

Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 – Match 4

12:15 pm – #10 Skylar del Sol / Ed Ratledge vs. #12 Billy Allen / Andy Benesh

Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- Allen beat del Sol on the NVL Tour in 2013 in their only previous meeting (22-24, 21-19, 15-11)
- Del Sol eliminated Benesh 21-18, 21-19 in the Long Beach qualifier in 2020 in their only other time playing against each other
- Being the veterans that they are, Allen and Ratledge are meeting each other for the 24th time... Allen holds a 15-8 edge in the series
- Ratledge is 3-0 all time against Benesh, playing twice in 2019 and once in 2020

Del Sol / Ratledge are playing together for the 5th time on the AVP Tour

- The pair has a best of 7th place in the first Long Beach event of 2020... in that event they defeated Benesh (and Eric Beranek) in the qualifier to get to the main draw
- In Seattle 2018, Ratledge eliminated del Sol in the 13th-place match, which was del Sol's 2nd AVP main draw ever

Skylar del Sol – age 30 – 6'0" – hometown Elizabeth, Colo. – currently Parker, Colo.

- This is del Sol's 26th AVP event... he has a best of 7th place 2 times
- In 2018 del Sol played 2 FIVB events with Trevor Crabb

Ed Ratledge – age 44 – 6'8" – hometown Fountain Valley, Calif. – currently Huntington Beach, Calif. – UCLA

- Ratledge is playing in his 160th AVP Tournament, with 1 win and 4 3rd-place finishes
- Ratledge has played with 28 different partners over the years
- Ratledge did not reach a semifinal until San Francisco 2017 (with Eric Zaun) in what was his 139th AVP tournament... that marked the 2nd most tournaments any player ever played without reaching a semifinal
- Ratledge's victory came in San Francisco 2018 with Roberto Rodriguez... the duo beat 4 teams seeded #7 or better to win the title
- This marks the 5th time Ratledge has played in Atlanta, and it is with his 4th different partner... he had a best of 7th with Ryan Marian in 2008

Allen / Benesh are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour and 3rd time overall

- The duo lost in the country quota (to Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb) in their first FIVB event together, then placed 17th in Rwanda last month
- In two matches in Atlanta, Allen and Benesh are one of the rare teams which has more service aces (7) than service errors (6)

Billy Allen – age 39 – 6'2" – hometown Fallbrook, Calif. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Cal State-Northridge

- This is Allen's 112th AVP tournament, with 2 wins, 3 3rd-place finishes and 9 3rd-place finishes
- He has played with 15 different partners on the AVP Tour... he has advanced to a semifinal with 5 of them
- Both of Allen's victories came in Seattle, in 2016 and in 2017
- Allen played in Atlanta in both 2007 and 2009, finishing 5th with Braidy Halverson in 2009

Andy Benesh – age 26– 6'9" – hometown Ranch Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently St. Petersburg, Fla. – Southern Cal

- This is Benesh's 16th AVP event, with a best of 7th place in Hermosa Beach 2019 with Adam Roberts
- This is just the 2nd time in his AVP career that he has been seeded directly into the main draw