

Atlanta – Men – #1 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain

Benesh / Partain are playing together for the 2nd time on the AVP and 11th time overall

- Their AVP debut as a team came in Huntington Beach, and they rebounded from a third-round loss to win the title
- They have advanced to the semifinals in each of their last 5 international events (including a NORCECA tournament), winning 3 medals... the duo won gold in Gstaad after twice defeating Norway's Anders Mol / Christian Sorum, becoming just the 2nd team to defeat the defending Olympic, World Championship and World Tour Finals champions twice in the same event (Netherlands' Alexander Brouwer / Robert Meeuwse in Rosarito, Mexico in March 2022)
- In each of their first 6 international tournaments they had to first play in the qualifier... they have a match record of 42-12 internationally, and 6 of their 12 losses have come to teams seeded either first or second
- In 1 season together on the AVP they have a 5-1 match record... they are 4-1 when winning the first set and 1-0 when losing the first set... they are 2-1 in three-set matches
- Partain is 5-2 against Benesh all time

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	7/26-30/2023	Elite16 Montréal	2	2	1100	\$20,000.00
FIVB	7/5-9/2023	Elite16 Gstaad	9	1	1200	\$30,000.00
NORCECA	6/7-8/2023	BV World Championship Qualifier	1	4	0	US\$0.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	13, Q3	3	1000	\$14,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	5	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	8, Q2	4	680	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	13, Q3	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	10/27-30/2022	Dubai 2nd Challenge	4, Q1	9	460	\$2,500.00
FIVB	10/22-25/2022	Dubai 1st Challenge	15, Q3	1	800	\$10,000.00
FIVB	10/13-16/2022	Maldives Challenge	22, Q9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Andy Benesh – age 28 – 6'9" – hometown Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. – Southern Cal

- Benesh is playing in his 31st career AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- Benesh has won 2 times on the AVP Tour (in the 2022 season opener in Austin with Phil Dalhausser and in Huntington Beach 2023 with Miles Partain) as well as once on the Tour Series (in Denver 2022 with Miles Evans)
- In 7 of his last 14 AVP tournaments, Benesh has reached the semifinals... prior to that stretch he had never made a semifinal in his first 16 tournaments
- Benesh began 2023 playing with Billy Allen in Miami, losing both matches 15-12 in the third set and finishing in 13th place
- This marks the 3rd time he has ever played in Atlanta, placing 5th with Billy Allen in 2021 and 5th in 2022 with Nick Lucena

Miles Partain – age 21 – 6'2" – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Pacific Palisades, Calif. - UCLA

- Partain is playing in his 30th AVP tournament with his 9th different partner... he has played 13 times with Lotman and 7 times with his brother Marcus Partain, while the other 20 events came with 7 different partners (including Atlanta)
- In his first 19 AVP tournaments, he had a best of 5th place once... in his last 10 events, he has finished no lower than 5th place and has been in the semifinals 8 times (including Tour Series)
- In Atlanta 2022 he became just the second male to win an AVP title before turning 21 years old (Scott Ayakutubby did it twice in 1984)... in Atlanta 2021 he placed 9th with Avery Drost

Atlanta – Men – #2 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb

Brunner / Trevor Crabb are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP and the 11th time overall

- In their AVP debut as partners, they finished in 3rd place in Huntington Beach 2023, then they won in Hermosa Beach
- Entering Atlanta in 1 season together on the AVP, they have an 8-1 match record... they are 5-0 when winning the first set and 3-1 when losing the first set... they are 3-1 in three-set matches
- This is their 3rd AVP event together and they have been seeded 2nd all 3 times
- 3 of their 9 matches entering Atlanta have come against Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (3-0 in those matches) but they are on opposite sides of the bracket this weekend

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	7/20-23/2023	Challenge Edmonton	4	17	360	\$1,500.00
FIVB	7/13-16/2023	Challenge Portugal	12, Q3	1	800	\$10,000.00
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	2	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	16	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	16, Q12	13	460	\$5,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	2	3	1990	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	9	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	6	19	300	\$1,000.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	14, Q6	13	460	\$5,000.00
FIVB	3/16-19/2023	La Paz Challenge	9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Theo Brunner – age 38 - 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Ct. – currently Torrance, Calif. – California-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 67th AVP event with 16 different partners
- He has 5 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 Hermosa Beach 2023 he won with Trevor Crabb
- 7 of his partners have been Olympians (either beach or indoors)... of his 27 AVP semifinals entering Atlanta, 23 of them came when partnering with an Olympian (only exceptions were a win and a 3rd place alongside Billy Allen, and his 3rd place and win in 2023 with Trevor Crabb)
- Brunner has placed 2nd in both of his previous tournaments in Atlanta, and both came alongside Chaim Schalk

