

## Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 – Match 8

### 8:00 pm – #7 Megan Rice / Sarah Schermerhorn vs. #15 (Q7) Megan Kraft / Savannah Simo

#### Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- The only time any of these players have ever played against any of their opponents in their careers was when Megan Kraft played against Sarah Schermerhorn twice on the FIVB Tour (in the same event in Guam 2020)... Kraft won 23-21, 21-18 in pool play but Schermerhorn won 21-19, 21-18 in the semifinals

#### **Rice / Schermerhorn** are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour

- In their first round match in Atlanta, the duo had to beat some ex-partners... Rice had played one event with Kimberly Hildreth (finished 5th in Seattle 2015 on the NVL Tour) and once with Kathryn Hogan (finished 2nd in Hermosa Beach 2019 as the #13-seeded qualification team)... Schermerhorn had played 18 AVP tournaments with Hildreth, with a best of 2nd in Austin 2019 as the #7 qualification team
- In their match against Hildreth / Hogan, Schermerhorn had 9 kills in 12 attacks in the deciding third set
- Before Atlanta the last time Rice played on the AVP Tour was in Chicago 2019, and she was eliminated by Schermerhorn (and Kimberly Hildreth)

#### **Megan Rice** – age 27 – 5’11” – hometown Boca Raton, Fla. – currently Boca Raton, Fla. – Florida / Florida Atlantic

- This is Rice’s 13th AVP event... she has a best of 2nd (Hermosa Beach 2019 with Kathryn Hogan)
- Rice has already guaranteed herself at least a tie for her second best AVP finish ever
- Rice did not play on the AVP Tour in 2020... in 2019 she played 7 events with 5 different partners

#### **Sarah Schermerhorn** – age 32 – 6’1” – hometown Colfax, N.C. – currently Colfax, N.C. – Elon

- Schermerhorn is playing in her 22nd AVP Tournament, with a best of 2nd place (Austin 2019 with Kimberly Hildreth)
- This is just the 4th AVP tournament in her career playing with a partner other than Kimberly Hildreth... the other 3 events came in her first 3 AVP tournaments ever (in 2016 and 2017)
- From 2018 to 2020, Schermerhorn played exclusively with Kimberly Hildreth... in 2021 has played 4 FIVB events with Aurora Davis (and signed up to play in the Czech Republic in the week between Manhattan Beach and Chicago)

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#### **Kraft / Simo** are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour

- Yesterday they swept all three qualifier matches, never giving up more than 17 points in any of the 6 sets
- Their second match in the qualifier was against Larissa Franca (the three-time Olympian who is the all time leader in wins on both the FIVB Tour as well as the Brazilian National Tour)
- Their third match in the qualifier was against Maria Clara Salgado, a two-time winner on the FIVB Tour
- In their upset win over #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil, Simo registered 23 kills and 18 digs, and as a team they had 13 kills and just 1 hitting error in the third set

#### **Megan Kraft** – age 18 – 6’0” – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently San Diego, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Kraft’s 5th AVP event, and her 3rd time in AVP main draw
- In the last AVP tournament Kraft played prior to Atlanta, she and Delaynie Maple won three straight winner’s bracket matches (against teams seeded #11, #6 and #3) and placed 5th in Hermosa Beach

#### **Savannah Simo** – age 22 – 5’10” – hometown Ranch Santa Fe, Calif. – currently Ranch Santa Fe, Calif. – UCLA

- This is Simo’s 2nd AVP event (finished 81st in Hermosa Beach 2019)
- Simo tallied 91 victories while playing beach volleyball at UCLA, the 5th most in program history