

Chicago – Sunday, September 3, 2023 – Men’s Championship

1:30 pm – #1 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain vs. #2 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb

NOTE: The notes below do not include events on the Tour Series unless specifically stated

Head to Head

- These two teams have met 2 times before... Benesh / Partain have won both times

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/6/23	AVP	Gold Series Atlanta Open	Semis	Benesh/Partain	1	Brunner/Crabb	2	21-14, 22-20	0:48
5/21/23	AVP	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	Semis	Benesh/Partain	5	Brunner/Crabb	2	21-16, 14-21, 15-13	1:02

Title Tidbits

- This season the AVP has completed 9 tournaments (between Pro Series and Tour Series), and there have been 7 different winning teams and 14 different winning players... Benesh / Partain have won twice while Brunner / Crabb are looking to win for the 2nd time this season
- In the last 33 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series), there have been just two winners who were seeded lower than 4th, and that was in Atlanta 2022 when Miles Partain and Paul Lotman won as the 6th seeds and in Huntington Beach when Andy Benesh and Miles Partain won as the 5th seeds... both finalists today are seeded 4th or better
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 37 of the last 46 times
- In Chicago specifically, the team winning the first set of the championship match is 15-0 (as far as match data is known for the past 15 events here)
- 12 of the last 22 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- 25 of the last 33 AVP championship matches were won by the higher seeded teams (just 8 upsets in that span)
- The #1 seed has won in just 5 of the last 19 AVP events (excluding Tour Series), and in 17 of the last 57 tournaments prior to Manhattan Beach... #1 seeds Andy Benesh / Miles Partain hope to become the second team to win that was seeded #1 in the last 3 events
- 11 of the last 14 AVP champions (including Tour Series) have come from the winner’s bracket (meaning they were undefeated throughout the whole tournament)... today will make it 12 of 15 as both teams are undefeated entering the title match
- Andy Benesh / Miles Partain won the first Gold Series event of 2023 in Atlanta... while that was the only Gold Series title for Benesh, Partain also won in Atlanta 2022 (with Paul Lotman)... Theo Brunner has yet to win a Gold Series title, while Trevor Crabb has won 4 times (in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Reid Priddy, in Manhattan Beach 2021 with Tri Bourne, in Manhattan Beach 2022 with Bourne, and in Chicago 2022 with Bourne)
- We are guaranteed to have the 10th different winning team in the last 11 AVP tournaments in Chicago... the only team to repeat in that span was Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb (in 2018 and 2019)
- This will be the 13th time in the last 20 Chicago tournaments in which the winning team was seeded either first or second... the #1 seed has won 7 times in that span while the #2 teams has 5 wins... the top two seeds have met for the title just 3 times previously in Chicago (in 2006, 2007 and 2009)
- This will mark the 5th straight year that a Crabb has been in the championship match in Chicago (Taylor won in 2018 and 2019, Trevor was 2nd in 2021, Trevor beat Taylor in 2022)
- Benesh / Partain have won each of their first 2 AVP tournaments played together. That feat has been accomplished by three other men’s teams in AVP history, John Hanley / Jon Stevenson (who won the first two AVP tournaments ever held) in 1984, Adam Johnson / Ricci Luyties in 1991, and Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger in 2005. Benesh and Partain will be looking to secure their third win in their first three AVP events as partners, something that just one other team has accomplished. In 1997 Jose Loiola and Kent Steffes began the season (and their partnership) by winning in Phoenix, Riviera Beach and Clearwater before the wheels fell off and they settled for third place in Fort Myers.