Trevor Crabb – age 33 – 6'4" – hometown Honolulu, Hawai'i – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Puget Sound / Long Beach State

- Crabb is playing in his 59th AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- He has won 7 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 Hermosa Beach 2023 with Theo Brunner)
- He has advanced to 32 AVP semifinals in his career, doing so with 7 different partners
- Crabb was 3rd in Atlanta 2021, then 9th in 2022, both times while playing with Tri Bourne
- Entering Atlanta Crabb has been in the semifinals in each of his last 5 AVP tournaments

Atlanta – Men – #3 Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk

Bourne / Schalk are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour and 13th time overall

- The duo won in their AVP debut together in New Orleans 2023, placed 2nd in Huntington Beach, then 3rd in Hermosa Beach
- The duo had been the top seed in the first 3 AVP events they played
- Both players competed in the Olympics in beach volleyball but for different countries and different years
- Bourne all time is 10-6 when playing against Schalk, including 2-0 in AVP title matches (Fort Lauderdale 2022 and Manhattan Beach 2022)
- Entering Atlanta in 1 season together as partners on the AVP they have a 12-2 match record... they are 9-2 when winning the first set and 3-0 when losing the first set... they are 5-2 in three-set matches
- At least one of these players has been in the championship match in 8 of the last 11 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series)... Bourne has won 3 times and Schalk 2 times in that span

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	7/26-30/2023	Elite16 Montréal	Q6	21	340	US\$0.00
FIVB	7/20-23/2023	Challenge Edmonton	5	9	460	\$2,500.00
FIVB	7/13-16/2023	Challenge Portugal	2	5	600	\$3,750.00
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	1	3	1990	\$6,000.00
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	8	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	Q5	21	340	\$0.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	1	2	2095	\$8,500.00
FIVB	4/26-30/2023	Elite16 Uberlândia	15, Q4	5	760	\$8,000.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	7	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	15, Q8	13	460	\$5,000.00
FIVB	3/16-19/2023	La Paz Challenge	10	19	300	\$1,000.00
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	8	5	600	\$3,750.00

Tri Bourne – age 34 – 6'5" – hometown Honolulu, Hawai'i – currently Honolulu, Hawai'i – Southern Cal

- This is Bourne's 45th AVP event with just his 4th different partner... he played 21 times with John Hyden, 19 with Trevor Crabb, 1 with Raffe Paulis and this will be his 4th with Chaim Schalk
- He has won 9 times (3 with John Hyden in 2014-15, 5 with Trevor Crabb in 2020-2022, and once in 2023 with Chaim Schalk), placed second 9 times, third 14 times, and fourth once
- Entering Atlanta he has been in the semifinals in 33 of his 44 completed AVP events and has advanced to the championship match in 6 of his last 9 AVP tournaments
- He has won 4 of his titles in California, and the other 5 in 5 different states
- This weekend will mark his 3rd AVP event in Atlanta... in 2022 he and Trevor Crabb placed 3rd, then that duo was 9th last year

Chaim Schalk – age 37 – 6'5" – hometown Red Deer, Alberta – currently Gardena, Calif. – Red Deer College / Trinity Western

- Schalk is playing in his 38th AVP tournament with his 8th different partner
- He has 3 wins (in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer, Hermosa Beach 2022 with Theo Brunner and New Orleans 2023 with Tri Bourne), 7 second place finishes and 10 third place finishes
- Schalk has been to the semifinals in just over half his AVP events entering Atlanta (20 of 37 completed events), and has done so with 6 different partners
- He has competed in 10 different states while playing on the AVP Tour and has advanced to the semifinals in all 10 and to the finals in 7 different states
- Schalk has played in the championship match both previous times in Atlanta (both times with Theo Brunner)

Atlanta – Men – #4 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander

Taylor Crabb / Sander are playing together for the 13th time on the AVP Tour and 23rd time overall

- The duo has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (Phoenix 2022, Huntington Beach 2022, Miami 2023), finished 2nd four times and 3rd three times
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 44-15 in matches, 32-5 when winning the first set, 12-9 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in one-set matches and 17-9 in three-set matches
- They began their partnership with an 11-3 match record, but then went 5-5... since that point they have gone 28-7 entering Hermosa Beach
- They began their partnership winning 32 of the first 35 matches when winning the first set... then last event in Hermosa Beach they lost their last 2 matches when winning the first set
- Entering Atlanta the duo has advanced to the semifinals in 7 consecutive AVP events
- Of their 15 match losses, 13 have come to teams seeded 1st or 2nd

AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	3	2	2095	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	3	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
AVP	11/11-13/2022	Huntington Beach Open	1	1	1891	\$8,000.00
AVP	9/23-24/2022	Phoenix Championships	3	1	1891	\$15,000.00
AVP	9/2-4/2022	Chicago Open	4	2	2205	\$22,000.00
AVP	8/18-21/2022	Manhattan Beach Open	5	3	2095	\$12,000.00
AVP	8/5-7/2022	Atlanta Open	4	7	1796	\$7,600.00
AVP	7/29-31/2022	Fort Lauderdale Open	4	3	1891	\$6,000.00
AVP	7/8-10/2022	Hermosa Beach Open	5	2	1990	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/27-29/2022	New Orleans Open	3	2	1990	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/6-8/2022	Austin Open	7	5	1706	\$4,200.00

Taylor Crabb – age 31 – 6’0” – hometown Honolulu, Hawai’i – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Long Beach State

- This is Taylor Crabb’s 55th AVP event with 7 different partners
- Taylor Crabb has 12 wins (8 with Jake Gibb, 3 with Taylor Sander, 1 with Phil Dalhausser), 13 seconds (with 4 different partners), and 15 thirds
- Taylor Crabb led the AVP Tour in victories in 2019 with 4, and tied for team lead last year with 3
- Taylor Crabb has advanced to the semifinals in 40 of his 54 AVP tournaments (74% of the events)
- He finished in 3rd place in Atlanta 2021 with Jake Gibb, and 7th in Atlanta 2022 with Taylor Sander
- He has played in 12 states in his AVP career (including Tour Series)... he has been in the championship match in 9 different states... the only ones without a finals appearance are Georgia (2 events), Ohio (one event) and Virginia (one Tour Series event)

Taylor Sander – age 31 – 6’5” – hometown Corona, Calif. – currently Huntington Beach, Calif. – Brigham Young

- Sander is playing in his 14th AVP event (13 alongside Taylor Crabb and 1 with his brother Brenden Sander)
- Sander has 3 wins (all with Taylor Crabb) and has been in the semifinals in 10 of his 12 AVP events entering Atlanta
- Sander, a two-time indoor Olympian, is 15-11 in AVP matches with at least one Olympian (indoors or beach) on the opposing team
- In his short AVP career, Sander has lost 17 matches on the AVP tour (entering Atlanta), and 15 of those were to teams seeded higher than him (has been upset just twice, to #13 Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend in Atlanta and to #18 Gage Basey / Lars Basey in Denver on the Tour Series)

Atlanta – Men – #5 Chase Budinger / Miles Evans

Budinger / Evans are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour and 11th time overall

- The duo finished 2nd in the AVP debut in the 2023 season opener in Miami, then 5th in both Huntington Beach and Hermosa Beach
- Internationally the duo lost in the qualifier to Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander in their first event, then in their next outing they advanced through the qualifier and went undefeated into the gold medal match, losing 15-13 in the third set
- In 1 season as partners on the AVP they are 11-6 in matches... they are 11-1 when winning the first set and 0-5 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in three-set matches

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	7/26-30/2023	Elite16 Montréal	16, Q13	9	600	US\$6,000.00
FIVB	7/20-23/2023	Challenge Edmonton	11	19	300	US\$1,000.00
FIVB	7/13-16/2023	Challenge Portugal	16	9	460	US\$2,500.00
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	4	5	1796	\$4,200.00
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	10	9	460	US\$2,500.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	Q7	21	340	US\$0.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	4	5	1796	\$4,200.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	17, Q10	2	760	\$8,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	Q5	25	220	\$0.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	3	2	2095	\$8,500.00

Chase Budinger – age 35 – 6’7” – hometown Encinitas, Calif. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Arizona

- This is Budinger’s 32nd AVP event with 6 different partners
- Budinger has won 3 times all with Casey Patterson (in Hermosa Beach 2019, Atlanta 2021 and Chicago 2021), to go with 6 seconds and 7 thirds
- In all, he has advanced to the semifinals in 16 of his 31 completed events, doing so with 5 different partners
- His first 19 events came alongside a beach Olympian (Sean Rosenthal, Casey Patterson and Chaim Schalk)... he also played one tournament with indoor Olympian Reid Priddy
- He won in 2021 in Atlanta with Casey Patterson... in 2022 here he placed 3rd with Troy Field... entering this weekend he has a 9-2 match record in Atlanta

Miles Evans – age 33 – 6’4” – hometown Santa Barbara, Calif. – currently Santa Barbara, Calif. – Santa Barbara City College

- Evans is playing in his 30th AVP tournament with 14 different partners... he has never played more than 4 events with any partner in his career
- He has 1 win (Denver 2022 on the Tour Series with Andy Benesh) and 2 second place finishes (Hermosa Beach 2019 with Ryan Doherty and Miami 2023 with Chase Budinger)
- He has won on the NVL, NORCECA, FIVB and AVP (Tour Series)
- This is the 3rd time he has played an AVP event in Atlanta, with his 3rd different partner... he was 7th in 2021 with Ricardo Santos, and 9th with Avery Drost in 2022

