

# Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021 – Match 1

## 9:00 am – #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil vs. #7 Megan Rice / Sarah Schermerhorn

### Head to Head

- This is the 1st meeting between the teams

**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 22-14 match record, is 21-4 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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**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
- Both of their first two matches in Atlanta needed a third set to decide the winner
- 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 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)