



2024 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Season Event #1 • Heritage Event #1

Huntington Beach, Calif. • May 16 – 19, 2024

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – The AVP kicks off its 41st year of competition in Huntington Beach, California. This makes the fifth straight year that the AVP has held its season opener in a different city. There are just three other cities that have hosted more AVP events than Huntington Beach in the tour's history, and two of those are also on the schedule this year. Following this tournament, there will be six weekends without an AVP event until the event in Denver. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$150,000, with equal payouts for men and women.

- The main draw will be a 16-team, double elimination format. Twelve teams from each gender are granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points. The remaining four teams in each gender will earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event on Thursday, May 16. The main draw begins on Friday, May 17 and concludes on Sunday, May 19, and will be played on three courts the Huntington Beach Pier. General admission tickets are required all three days of the main draw for the stadium (no charge for the outer courts), which along with premium seats are available for purchase at avp.com. The championship matches will be around 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm PT.

- Streaming of all courts takes place on the AVP's YouTube channel (@avpbeach). Cam Irwin, Kevin Barnett, Rich Lambourne, Mark Schuermann, Corinne Quiggle, Victoria Dennis and Rob Espero will handle the announcing duties.

HUNTINGTON'S HEAVY HITTERS – The top-seeded men's team, Taylor Crabb and Taylor Sander, have advanced to the finals in 8 of their 15 completed AVP tournaments as partners, winning four times. One of those wins was here in Huntington Beach 2022 (on the Tour Series), while they also have win in a season opener (Miami in 2023). Those two wins came in the only previous events in which they entered as the number one-seeded team like they are this weekend. Also on their side is the fact that eight of the last 12 season openers have been won by the top-seeded team. Crabb has been seeded number one 10 times before on the AVP Tour (once in 2016, three times in 2017, four times in 2019, once in 2022 on the Tour Series, and once in 2023). This is the 3rd time Sander has been the top seed (Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series and Miami 2023).

- The women's top-seeded team is a team that has won its last two AVP events, Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss. The duo has won four of the last six AVP tournaments and has won two of the last three season openers. In the last nine AVP season openers, the number one seeded team has won seven times. Ironically, despite all the success the youngsters have had both domestically and internationally (having won 11 of 38 completed events combined), they have a 12-13 career record against all the other teams entered in Huntington Beach, with a winning record against just two others tandems (7-3 versus Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson and 1-0 against Terese Cannon / Megan Kraft). Both Kloth and Nuss are seeded number one for the second time, as they were also the top seeds in the 2023 Pro Series finale in Chicago (which they won)/

SEASON OPENERS – Despite California hosting three times as many tournaments as the next most state (Florida) in the history of the AVP, this year will mark just the seventh time that California has been the site of a season opener. The others have come in 2001 (Hermosa Beach), 2002 (Huntington Beach), 2011 (Huntington Beach), 2017 (Huntington Beach), 2019 (Huntington Beach), and 2020 (Long Beach). With Huntington Beach hosting the season opener for the fifth time, that ties Ft. Lauderdale for the most times any one city has held an AVP season opener. There have been 13 different states to host a season-opening tournament and Florida leads the pack with 16 of the 41 openers, followed by California with seven (including this year). Texas and Hawai'i are the only other states with more than two on that list. The player with the most victories in season debuts is Phil Dalhausser, who won eight times including in 2020, the last time California hosted an opener. In addition, Dalhausser was slated to play in the finals of the 2010 opener in Ft. Lauderdale, which was never held due to weather. Karch Kiraly tallied six wins, with Sinjin Smith and Randy Stoklos getting five wins in the first event of a year.