Atlanta – Men – #6 Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend

Brewster / Friend are playing together for the 15th time on the AVP Tour and 22nd time overall

- The duo's best finish was 2nd in Waupaca 2022 on the Tour Series... they also have 4 3rd-place finishes including in Tavares to end the 2022 AVP season and New Orleans 2023
- By defeating Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander in the first round in Atlanta 2022, they became the lowest seeded team to beat Crabb since Austin 2019 (lost to 16th-seeded Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina in the first round)
- In Oct and Nov 2022 they won 3 straight NORCECA events
- Despite just beginning their partnership in July 2022, they have played the 2nd most events together of all the duos competing here (Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander have played one more than them)
- Entering New Orleans in 2 seasons the duo (including Tour Series) has a 31-26 match record... they are 20-9 when winning the first set and 10-16 when losing the first set and 0-1 in one-set matches with one forfeit loss... they are 18-14 in three-set matches
- All 5 of their New Orleans matches went to a third set

All AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	6	9	1621	\$2,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	8	9	1621	\$2,000.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	2	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	5	5	1796	\$4,200.00
AVP	12/2-4/2022	Central Florida Open	5	3	1891	\$6,000.00
AVP	11/11-13/2022	Huntington Beach Open	3	5	1540	\$1,500.00
AVP	9/2-4/2022	Chicago Open	9	5	1891	\$10,000.00
AVP	8/26-28/2022	Virginia Beach Open	1	3	1706	\$2,500.00
AVP	8/18-21/2022	Manhattan Beach Open	9	25	1132	\$650.00
AVP	8/5-7/2022	Atlanta Open	13	7	1796	\$7,600.00
AVP	7/29-31/2022	Fort Lauderdale Open	12	13	1390	\$1,400.00
AVP	7/22-24/2022	Atlantic City Open	5	3	1706	\$2,500.00
AVP	7/7-9/2022	Waupaca Open	6	2	1796	\$5,000.00
AVP	7/1-3/2022	Denver Open	14	7	1463	\$1,000.00

Timothy Brewster – age 23 – 6'0" – hometown Los Angeles, Calif. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif. – UCLA / Loyola Marymount

- This is Brewster's 30th AVP event with 10 different partners... his first came when he was 16 years old (lost in the 2016 Manhattan Beach qualifier)
- His career best is a second place finish (in Waupaca 2022 on the Tour Series with Friend), and 4 thirds
- Including Atlanta Brewster has played 15 tournaments with Kyle Friend and the other 15 with 9 different partners
- Brewster had never played in an AVP main draw prior to 2022... in his first 15 AVP events, he had a best of 17th place... he has had his 13 best career finishes with Friend

Kyle Friend – age 34 – 6'5" – hometown Boca Raton, Fla. – currently Newport Beach, Calif. – Long Beach State

- Friend is playing in his 38th AVP Tournament with 7 different partners
- His career best is a second place finish (in Waupaca 2022 on the Tour Series with Brewster), and 4 thirds
- In his first 23 AVP tournaments, Friend had a best of 9th four times... since partnering with Brewster he surpassed that 10 times
- Friend has partnered with two former indoor Olympians (Paul Lotman and David Lee) and lived with a beach Olympian (April Ross)

Atlanta – Men – #7 Phil Dalhausser / Avery Drost

Dalhausser / Drost are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour

- The duo placed 5th in Huntington Beach 2023 in their debut, then again were 5th in Hermosa Beach
- The two players have met on the court just 5 times previously... Dalhausser has won each time in a sweep... they last met in Manhattan Beach 2018... they shared the court in Huntington Beach in 2018 (on the FIVB Tour), with Dalhausser / Lucena defeating Drost / Billy Kolinske 21-19, 21-17
- Entering Atlanta in 1 season together on the AVP they have a 6-4 match record... they are 5-1 when winning the first set and 1-3 when losing the first set... they are 4-2 in three-set matches
- Entering Atlanta they have played 10 matches and six have gone to a third set and another 3 have gone past 21 points in at least one set

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	8	5	1796	\$4,200.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	7	5	1796	\$4,200.00

Phil Dalhausser – age 43 – 6’9” – hometown Baden, Switzerland – currently Orlando, Fla. – Central Florida

