this marks the 11th time) more often than they have placed 3rd or lower (9 times) as partners on the AVP (including Tour and Contender Series)
- Entering the championship match, in 3 seasons as partners on the AVP (including Contender Series), they are 77-26 in matches, 61-6 when winning the first set, 16-19 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in one-set matches and 24-16 in three-set matches... they began this season 15-0 when winning the first set (including Contender Series) before the first match in here in Chicago
- 4 of their 6 matches in Chicago have gone three sets... prior to Chicago this season they had played just 5 three-set matches (out of their 21 matches)
- Of their 26 match losses, 16 have come to teams seeded 1st or 2nd
- This season they began the year by winning their first 10 matches but since then have gone 11-6 entering Chicago
- As partners on the AVP Tour they are 5-5 in AVP title matches (including Tour and Contender Series)... Crabb is 14-14 all time (including Tour and Contender Series) while Sander is 5-5 (all with Crabb)
- Crabb has had 10+ kills in 16 of his 17 Heritage Series matches this season... the one exception came in Manhattan Beach, when he had 9 kills against Benesh / Partain
- Sander has had 35 blocks already this tournament, with 6+ in each of his last 4 matches