

# Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021 – Men’s Championship

## 3:20 pm – #3 Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson vs. #4 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk

### Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the two teams
- This ends a streak of 6 consecutive AVP tournaments in which at least one Crabb brother had played in the championship match... including today, just 12 of the past 34 AVP title matches have been played without any Crabbs

**Budinger / Patterson** are playing together for the 8th time on the AVP Tour and 20th time overall... they have 1 AVP win (Hermosa Beach 2019)

- The duo played 7 times on the AVP Tour in 2019, then went with different partners for the three Long Beach events in 2020... they ended up playing each other in all three Long Beach events, with Budinger winning twice and Patterson once
- The pair has been in the semifinals in 7 of their 8 AVP tournaments, with the only exception coming in New York City 2019 (5th place)
- In their AVP partnership, the duo is 31-9 in matches, 30-1 when winning the first set, and 8-2 in three-set matches
- The championship match will mark Budinger / Patterson’s 5th match in Atlanta against a team seeded in the top 8
- Budinger / Patterson had to come through the contender’s bracket to reach the title match... just 1 team in the last 9 AVP tournaments has been able to win the title after suffering an earlier loss in the tournament (Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb did so in Chicago 2019)

**Chase Budinger** – age 33 – 6’7” – hometown Encinitas, Calif. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif. – Arizona

- This is Budinger’s 17th AVP event... he has won 1 time, placed 2nd 3 times, and placed 3rd 5 times... he has advanced to the semifinals in 10 of those events (59% of the tournaments entered)
- Budinger played in the championship match of 4 of his first 11 AVP events, but hadn’t in his last 5 tournaments prior to Atlanta
- In his NBA career, Budinger played 5 times at Atlanta (1-4 in those)... he averaged 3.8 ppg in those games
- In Atlanta Budinger ranks 6th in aces (0.69 per set) and is tied for 6th in hitting percentage (.484)

**Casey Patterson** – age 41 – 6’6” – hometown Manhattan Beach – currently Huntington Beach, Calif. – Brigham Young

- Patterson is playing in his 103rd AVP Tournament, with 15 wins, 5 2nd-place finishes, and 16 3rd-place finishes
- Patterson has played twice in Atlanta previously, finishing 25th in 2007 and 13th in 2009... his trip to Atlanta in June 2007 marked his first AVP tournament outside of California and Arizona
- Patterson recorded his first ever AVP main draw win in Miami 2008 against Kevin Wong (and Matt Olson), winning 15-13 in the third set
- Patterson has had 14+ kills in all 6 of his matches in Atlanta

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**Brunner / Schalk** are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour and the 9th time overall

- In their last outing as partners, the duo won an FIVB two-star event in Rwanda (beat Americans Chase Budinger / Troy Field for the gold medal)
- Since the start of the 2001 season, 9 teams have won an AVP title when playing together for the first time as partners on the AVP... included in that list is Kevin Wong (with Eric Fonoimoana in Manhattan Beach in 2003)... the last to do it was Ty Trambie and Brad Keenan in Chicago 2015
- 14 of the last 15 AVP tournaments have been won by a team seeded #1, #2 or #3... the only exception was in Manhattan Beach 2019, when #4 Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy claimed the title

**Theo Brunner – age 36 – 6’7” – hometown Ridgefield, Conn. – currently Torrance, Calif. – Cal-Santa Barbara**

- This is Brunner’s 54th AVP event... he has 3 wins, 4 3rd-place finishes and 10 3rd-place finishes
- His 3 wins came with 3 different partners
- In 2020 Brunner was 2nd on the Tour in hitting percentage (.477) and 4th in blocks (1.46 per set)
- In Atlanta Brunner leads all players with 2.56 blocks per set
- Brunner had just 1 hitting error in his first three matches, then had 6 in the semifinals

**Chaim Schalk – age 35 – 6’5” – hometown Red Deer, Alberta, Canada – currently Gardena, Calif.**

- Schalk is playing in his 24th AVP Tournament, with 1 win, 2 2nd-place finishes and 6 3rd-place finishes
- His win came in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer
- In Schalk’s 2nd ever AVP event (and his first main draw), he and Ricardo Santos were the #35 seeds in the qualifier and advanced, becoming the 16th seeds in the main draw... they won both of their first two matches enroute to a third-place finish, becoming the lowest seeded qualifying team to ever reach the semifinals
- In Atlanta Schalk ranks 3rd in digs (4.33 pe set) and tied for 6th in hitting percentage (.484)