- All of the AVP season-opening events since the start of the 2001 have been dual-gender. Excluding 2011, when there were no seeds for the four-team tournament, either the number one or number two seed has won each of the women's season debuts with just two exceptions (in Atlanta 2021 and in Austin 2022 as both times were won by Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss). The top-seeded team has won seven of the last nine, and 15 overall in that span, while the number two team has won five times. Just because the top teams had success doesn't mean it came easy, as 11 of the finals in that span have gone three sets. April Ross has claimed the title seven times, including three of the last six, all in the span from 2012-2020. That figure ties Kerri Walsh Jennings for the most, just ahead of Misty May-Treanor's six victories on opening day. With Kloth and Nuss having locked up a 2024 Olympic berth, that means that the 2015 season opener in New Orleans, which was won by Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten was the only AVP women's season opener won by a team in which neither player has competed in the Olympics.

SCHEDULE SNAPSHOT – The 2024 AVP schedule is divided into three groups. In the summer there will be six events comprised of two different types of competition. The Heritage Events are made up of Huntington Beach May 16-19, Manhattan Beach August 15-18 and Chicago August 29-September 1. All of those will be double elimination formats. The Contender Events include Denver July 4-7, Waupaca July 9-12 and Virginia Beach August 1-4, and will have pool play followed by a single elimination bracket. There have been a few years in the past in which Manhattan Beach has had a two-day qualifier given the large field, but this year all three Contender Events will feature two-day qualifiers. These accomplish a few different goals; allowing teams potential for more competitive matches (instead of #32 qualifier having to face a #1 seed they can now play a couple matches against teams seeded lower or similar before facing the top seed), gives the top seeds in the qualifier a bye into day two, and allows more matches over a longer span for an area that doesn't typically host AVP events. The fall portion will be a new concept; eight consecutive weekends of league play (beginning September 14-15) followed by the league championships on November 9-10.

- This marks the third straight year that all six of the summer cities have held an AVP event. The AVP will play in all four time zones during the Heritage and Contender Events schedule. The three Heritage locations represent the first, second and fourth most frequented stops in AVP history.

2024 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$
May 16- 19	Huntington Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$150,000
	<i>Huntington Beach is fourth most frequented stop in AVP history; 7th time season opener in California</i>		
July 4-7	Denver, Colorado	24-team pool play then single elimination	\$40,000
	<i>Only three previous AVP events in Denver were in 1987, 2022 and 2023</i>		
July 9 - 12	Oshkosh, Wisconsin	24-team pool play then single elimination	\$40,000
	<i>All previous AVP events in Wisconsin before 2022 had been in Milwaukee; this was 1st new AVP city since 2013</i>		
August 1 – 4	Virginia Beach, Virginia	24-team pool play then single elimination	\$40,000
	<i>Just the fourth time since 2002 that the AVP has a tournament in Virginia (along with 2010, 2022 and 2023)</i>		
August 15 – 18	Manhattan Beach, California	TBD	TBD
	<i>Biggest domestic event comes the weekend right after the 2024 Paris Olympics</i>		
August 30 – Sep 1	Chicago, Illinois	TBD	TBD
	<i>Chicago trails only Manhattan Beach on list of most frequented stops in AVP history; no on-site qualifier this year</i>		

SAVVY SEEDERS – Seeding for a season opener can be difficult or misleading, especially as there are often new partnerships, players coming back from injury / pregnancy, and the offseason affects different players differently. Having said all that, there have been 17 season openers since 2007 (but in 2011 there were no seeds and 2010 the men's final was never played). In the 31 championship matches between both the men and women with seeds available, there have been just three upsets. In the 2014 men's inaugural event (won by Brad Keenan / John Mayer) and then twice by Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss (2021 Atlanta and 2022 Austin) a lower-seeded team defeated a higher seeded team in the finale.

OLYMPICALITY – This week's AVP event features 15 players who have played in the Olympics (either indoors or on the beach). Players here have competed for three different countries.

