

Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 – Match 6

3:30 pm – #3 Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson vs. #14 (Q4) Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss

Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- None of these players have ever played against any of their opponents in their careers

Hughes / Wilkerson are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour

- The team has advanced to the semifinals in 4 of their 5 AVP tournaments together (only exception was a 5th-place finish in the 3rd Long Beach event of 2020)
- 5 of their 10 match losses on the AVP Tour have come against teams seeded either first or second
- As partners on the AVP Tour, the duo has a 14-10 match record, is 12-1 when winning the first set, and is 4-2 in three-set matches

Sara Hughes – age 26 – 5’10” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern California

- This is Hughes’ 25th AVP event... she has 3 wins, 4 seconds and 8 thirds
- Hughes has been in the semifinals in 15 of her 24 AVP events (63% of the tournaments entered), and in the championship match 7 times (29% of the time)
- Hughes’ AVP career began with 3 events losing in the qualifier, then she advanced to the semifinals in 4 of her next 7 AVP tournaments, then she won 3 consecutive times, then reached the semifinals in 8 of her past 11 AVP events
- In 2020 Hughes ranked 5th on the Tour in digs (6.73 per set)

Brandie Wilkerson – age 29 – 5’10” – hometown Lausanne, Switzerland – currently Toronto, Canada

- Wilkerson is playing in her 13th AVP Tournament, with 3 2nd-place finishes and 3 3rd-place finishes
- Wilkerson did not advance from the qualifier in either of her first two AVP events, then placed second in Manhattan Beach 2017 with Nicole Branagh... in that tournament they had to win 5 contender’s bracket matches to reach the semifinals
- In her AVP career, Wilkerson has lost 20 main draw matches, 11 of which have come against teams seeded first or second
- In 2020 Wilkerson led the Tour in blocks (1.69 per set) and aces (0.92 per set)

Kloth / Nuss are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour

- Yesterday they swept all three qualifier matches, never giving up more than 14 points in any of the 6 sets
- Kloth and Nuss both played for LSU beach volleyball in 2019, 2020 and 2021... Kloth and Nuss were teammates on court 1 in 2021, finishing the season 36-0

Taryn Kloth – age 24 – 6’4” – hometown Sioux Falls, S.D. – currently Metairie, La. – Creighton / Louisiana State

- This is Kloth’s first ever pro beach volleyball tournament
- Speaking of firsts, Kloth was ranked 18th on PrepVolleyball.com’s Senior Aces list, believed to be the first player from South Dakota to rank that high on the list
- And for another first, Kloth played indoors at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and is the first player known to go to Creighton in the bvbinform.net database of 20,238 players (which also includes international players)
- Kloth went 50-0 in matches her last two seasons of beach volleyball at LSU

Kristen Nuss – age 23 – 5’6” – hometown New Orleans, La. – currently Metairie, La. – Louisiana State

- This is Nuss’ 6th AVP event, and the 3rd time she has played in the main draw... she is already guaranteed of a career best AVP finish as both of the first two main draws came in events with bigger fields