Benesh / Partain are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP and 13th time overall

- Their AVP debut as a team came in Huntington Beach, and they rebounded from a third-round loss to win the title... then in Atlanta the duo won again
- Their 5th-place in Hamburg two weeks ago ended a streak of reaching the semifinals in 7 straight events (including AVP and international), winning 2 AVP titles and 3 medals in that span... the duo won gold in Gstaad after twice defeating Norway's Anders Mol / Christian Sorum, becoming just the 2nd team to defeat the defending Olympic, World Championship and World Tour Finals champions twice in the same event (Netherlands' Alexander Brouwer / Robert Meeuwse in Rosarito, Mexico in March 2022)
- In each of their first 6 international tournaments they had to first play in the qualifier... they have a match record of 45-13 internationally, and 6 of their 13 losses have come to teams seeded either first or second
- Entering the championship match, in 1 season together on the AVP they have a 14-1 match record... they are 12-1 when winning the first set and 2-0 when losing the first set... they are 3-1 in three-set matches

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	8/16-20/2023	Elite16 Hamburg	2	5	760	US\$8,000.00
AVP	8/4-6/2023	Gold Series Atlanta Open	1	1	2572	\$30,000.00
FIVB	7/26-30/2023	Elite16 Montréal	2	2	1100	\$20,000.00
FIVB	7/5-9/2023	Elite16 Gstaad	9	1	1200	\$30,000.00
NORCECA	6/7-8/2023	BV World Championship Qualifier	1	4	0	US\$0.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	13, Q3	3	1000	\$14,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	5	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	8, Q2	4	680	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	13, Q3	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	10/27-30/2022	Dubai 2nd Challenge	4, Q1	9	460	\$2,500.00
FIVB	10/22-25/2022	Dubai 1st Challenge	15, Q3	1	800	\$10,000.00
FIVB	10/13-16/2022	Maldives Challenge	22, Q9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Andy Benesh – age 28 – 6'9" – hometown Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. – USC

- Benesh is playing in his 32nd career AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- Benesh has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (in the 2022 season opener in Austin with Phil Dalhausser, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Miles Partain and in Atlanta 2023 with Partain) as well as once on the Tour Series (in Denver 2022 with Miles Evans)
- In 8 of his last 15 AVP tournaments, Benesh has reached the semifinals... prior to that stretch he had never made a semifinal in his first 16 tournaments
- Benesh began 2023 playing with Billy Allen in Miami, losing both matches 15-12 in the third set and finishing in 13th place
- This marks the 4th time he has ever played in Chicago, placing 25th with Adam Roberts in 2019, 3rd with Billy Allen in 2021 and 9th with Miles Evans in 2022
- Benesh is 4-0 in AVP championship matches (2-0 with Partain, 1-0 with Phil Dalhausser, 1-0 with Miles Evans)
- Benesh has at least 7 blocks in each of his last 3 matches, and has 27 for the weekend

Miles Partain – age 21 – 6'2" – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Pacific Palisades, Calif. - UCLA

- Partain is playing in his 31st AVP tournament with 9 different partners... he has played 13 times with Lotman and 7 times with his brother Marcus Partain, while the other 11 events came with 7 different partners (including Chicago)
- Partain has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (in Atlanta 2022 with Paul Lotman, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Andy Benesh, and in Atlanta 2023 with Benesh)
- Partain was the 2019 AVP Rookie of the Year, and the both the Most Improved Player as well as Best Offensive Player in 2022

- In his first 19 AVP tournaments, he had a best of 5th place once... in his last 11 events, he has finished no lower than 5th place and has been in the semifinals 9 times (including Tour Series)
- In Atlanta 2022 he became just the second male to win an AVP title before turning 21 years old (Scott Ayakutubby did it twice in 1984)
- This will be the 6th time he has played in Chicago, the most of any city... he was 25th with his brother Marcus in 2017, then played the last 4 years with Paul Lotman (33rd in 2018, 5th in 2019, 3rd in 2021, 5th in 2022)
- Partain is 3-1 in AVP championship matches (2-0 with Benesh and 1-1 with Paul Lotman)
- Partain leads the field in Chicago with his .575 hitting percentage

Brunner / Trevor Crabb are playing together for the 5th time on the AVP and the 13th time overall