- Men with Olympic experience:

Tri Bourne played beach in 2020 (9th place)

Alison Cerutti played beach for Brazil in 2012 (won silver medal), 2016 (won gold) and 2020 (fifth place)

Phil Dalhausser played beach in 2008 (won gold), 2012 (ninth place), 2016 (fifth place), and 2020 (ninth place)

Alvaro Filho played beach for Brazil in 2020 (fifth place)

David Lee played indoors in 2008 (won gold), 2012 (fifth place) and 2016 (won bronze)

Paul Lotman played indoors in 2012 (fifth place) and was an alternate for the 2016 team

Taylor Sander played indoors in 2016 (won bronze) and 2020 (10th place)

Chaim Schalk played beach for Canada in 2016 (9th place)

- Women with Olympic experience:

Kelly Cheng played beach in 2020 (9th place)

Melissa Humana-Paredes played beach in 2020 for Canada (fifth place)

Alix Klineman played beach in 2020 (won gold)

April Ross played beach in 2012 (won silver), 2016 (won bronze) and 2020 (won gold)

Sarah Sponcil played beach in 2020 (ninth place)

Brooke Sweat played beach in 2016 (19th place)

Brandie Wilkerson played beach in 2020 for Canada (fifth place)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HISTORY – Huntington Beach has previously hosted 23 men's and 27 women's events. The men have had a stop on the AVP Tour every year from 2000-2017 (the first two events here were different tours as was the one in 2012), while the women had eight years of events on other tours before the AVP made it an annual stop from 2002-2017, with the 2012 event coming on a different tour.

- Across all the different tours, each of the first 10 men's tournaments had been won by different teams before Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers claimed their second title in 2008. That duo won four times in Huntington Beach, and no other team had been able to win more than once before 2016 when Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson claimed their second title in three years here. Karch Kiraly won three times including 2005, which marked the final victory in Kiraly's career, and he set a record for being the oldest to win an event at 44 years and 9 months. His win in 2003, with Brent Doble, retains the mark as the oldest team to win a tournament (just shy of 76 years, 5 months of age). Despite the numerous tournaments in Huntington Beach, only five players have won multiple times. The 2004 victors were Jason Ring / George Roumain, whose title was the only one in their careers, while in 2011 Matt Prosser won his only tournament. In 2013 Theo Brunner won his first AVP title, while in 2015 John Hyden's win with Tri Bourne established him as the second oldest player to win an event (42 years, 11 months). At least one Olympian (beach or indoors) has been on the winning team in Huntington Beach in all but seven of the past men's events across all tours.

- The women have had 18 different winning teams, with five teams winning at least twice. Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings won five times, and four other teams won twice, including Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes (who have won the last two years here). The title by Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs was in their first tournament playing together, the first of their 10 wins as a team. In 1989, McPeak played here and finished 17th, marking the only time in her career she had a finish as low as 17th in a domestic event. The 2010 win by Jennifer Kessy was her 15th overall win (seventh domestic), but her first time winning in SoCal. In 2013 Jennifer Fopma and Brooke Sweat each chalked up their first AVP titles here. April Ross won five titles here, the most in any domestic location for the three-time Olympian. In 23 of the 26 team events across all tours, the winning team contained at least one Olympian.

- Here are the results of all of the tournaments held in Huntington Beach:

MEN – AVP events (2022 was a Tour Series event)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
2000	Canyon Ceman / Brian Lewis	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	Matt Unger / Mike Whitmarsh
2001	Scott Ayakatabby / Eduardo Bacil	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Nick Hannemann / Adam Jewell	Mike Lambert / Collin Smith
2002	Eric Fonoimoana / Dax Holdren	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Brent Doble / Karch Kiraly	[3rd] Stein Metzger / Kevin Wong
2003	Brent Doble / Karch Kiraly	Todd Rogers / Sean Scott	Sean Rosenthal / Larry Witt	[3rd] Scott Ayakatabby / Brian Lewis
2004	Jason Ring / George Roumain	Sean Rosenthal / Larry Witt	Dain Blanton / Jeff Nygaard	[3rd] Karch Kiraly / Mike Lambert
2005	Karch Kiraly / Mike Lambert	Sean Rosenthal / Larry Witt	Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger	[3rd] Todd Rogers / Sean Scott
2006	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Brent Doble / Ryan Mariano	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	[3rd] John Hyden / Jeff Nygaard
2007	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	[3rd] John Hyden / Brad Keenan
2008	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	John Hyden / Brad Keenan	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Stein Metzger / Mark Williams
2009	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	Matt Olson / Kevin Wong	[3rd] John Hyden / Sean Scott
2010	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	[3rd] Casey Patterson / Kevin Wong
2011	Matt Olson / Matt Prosser	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Nick Lucena / Stein Metzger	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Ty Loomis
2013	Theo Brunner / Nick Lucena	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	[3rd] Brad Keenan / John Mayer
2014	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Adrian Carambula / Stafford Slick	[3rd] Ryan Doherty / Nick Lucena
2015	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2016	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	[3rd] Billy Allen / Theo Brunner
2017	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Ryan Doherty / John Hyden	Theo Brunner / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb
2019	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Tim Bomgren / Troy Field	[3rd] Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb
2022	Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander	Avery Drost / Chase Frishman	Billy Kolinske / Silila Tucker	[3rd] Seain Cook / Logan Webber
2023	Andy Benesh / Miles Partain	Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk	Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander	[3rd] Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb

MEN – non AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1975	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Mike Carey / Dennis Hare	Gary Hooper / Marshall Savage	Bob Jackson / Ron Von Hagen
1999	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Carl Henkel / Kevin Wong	Rob Heidger / Sinjin Smith	Brent Doble / Lee LeGrande
2012	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	Ryan Doherty / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Brad Keenan / John Mayer

WOMEN – AVP events (2022 was a Tour Series event)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2002	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Barbra Fontana/Dianne DeNecochea	Annett Davis / Jenny Johnson Jordan	Lisa Arce / Linda Hanley
2003	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis / Jenny Johnson Jordan	Jen Meredith/Wendy Stammer
2004	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Barbra Fontana / Jennifer Kessy	Angie Akers / Rachel Wacholder	Carrie Dodd/Nancy Mason
2005	Rachel Wacholder/Elaine Youngs	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Dianne DeNecochea / Tammy Leibl	Jennifer Kessy/Holly McPeak
2006	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Rachel Wacholder/Elaine Youngs	Nicole Branagh / Holly McPeak	Mimi Amaral/Tatiana Minello
2007	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Tyra Turner / Rachel Wacholder	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross

WOMEN – AVP events (2022 was a Tour Series event) continued

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2008	Misty May-Treanor/Kerri Walsh	Tyra Turner / Rachel Wacholder	Annett Davis / Jenny Johnson Jordan	Nicole Branagh/Elaine Youngs
2009	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross	Annett Davis / Jenny Johnson Jordan	Brooke Hanson / Lisa Rutledge
2010	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross	Nicole Branagh / Misty May-Treanor	Rachel Scott / Elaine Youngs	Angie Akers / Tyra Turner
2011	Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Niles	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Kristen Batt / Brooke Sweat	Angie Akers / Nicole Branagh
2013	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	Lauren Fendrick/Brittany Hochevar	April Ross/Kerri Walsh Jennings	Emily Day / Summer Ross
2014	April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings	Heather McGuire / Whitney Pavlik	Lauren Fendrick/ Brooke Sweat	Lane Carico / Kim DiCello
2015	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross	Nicole Branagh / Jenny Kropp	Brittany Hochevar / Misty May-Treanor	Emily Day / Jennifer Kessy
2016	April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings	Angela Bensusan / Geena Urango	Kim DiCello / Kendra Van Zwieten	Lane Carico / Summer Ross
2017	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen	Lane Carico / Lauren Fendrick	Whitney Pavlik / April Ross
2019	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Melissa Humana-Paredes/Sarah Pavan	Emily Capers / Betsi Flint	Sara Hughes/Summer Ross
2022	Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes	Brook Bauer / Katie Horton	Kimberly Hildreth / Karolina Marciniak	Kaitlyn Malaney / Molly Turner
2023	Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes	Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles	Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss

WOMEN – non AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1989	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque	Judy Bellomo / Lisa Strand Ma'a	Gail Castro Kehl / Lori Forsythe
1989	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Janice Harrer	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque	Dale Hall / Carolyn Kirby
1990	Patty Dodd / Carolyn Kirby	Janice Harrer / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Linda Hanley	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque
1995	Holly McPeak / Nancy Reno	Linda Hanley / Carolyn Kirby	Liz Masakayan / Angela Rock	Lisa Arce / Patty Dodd
1996	Lisa Arce / Holly McPeak	Barbra Fontana / Linda Hanley	Patty Dodd / Christine Podraza	Krista Bloomquist/Danalee Bragado
1997	Lisa Arce / Holly McPeak	Barbra Fontana / Linda Hanley	Linda Chisholm / Deb Richardson	Marla O'Hara / Ali Wood
1998	Lisa Arce	Angela Rock	Barbra Fontana	[3rd] Holly McPeak
1999	Lisa Arce / Barbra Fontana	Annett Davis / Jenny Johnson Jordan	Liz Masakayan / Elaine Youngs	Holly McPeak / Nancy Reno
2012	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Lauren Fendrick / Rachel Scott	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	[3rd] Brooke Niles / Tyra Turner

HUNTINGTON BEACH SAND BITS – Of the 88 men's players competing this weekend (and of the information known), there are two teenagers competing (19-year olds Zephyr Dew and Thomas Kurst) along with two 20-year olds (Gage Basey and Derek Bradford). There are five players in their 40's, led by 48-year old Adam Roberts and 44-year old Phil Dalhausser. Of the heights known, the two shortest are both 5'11" (Ric Cervantes and Diego Perez) while at the other end of the spectrum are 6'10" Frank Field and three 6'9" players (Phil Dalhausser, Skyler Kaufman and Charlie Siragusa). A total of 33 of the players are originally from California. The players with the most experience are Phil Dalhausser, Adam Roberts and Billy Allen, while Jacob Ray is the greenest, as he is playing in his second pro beach event. Phil Dalhausser, with 62 AVP titles, has the most of any player here, and is more than the total number of tournaments played for all but 14 other players. Out of 44 partnerships, 25 are competing together for the very first time and the three with the most experience are Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend (31 previous events), Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (27) and Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk (26). The winningest tandem here is Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander, who have three AVP victories plus an AVP Tour Series event.

- There are also 88 women playing this weekend, and of the information known there are three teenagers (16-year old Sarah Wood and 18-year olds Kennedy Coackley and Alexa Fernandez). On the flip side, Lindsey Fuller (42) and April Ross (41) are the oldest, followed by 38-year old Brooke Sweat. Katie Lindstrom (5'4") and Lisa Reed (5'5") are the shortest competitors, while at the other end of the spectrum is 6'5" Alix Klineman and five 6'4" players. There are 30 players who are originally from California. Four women are making the pro beach volleyball debuts (Taylor Daignault, Grace Seits, and twins Brielle and Brittain Taylor). Three players have played in more than 150 tournaments, April Ross, Emily Capers and Brooke Sweat. April Ross leads all players by a wide margin with her 41 AVP victories.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING – Two sets of twins are competing this weekend as partners, Audrey and Nicole Nourse along with Brielle and Brittain Taylor. There is one set of brothers, Gage and Lars Basey, who will be playing on the same team.

- Speaking of relatives, there are several players with notable volleyball relatives. Hagen Smith is the son of 1996 beach Olympian Sinjin Smith, Jaden Whitmarsh is the daughter of 1996 Olympic silver medalist Mike Whitmarsh, and Falyn Fonoimoana is the niece of 2000 Olympic gold medalist Eric Fonoimoana. James Shaw is the son of long time Stanford volleyball coach Don Shaw.

TONGUE TWISTERS – There are two Megan Rices competing (one goes by Megan J. Rice). And Tournament Director John King found a way to have Deahna Kraft play Megan Kraft in the first round. On the men's side there are two Fields and two Millers.

BIRTHDAYS – None of the 176 players are celebrating birthdays during this week's event.

UP NEXT – There will be six long weekends before the AVP resumes play, as the next tournament is a Contender Series event in Denver over the 4th of July weekend.