

## Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 – Match 6

### 2:25 pm – #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil vs. #3 Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson

#### Head to Head

- This is the 4th meeting between the teams... Hughes / Wilkerson won the first two meetings, with Claes / Sponcil winning the last outing... all three matches took place in the different Long Beach events of 2020

**Claes / Sponcil** are playing together for the 8th time on the AVP Tour and 32nd time overall

- The team has a best of 2nd twice on the AVP Tour, but has 2 FIVB wins
- In 2020 the duo had a 6-5 match record, with 3 losses to Alix Klineman / April Ross and 2 losses to Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson
- In their partnership Claes / Sponcil have only had one AVP tournament in which they have not advanced to the semifinals (placed 5th in the second Long Beach event last year after losing a pair of three-set matches to the event's top two seeded teams)
- As partners on the AVP Tour, the duo has a 21-14 match record, is 20-4 when winning the first set, and is 5-6 in three-set matches

**Kelly Claes** – age 25 – 6'2" – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – Southern California

- This is Claes' 24th AVP event... she has 1 win, 4 seconds and 12 thirds
- Claes has been in the semifinals in 17 of her 23 AVP events (74% of the tournaments entered)
- Claes won her AVP title in Chicago 2017 when she was 21 years old... she has since played 14 AVP tournaments (before Atlanta) without being able to secure her second AVP victory
- In 2020 Claes led the Tour in kills (9.0 per set), was 3rd in hitting percentage (.444) and 5th in blocks (0.9)

**Sarah Sponcil** – age 24 – 5'10" – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Phoenix, Ariz. – Loyola Marymount / UCLA

- Sponcil is playing in her 14th AVP Tournament, with 3 2nd-place finishes and 4 3rd-place finishes
- Sponcil reached the championship match in her 2nd ever AVP tournament (Austin 2018)
- In 2020 Sponcil was tied for 5th on the Tour in digs (6.7 per set)

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**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
- As partners on the AVP Tour, the duo has a 16-11 match record, is 14-1 when winning the first set, and is 4-2 in three-set matches... 5 of their 11 match losses have come against teams seeded either #1 or #2

**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, she has lost 21 main draw matches, 11 of those were against teams seeded #1 or #2
- In 2020 Wilkerson led the Tour in blocks (1.69 per set) and aces (0.92 per set)