- This is Dalhausser’s 158th AVP event, winning 62 titles (plus 38 FIVB wins and 1 NVL victory)... he has 21 seconds, 25 thirds and 1 fourth... he has been in the semifinals in 109 of his 157 completed AVP tournaments (70%)
- Drost marks the 13th different partner that Dalhausser has ever had... 5 of them have been new partners for him since the start of 2022
- Since winning in Austin in 2005, Dalhausser won at least one title (AVP or FIVB) in 16 straight seasons before 2021
- Dalhausser’s AVP match record by year the past 3 seasons: 20-7 in 2019, 11-1 in 2020, 2-4 in 2021, 27-12 in 2022 (he had as many losses in 2022 as the previous three years combined), and now 9-7 in 2023 (entering Atlanta)... in New Orleans he went 0-2, the 3rd time doing that since the start of 2022 (the only 2 times prior to that he went 0-2 excluding forfeits were in Huntington Beach 2013, in Belmar 2003)
- Last season Dalhausser has played his 9 AVP events with 4 different partners... that was the first time in his career that he has played with even 3 different partners within the same AVP season... including Atlanta he has had 3 different partners in 2023
- Dalhausser is playing his 7th AVP tournament in Atlanta... he was 5th in 2006 with Todd Rogers, 3rd in 2007 with Rogers, 3rd in 2008 with Rogers, 2nd in 2009 with Rogers, 13th in 2021 with Nick Lucena, and 3rd in 2022 with Casey Patterson
- Dalhausser began the 2023 season playing with Troy Field, finishing third in Miami... he then placed 13th with John Sutton in New Orleans

Avery Drost – age 36 - 6’5” – hometown Redlands, Calif. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Westmont College

- This is Drost’s 86th AVP tournament with 30 different partners
- He has advanced to 8 semifinals in his AVP career, including 3 second-place finishes, all with Chase Frishman and all on the Tour Series in 2022... they made it to the title match in Atlantic City, Virginia Beach and Huntington Beach (where their only two losses were to top seeds Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander)
- His first ever semifinal was New York 2015 with Billy Kolinske, when they lost the first round match before winning 4 straight must-win matches to reach the semis (including wins over teams seeded #3 and #4)... his other third-place finishes came in Seattle 2016 with Gregg Weaver (after advancing from the qualifier and losing in the first round of the main draw), in New York 2016 with Billy Kolinske, in Hermosa Beach 2017 with Chase Frishman, then not again until Muskegon 2022 (on the Tour Series) with Andy Benesh
- He played 18 times with Chase Frishman, then no more than 5 events with any other partner

- He began 2023 with Jake Dietrich, finishing in 9th place in Miami... then in New Orleans he and Travis Mewhirter finished in 7th place
- This is the 3rd time he has played an AVP event in Atlanta, having finished 9th in 2021 with Miles Partain and 9th with Miles Evans in 2022

Atlanta – Men – #8 Evan Cory / Troy Field

Cory / Field are playing together for the 2nd time on the AVP Tour and 5th time overall

- The duo placed 9th in Hermosa Beach in their AVP debut
- All 4 previous tournaments the duo has played as partners (AVP and international) came in the month of July
- In their first event together they won a gold medal in a Futures event in Helsinki

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	7/20-23/2023	Challenge Edmonton	Q21	33	140	\$0.00
FIVB	7/13-16/2023	Challenge Portugal	Q24	25	220	\$0.00
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	5	9	1621	\$2,000.00
FIVB	6/29-7/2/2023	Futures Helsinki	1	1	400	€ 1,000.00

Evan Cory – age 25 – 6’3” – hometown Metairie, La.. – currently Metairie, La. – Lincoln Memorial University

- This is Cory’s 27th AVP event with 11 different partners
- His career best is 2nd place, done 2 times, both with Billy Kolinske (in Muskegon 2022 on the Tour Series and in Denver 2022 on the Tour Series)
- Cory has 4 finishes of 5th or better on the AVP Tour and 3 of them have come alongside Billy Kolinske
- His most frequented city on the AVP Tour is his hometown area New Orleans (played there 4 times), then has played 3 times in 3 different cities (Atlanta including this weekend, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach)
- In Atlanta in 2021 he and Logan Webber placed 17th, then in Atlanta 2022 he and Billy Kolinske placed 5th
- He began the 2023 season with Logan Webber, placing 5th in New Orleans and 13th in Huntington Beach

Troy Field – age 29 – 6’4” – hometown Laguna Beach, Calif. – currently Laguna Beach, Calif. – Saddleback Community College

- Field is playing in his 36th AVP event with 12 different partners
- He has been in the semifinals 8 times, including second-place finishes in New York 2019 with Tim Bomgren, in Austin 2022 with Chase Budinger, and in New Orleans 2023 with Billy Allen
- Field has had 13 total finishes of 5th or better, and they all came in 2019, 2022 and 2023
- Field began 2023 playing with Phil Dalhausser in Miami, finishing in 3rd place... he then played twice with Billy Allen, finishing 2nd in New Orleans and 7th in Huntington Beach
- After playing 2 consecutive tournaments alongside Billy Allen, his first match in Hermosa Beach was against Allen, with Allen winning
- This season on the AVP Tour he has 6 match losses entering Atlanta, and 3 of them have come against teams seeded third or better
- This marks the 3rd time Field has competed in Atlanta... in 2021 he was 7th with Eric Beranek and in 2022 he was 3rd with Chase Budinger