- In their AVP debut as partners, they finished in 3rd place in Huntington Beach 2023, they won in Hermosa Beach, then were 3rd in Atlanta
- Entering the championship match in Chicago in 1 season together on the AVP, they have a 20-4 match record... they are 17-1 when winning the first set and 3-3 when losing the first set... they are 6-2 in three-set matches
- This is their 4th AVP event together and they have been seeded 2nd all 4 times
- 6 of their 20 matches entering Chicago have come against Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (5-1 in those matches) and will be on the same side of the bracket this weekend

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	8/17-20/2023	Gold Series Manhattan Beach Open	1	2	2444	\$21,000.00
AVP	8/4-6/2023	Gold Series Atlanta Open	2	3	2321	\$13,000.00
FIVB	7/20-23/2023	Challenge Edmonton	4	17	360	\$1,500.00
FIVB	7/13-16/2023	Challenge Portugal	12, Q3	1	800	\$10,000.00
AVP	7/7-9/2023	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	2	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	16	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	16, Q12	13	460	\$5,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	2	3	1990	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	9	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	6	19	300	\$1,000.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	14, Q6	13	460	\$5,000.00
FIVB	3/16-19/2023	La Paz Challenge	9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Theo Brunner – age 38 - 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Ct. – currently Torrance, Calif. – California-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 69th AVP event with 16 different partners
- He has 5 wins with 5 different partners... in Huntington Beach 2013 he won with Nick Lucena... in Seattle 2016 he won with Billy Allen... in Hermosa Beach 2018 he won with John Hyden... in Hermosa Beach 2022 he won with Chaim Schalk... in Hermosa Beach 2023 he won with Trevor Crabb
- He is a 3-time Best Blocker on the AVP Tour (2013, 2014 and 2022)
- 7 of his partners have been Olympians (either beach or indoors)... of his 29 AVP semifinals entering Chicago, 23 of them came when partnering with an Olympian (only exceptions were a win and a 3rd place alongside Billy Allen, and his 4 events this season with Trevor Crabb)
- This will be the 7th time Brunner has played in Chicago, with his 6th different partner... he was 13th with Aaron Mansfield in 2009, 5th with Billy Allen in 2016, 7th with Casey Patterson in 2017, 7th with John Hyden in 2019, 7th with Chaim Schalk in 2021, 9th with Schalk in 2022
- Brunner is 5-9 in AVP finals (1-4 with Chaim Schalk, 1-2 with Nick Lucena, 1-1 with Trevor Crabb, 1-1 with John Hyden, 1-0 with Billy Allen, 0-1 with Todd Rogers)
- Brunner has had at least 2 blocks every set except for one, when he had just 1 block in a set

Trevor Crabb – age 33 – 6'4" – hometown Honolulu, Hawai'i – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Puget Sound / Long Beach State

- Crabb is playing in his 61st AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- He has won 7 AVP titles (won in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Reid Priddy, then won 5 times with Tri Bourne, in Long Beach 2020, Manhattan Beach 2021, Fort Lauderdale 2021, Manhattan Beach 2022 and Chicago 2022 before winning in Hermosa Beach 2023 with Theo Brunner)
- He was the AVP's 2014 Newcomer of the Year and a part of the Team of the Year in 2022 (with Tri Bourne)
- He has advanced to 33 AVP semifinals in his career, doing so with 7 different partners... entering Chicago Crabb has been in the semifinals in each of his last 7 AVP tournaments

- Crabb is playing in Chicago for the 8th time (9th in 2015 with Taylor Crabb, 3rd in 2016 with Taylor Crabb, 5th in 2017 with Sean Rosenthal, 5th in 2018 with Tri Bourne, 7th in 2019 with Reid Priddy, 2nd in 2021 with Bourne, and 1st in 2022 with Bourne)... his first 8 events here all came with an Olympian or his brother
- Crabb has a 7-9 record in AVP finals (5-1 with Tri Bourne, 1-1 with Theo Brunner, 1-0 with Reid Priddy, 0-4 with Sean Rosenthal, 0-3 with Taylor Crabb)
- Crabb had 16 kills in his first 2 matches combined, then had 18 and 22 kills in his last 2 matches