

Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 – Match 8

8:00 pm – #4 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk vs. #16 (Q12) Michael Groselle / David Vander Meer

Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- Groselle has never played against either Brunner or Schalk previously
- Brunner is 2-0 against Vander Meer, winning 14-21, 21-19, 16-14 in Austin 2018 and 21-13 21-18 in Manhattan Beach 2019
- Schalk and Vander Meer have never faced each other previously

Brunner / Schalk are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour and the 9th time overall

- In their last outing as partners, the duo won an FIVB two-star event in Rwanda (beat Americans Chase Budinger / Troy Field for the gold medal)

Theo Brunner – age 36 – 6’7” – hometown Ridgefield, Conn. – currently Torrance, Calif. – Cal-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner’s 54th AVP event... he has 3 wins, 4 3rd-place finishes and 10 3rd-place finishes
- His 3 wins came with 3 different partners
- In 2020 Brunner was 2nd on the Tour in hitting percentage (.477) and 4th in blocks (1.46 per set)

Chaim Schalk – age 35 – 6’5” – hometown Red Deer, Alberta, Canada – currently Gardena, Calif.

- Schalk is playing in his 24th AVP Tournament, with 1 win, 2 2nd-place finishes and 6 3rd-place finishes
- His win came in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer
- In Schalk’s 2nd ever AVP event (and his first main draw), he and Ricardo Santos were the #35 seeds in the qualifier and advanced, becoming the 16th seeds in the main draw... they won both of their first two matches enroute to a third-place finish, becoming the lowest seeded qualifying team to ever reach the semifinals

Groselle / Vander Meer are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP Tour

- On Thursday they swept all three qualifier matches, giving up more than 15 points in just 2 of the 6 sets
- Seeded 12th in the qualifier, they were the lowest seeded team to advance
- They are the 3rd AVP team in history to be seeded #16 in a 16-main draw team and win its first two matches
- In the last 24 AVP tournaments, just 2 qualifier teams have managed to advance to the semifinals, but Groselle / Vander Meer will look to become the 3rd in a span of 25 events to do so

Michael Groselle – age 30 – 6’8” – hometown Plano, Texas – currently Lakewood, Colo. – The Citadel

- This is Groselle’s 12th AVP event, and his first time in AVP main draw
- Groselle was a basketball player at The Citadel, leaving the program with the most double-doubles in program history, second in total rebounds, second in career field goal percentage, and seventh in points

David Vander Meer – age 29 – 5’9” – hometown Grand Rapids, Mich. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Ball State

- This is Vander Meer’s 25th AVP event and his 16th different partner
- Atlanta marks the 9th time he has played in an AVP main draw and he has won a main draw match in 5 of the previous 8 tournaments he has been in the main draw... he has already secured his career best on the AVP Tour
- Vander Meer has a career best of 9th in Austin 2018 when he and Troy Field narrowly lost their first round match to #2 Theo Brunner / John Hyden (16-14 in the third), then eliminated #10 Chase Budinger / Sean Rosenthal