Atlanta – Men – #11 Billy Allen / Alison Cerutti

Allen / Alison are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour

- The duo placed 2nd in Virginia Beach 2023 on the Tour Series in their debut together, then won in Denver on the Tour Series, and placed 3rd in Hermosa Beach... they have reached the semifinals in each event
- In 1 season as partners they have an 14-3 match record... they are 13-0 when winning the first set and 1-3 when losing the first set... they are 4-0 in three-set matches
- The duo was seeded first in their first event together (Virginia Beach on the Tour Series), then after finishing in second place they were seeded 6th in Denver (also on the Tour Series)... after winning that event, they were seeded 12th in Hermosa Beach (their first Pro Series event)
- The duo earned a berth in Atlanta based on their win in Denver on the Tour Series

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	12	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	6/30-7/2/2023	Tour Series Denver Open	6	1	1621	\$3,800.00
AVP	6/9-11/2023	Tour Series Virginia Beach Open	1	2	1540	\$2,200.00

Billy Allen – age 41 – 6’2” – hometown Fallbrook, Calif. – currently Rathdrum, Idaho (recently moved to Bay area though as his wife Janelle is the new Director of Operations for Cal’s indoor volleyball team) – Cal State Northridge

- This is Allen’s 129th AVP event with 18 different partners
- He has 2 wins (in Seattle 2016 with Theo Brunner and in Seattle 2017 with Stafford Slick) plus one Tour Series win (in Denver 2023 with Alison Cerutti), 5 seconds and 12 thirds
- All of his wins have come in rainy places (not necessarily rainy during the tournament), as he won in Seattle 2016, in Seattle 2017 and in Denver 2023 on the Tour Series (which as of the end of June had more rain year to date than Seattle)
- Including the Tour Series Allen has advanced to the semifinals in 6 of his last 8 AVP tournaments, and to the finals in 3 of his last 5 events
- Allen began the 2023 season with Andy Benesh in Miami, losing both matches 15-12 in the third set and finishing in 13th place... he then played twice with Troy Field, finishing 2nd in New Orleans and 7th in Huntington Beach
- He has advanced to the semifinals on the AVP with 8 different partners and to the championship with 5 different ones
- Allen is playing in his 5th AVP tournament in Atlanta...in 2007 he was 25th with AJ Mihalic, in 2009 he was 5th with Braidy Halverson, in 2021 he was 5th with Andy Benesh, and in 2022 he was 13th with Jeremy Casebeer

Alison Cerutti – age 37 – 6’8” – hometown Vitoria, Brazil. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif.

- Alison is playing in his 6th AVP event with 3 different partners
- His first AVP event came in 2009 in Glendale, Ariz, where he and Harley Marques placed second
- He didn’t play on the AVP Tour again until this season, when he lost in the qualifier in Huntington Beach alongside Eric Beranek... then in his next 2 tournaments he reached the finals both times with Billy Allen (finishing second in Virginia Beach on the Tour Series and winning in Denver on the Tour Series)... with a 3rd-place finish in Hermosa Beach he has reached the semifinals in 4 of his 5 AVP tournaments
- In his short AVP career, he has never lost a match when winning the first set (18-0 entering Atlanta)... he is 1-6 when losing the first set
- A three-time Olympian, Alison won a silver medal in 2012, won gold in 2016, and placed fifth last year in Tokyo
- On the Brazilian Tour, he has won 40 tournaments, finished second 21 times, and third 19 times (they play the 3rd-place match there)... he won 13 times with Bruno Schmidt and 12 times with Emanuel Rego
- He was a 6-time Best Attacker on the Brazilian Tour, and a 6-time Best Blocker

Atlanta – Men – #12 Hagen Smith / Logan Webber

Smith / Webber are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour

- The duo reached the finals in each of their first 2 tournaments (both on the Tour Series), winning in Virginia Beach and then placing 2nd in Denver... they were 9th in Hermosa Beach
- Entering Atlanta in 1 season as partners on the AVP (including Tour Series), they have a 11-4 match record... they are 8-0 when winning the first set and 2-4 when losing the first set... they are 3-2 in three-set matches

Hagen Smith – age 28 – 6'0" – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Santa Monica, Calif. – UCLA

- Smith is playing in his 34th AVP tournament with 9 different partners
- He has 1 Tour Series win (in Virginia Beach 2023 with Logan Webber)
- In early July in Denver on the Tour Series he placed 2nd with Webber... outside of the Tour Series, his career best is 3rd place, which he had in Chicago 2022 with Jake Dietrich
- He began the season with a pair of events alongside Billy Kolinske, finishing 7th in Miami and 13th in New Orleans
- Smith played in the qualifier in each of his first 22 AVP events, but including Atlanta he has now been seeded directly into the main draw in his last 12 tournaments (including Tour Series)
- This marks the 2nd time Smith is playing in Atlanta... he was 21st in 2021 with Robbie Page
- His dad, Sinjin, played in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, finishing in 5th place with Carl Henkel
- Smith made history in Hermosa Beach in 2022, as he and Jake Dietrich were seeded 16th and defeated the top seeds (Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb) in the first round meeting

