

Atlanta – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021 – Match 3

11:10 am – #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil vs. #5 Crissy Jones / Susannah Munro

Head to Head

- Claes / Sponcil beat Jones / Munro 21-17, 21-15 in Hawai'i 2019 in the only other meeting between these two teams... in that match Claes had 14 kills with 0 hitting errors, both Claes and Sponcil had 2 aces, Jones had 2 blocks and Munro had 20 kills and 11 digs

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 23-14 match record, is 22-4 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 now been in the semifinals in 18 of her 24 AVP events (75% 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)

Jones / Munro are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour and 8th time overall

- The duo's best finish came in their 2nd event together in Hermosa Beach 2019... seeded 47th in the qualifier, they won 4 qualifier matches, lost in the first round of the main draw, then needed to win 5 straight contender's bracket matches to reach the semifinals where they placed 3rd... they became the lowest seeded team in AVP history to reach the semifinals
- Last month the duo won a one-star FIVB event in Belgium, going 7-0 in matches including the qualifier

Crissy Jones – age 24 – 6'2" – hometown Los Alamitos, Calif. – currently San Luis Obispo, Calif. – Washington / Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo

- This is Jones' 9th AVP event, and she has been in the main draw in all but her first event... she has guaranteed herself at least a tie for her best finish in her career (also 3rd place in Hermosa Beach 2019)
- Jones had 15 blocks in her first 3 matches (6 sets, 2.50 per set average)... the next highest average on the list is Brandie Wilkerson (11 blocks in 8 sets, 1.38 per set)

Susannah Munro – age 25 – 5'10" – hometown Hermosa Beach, Calif. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif. – UCLA

- This is Munro's 10th AVP tournament and she has guaranteed herself at least a tie for her best finish in her career (also 3rd place in Hermosa Beach 2019)
- In Huntington Beach 2013, she played in the qualifier with Sarah Sponcil, which was the pro beach volleyball debut for both players