

Manhattan Beach – Sunday, August 18, 2024 – Men’s Championship

12:00 pm – #1 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb vs. #3 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain

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

Head to Head

- These two teams have met 3 times before ... Benesh / Partain have a 2-1 lead... all of the meetings have taken place in either the semifinals or finals... #1 seed Brunner / Crabb lead the series against 8 other teams in the field, and this is the only team in Manhattan Beach in which Brunner / Crabb do NOT have a winning record against

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
9/3/23	AVP	Gold Series Chicago Open	Finals	Brunner/Crabb	2	Benesh/Partain	1	21-18, 21-19	0:51
8/6/23	AVP	Gold Series Atlanta Open	Semi-Finals	Benesh/Partain	1	Brunner/Crabb	2	21-14, 22-20	0:48
5/21/23	AVP	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	Semi-Finals	Benesh/Partain	5	Brunner/Crabb	2	21-16, 14-21, 15-13	1:02

Title Tidbits

- This marks the 17th time in the last 23 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour and Contender Series) that the top-seeded team has played in the championship match... in that span the #1 seeds are 8-8
- The last #3 seed to win an AVP event was in Atlanta 2021(Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson)... since then the #3 seed is 0-5 in AVP finals
- In Manhattan Beach, the last 3 championship matches have all seen the top-seeded team finish in second place
- This is the 7th straight year that at least one of the Crabb brothers has played for the title in Manhattan Beach
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 39 of the last 48 times
- 12 of the last 24 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- The #1 seed has won in just 8 of the last 27 AVP events (excluding Tour Series) prior to Manhattan Beach... #1 seeds Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb hope to become the second straight team to win that was seeded #1
- Both of these teams are undefeated heading into the championship match... this is just the 3rd time in the last 10 AVP events that has happened (also in New Orleans 2023 and in Chicago 2023)
- Each of the last 4 men’s title matches in Manhattan Beach have been upsets
- This is a rematch of the 2023 Chicago finals

Brunner / Trevor Crabb are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP and the 28th time overall

- In their AVP debut as partners, they finished in 3rd place in Huntington Beach 2023, then they won in Hermosa Beach and placed 3rd in Atlanta... this marks their 3rd straight time playing in the finals (finished 2nd in Manhattan Beach 2023 and won in Chicago 2023)
- Entering the Manhattan Beach championship match in 2 seasons together on the AVP, they have a 26-4 match record... they are 23-1 when winning the first set and 3-3 when losing the first set... they are 6-2 in three-set matches
- Entering the title match they have won their last 10 matches, all by sweeps, with their last loss in the 2023 Manhattan Beach finals

Theo Brunner – age 39 - 6’7” – hometown Ridgefield, Ct. – currently Torrance, Calif. – California-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner’s 70th AVP event with 16 different partners
- He has 6 wins with 5 different partners... in Huntington Beach 2013 he won with Nick Lucena... in Seattle 2016 he won with Billy Allen... in Hermosa Beach 2018 he won with John Hyden... in Hermosa Beach 2022 he won with Chaim Schalk... in both Hermosa Beach 2023 and Chicago 2023 he won with Trevor Crabb

- 7 of his partners have been Olympians (either beach or indoors)... of his 31 AVP semifinals including this weekend, 24 of them came when partnering with an Olympian (only exceptions were a win and a 3rd place alongside Billy Allen, and his now 6 semifinals with Trevor Crabb)
- Brunner has reached the MBO title match for the 4th time in his career (finished second with Todd Rogers in 2014, with Chaim Schalk in 2022 and with Trevor Crabb in 2023)
- Brunner has had at least 1 block in all 11 sets he has played here

Trevor Crabb – age 34 – 6’4” – hometown Honolulu, Hawai’i – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Puget Sound / Long Beach State

- Crabb is playing in his 63rd AVP tournament with 11 different partners
- He has won 8 AVP titles (won in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Reid Priddy, then won 5 times with Tri Bourne, in Long Beach 2020, Manhattan Beach 2021, Fort Lauderdale 2021, Manhattan Beach 2022 and Chicago 2022 before winning in both Hermosa Beach 2023 and Chicago 2023 with Theo Brunner)
- He has now advanced to 35 AVP semifinals in his career, doing so with 7 different partners
- Crabb is playing in the finals in Manhattan Beach for the 5th straight time here (won with Reid Priddy in 2019, won with Tri Bourne in both 2021 and 2022, and was 2nd with Theo Brunner in 2023)
- Crabb has an impressive ratio from the service line with 7 aces and just 2 service errors all weekend

Benesh / Partain are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP and 25th time overall

- Their AVP debut as a team came in Huntington Beach, and they rebounded from a third-round loss to win the title... then in Atlanta the duo won again, then they placed 2nd in Chicago 2023
- Entering the championship match, in 2 seasons together on the AVP they have a 19-2 match record... they are 16-1 when winning the first set and 3-1 when losing the first set... they are 4-1 in three-set matches
- This marks the duo's 4th AVP event as partners and have reached the title match in all 4 tournaments

Andy Benesh – age 29 – 6’9” – hometown Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. – USC

- Benesh is playing in his 33rd career AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- Benesh has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (in the 2022 season opener in Austin with Phil Dalhausser, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Miles Partain and in Atlanta 2023 with Partain) as well as once on the Tour Series (in Denver 2022 with Miles Evans)
- In 10 of his last 17 AVP tournaments, Benesh has reached the semifinals... prior to that stretch he had never made a semifinal in his first 16 tournaments
- Benesh is 4-1 in AVP championship matches (2-1 with Partain, 1-0 with Phil Dalhausser, 1-0 with Miles Evans), including Tour Series
- Benesh has advanced to the Manhattan Beach semifinals for the third straight time with a third different partner
- Benesh is 3rd this weekend in hitting percentage (.559) and hasn't had more than 2 hitting errors in 4 of his first 5 matches here so far

Miles Partain – age 22 – 6’2” – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Pacific Palisades, Calif. - UCLA

- Partain is playing in his 32nd AVP tournament with 9 different partners... he has played 13 times with Lotman and 7 times with his brother Marcus Partain, while the other 12 events came with 7 different partners (including Manhattan Beach)
- Partain has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (in Atlanta 2022 with Paul Lotman, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Andy Benesh, and in Atlanta 2023 with Benesh)
- Partain was the 2019 AVP Rookie of the Year, and the both the Most Improved Player as well as Best Offensive Player in 2022
- In his first 19 AVP tournaments, he had a best of 5th place once... in his last 13 events, he has finished no lower than 5th place and has been in the semifinals 11 times (including Tour Series)

- In Atlanta 2022 he became just the second male to win an AVP title before turning 21 years old (Scott Ayakhtubby did it twice in 1984)
- Partain is 3-2 in AVP championship matches (2-1 with Benesh and 1-1 with Paul Lotman)
- Partain has now reached the semifinals for the 11th time in his last 13 AVP events
- Partain leads the field in digs (6.09 per set) and has had 10+ in all 5 matches