Logan Webber – age 27 – 6'7" – hometown Grand Rapids, Mich. – currently Grand Rapids, Mich. – Cincinnati Christian University

- Webber is playing in his 34th AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- He has 1 Tour Series win (in Virginia Beach 2023 with Hagen Smith)
- In early July in Denver on the Tour Series he placed 2nd with Smith... he has been to 2 other semifinals, both in 2022 and both on the Tour Series (in Denver and Huntington Beach, both with Seain Cook)
- Outside of the Tour Series, his career best is 5th place, which he last did in Tavares 2023 with Seain Cook
- This marks the 3rd time that he is playing an AVP event in Atlanta... in 2021 he was 17th with Evan Cory, and in 2022 he was 9th with John Hyden

Atlanta – Men – #14 John Hyden / Billy Kolinske

Hyden / Kolinske are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour and 4th time overall

- The duo made its debut in Atlanta in 2021, finishing 9th, then had its best finish in Denver 2023 on the Tour Series (3rd place)
- It's been nearly two years since the duo has played in a Pro or Gold Series event, and that one happened in Atlanta as well... in that event they chalked up a win over top-seeded Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena (by forfeit)
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP (including Tour Series) they have a 4-3 match record... they are 3-0 when winning the first set and 0-3 when losing the first set... they have one win by forfeit and are 1-0 in three-set matches
- The duo earned a berth in Atlanta based on their 5th-place finish in Denver on the Tour Series

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	6/30-7/2/2023	Tour Series Denver Open	3	5	1320	\$500.00
AVP	8/11-15/2021	Atlanta Open	8	9	420	\$3,400.00

John Hyden – age 50 – 6'5" – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently Sherman Oaks, Calif. – San Diego State

- This is Hyden's 165th AVP event with 19 different partners
- He has 12 AVP titles, and his last one came in Hermosa Beach 2018... in that tournament he set the record for being the oldest player to ever win an AVP event (was 45 years, 9 months, 22 days old)
- Hyden also owns the record for being the oldest player to play in a main draw
- Hyden advanced to the semifinals in the 2019 finale, and then lost in the 5th-place match 5 times before finishing 2nd in the 2023 season finale in Tavares (with Tri Bourne)
- He has only played one other event this season, placing 5th in Denver on the Tour Series
- This is the 7th time Hyden has played in Atlanta... he was 3rd in 2006 with Jeff Nygaard, 5th in 2007 with Brad Keenan, 3rd in 2008 with Keenan, won in 2009 with Sean Scott, 9th in 2021 with Billy Kolinske, and 9th in 2022 with Logan Webber

Billy Kolinske – age 36 - 6'6" – hometown Big Bend, Wisc. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Wisconsin-Whitewater

- This is Kolinske's 50th AVP event with 19 different partners
- His best finish is 2nd place, which he has done twice, both times with Evan Cory and in consecutive events... they had their 2nd-place finishes on the Tour Series in Muskegon 2022 and Denver 2022
- Kolinske has been to a total of 7 semifinals on the AVP Tour (including Tour Series)... he has 5 third-place finishes with 4 different partners... his first 3 (in 2015 and 2016) all came after defeating a tandem of brothers (the Bomgrens twice and the McKibbins once)... his fourth came in Manhattan Beach 2019 when he played 11 matches in the event (tying an AVP record), with 10 of those being elimination matches and six being three-set matches that all lasted over 1:08... his most recent third-place finish was in Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series
- Kolinske is playing in his 5th AVP tournament of the season (including Tour Series) with 3 different partners... he and Hagen Smith started the season with a 7th in Miami and a 13th in New Orleans... he finished 5th in Denver on the Tour Series with John Hyden... he and Chase Frishman placed 9th in Hermosa Beach
- He is playing in Atlanta for the 3rd time... he was 9th in 2021 with John Hyden and 5th in 2022 with Evan Cory

Atlanta – Men – #15 Gage Basey / Lars Basey

G. Basey and L. Basey are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour

- The duo's only two events previous to this weekend were in Denver (both were on the Tour Series)... in 2022 they advanced from the qualifier and finished in 17th place... in July 2023 as the 18th seeds they finished in 3rd place
- The two brothers have not played much together as both were back row players... it is only recently (this summer) that Gage has become a blocker
- The duo earned a berth in Atlanta based on their 3rd-place finish in Denver on the Tour Series
- In that Denver event the two brothers played against another set of brothers, Brenden and Taylor Sander, with the Gage brothers coming from behind to win 18-16 in the third set in front of a home crowd

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	6/30-7/2/2023	Tour Series Denver Open	18	3	1463	\$1,000.00
AVP	7/1-3/2022	Tour Series Denver Open	22, Q14	17	1132	\$0.00

Gage Basey – age 19 – 6'5" – hometown Lyons, Colo. – currently Lyons, Colo. – Colorado

- This is G. Basey's 6th AVP event with 4 different partners
- He has reached 2 semifinals in his shot career, and both have come in his last 2 events played... on July 2 he placed 3rd in Denver on the Tour Series with Lars Basey, then on July 7 in Waupaca on the Tour Series he placed 3rd with Diego Perez
- Entering Atlanta G. Basey has won 6 of his last 8 matches, and both of 2 losses were to teams seeded number one in the tournament
- G. Basey turns 20 on August 18 (during Manhattan Beach)
- G. Basey has alternated partners in all 6 of his events and has never played with the same partner in consecutive events
- Before Atlanta G. Basey played in just one Pro or Gold Series event, losing in his only qualifier match in Huntington Beach 2023 with Thomas Hurst, losing 15-13 in the third set... in that event they had to play against fellow Coloradoans Michael Groselle / Nathan Yang

Lars Basey – age 25 - 6'3" – hometown Lyons, Colo. – currently Lyons, Colo. – Northern Colorado

- This is L. Basey's 5th AVP event with 2 different partners
- His best finish came last month, when he placed 3rd in Denver on the Tour Series with Gage Basey
- Atlanta marks his first career AVP tournament that is not on the Tour Series (i.e. a Pro or Gold Series tournament)
- His first career AVP main draw match win came against Brendan Sander / Taylor Sander, winning 18-16 in the third set
- L. Basey has alternated partners in his AVP events, playing with Gage Basey then Ian Carlson the G. Basey then Carlson and now G. Basey

Atlanta – Men – #16 Michael Groselle / Nathan Yang

Groselle / Yang are playing together for the 9th time on the AVP Tour

- The duo had its best finish in Denver on the Tour Series (3rd place)
- Atlanta marks the 2nd Pro Series event they have played in a main draw (advanced from qualifier and finished in 25th place in Manhattan Beach 2022)
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP they have a 16-13 match record (including Tour Series and qualifiers)... they are 14-13 when winning the first set and 2-10 when losing the first set... they are 4-5 in three-set matches
- The duo earned a berth in Atlanta based on their 3rd-place finish in Denver on the Tour Series

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	7/5-7/2023	Tour Series Waupaca Open	10	9	1192	\$0.00
AVP	6/30-7/2/2023	Tour Series Denver Open	17	3	1463	\$1,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	Q13	21	1192	\$0.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	Q11	21	1192	\$0.00
AVP	8/26-28/2022	Virginia Beach Open	12	9	1390	\$500.00
AVP	8/18-21/2022	Manhattan Beach Open	26, Q7	25	1132	\$650.00
AVP	7/22-24/2022	Atlantic City Open	15, Q1	13	1254	\$0.00
AVP	7/7-9/2022	Waupaca Open	7	17	1132	\$0.00

Michael “Big Mike” Groselle – age 32 – 6’8” – hometown Plano, Texas – currently Aurora, Colo. – Citadel

- This is Groselle’s 25th AVP event with 9 different partners
- His best finish is a 3rd place, which he had in Denver in July on the Tour Series with Nathan Yang
- Atlanta will mark the 3rd time he has played in a main draw in a Pro Series or Gold Series event (5th in Atlanta 2021 with David Vander Meer and 25th in Manhattan Beach 2022 with Nathan Yang)
- The 2021 Atlanta event was the only other time he has played in Atlanta... in that event he won three qualifier matches, then won his first ever AVP main draw match that he played by defeating top-seeded Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in three sets (he had 5 blocks in the match compared to 3 by Dalhausser)

Nathan Yang – age 32 – 6’3” – hometown Davis, Calif. – currently Lakewood, Colo. – California-Davis / Colorado

- Yang is playing in his 28th AVP event with 14 different partners
- Atlanta marks the 9th time he has played with Groselle, and the other 19 events came with 13 different partners
- His best finish is a 3rd place, which he had in Denver in July on the Tour Series with Michael Groselle
- Outside of the Tour Series, Atlanta marks his 3rd AVP main draw... he was 25th in Manhattan Beach 2017 with David Smith and 25th in Manhattan Beach 2022 with Michael Groselle
- Like Groselle, his first ever AVP main draw match came against Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena (in Manhattan Beach 2017), but unlike Groselle he lost 21-9, 21-13 against the eventual tournament champs
- This is Yang’s first ever event in Atlanta