



2021 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour

Event #3 – Chicago Open

Chicago, Illinois • September 1 - 5, 2021

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – For the 38th consecutive year, the AVP Tour is in action on the sands across America. This year the schedule features three events in a span of one month, with all being part of the Gold Series. The Tour kicked off appropriately in Atlanta, as the first domestic event following the Tokyo Olympics is being held in the same city where beach volleyball made its Olympic debut back in 1996. Following that was the biggest tournament of the year both in terms of number of teams as well as prize money in Manhattan Beach, California. After a one-week hiatus, the Tour concludes in Chicago over Labor Day weekend. This was the fourth latest start of the Tour in history, behind 2011 (finals on October 22), 2012 (finals on September 2) and 2013 (finals on August 18).

- The Chicago Open has a total of \$200,000 in prize money that will be paid out to the two genders. This event has a rare two-day qualifier in both genders in order to accommodate all the teams vying for a spot in the main draw, which will be a 16-team, double elimination format on three courts at Oak Street Beach on the shores of Lake Michigan. The main draw will have 29 matches in both genders, beginning on Friday, September 3 and concluding on Sunday, September 5. The championship matches will be around 2:15 pm CT and 3:15 pm CT. The qualifier tournament is a single elimination event held on Wednesday, September 1 and Thursday, September 2 on 10 courts at the North Avenue Beach. The men's qualifier has a total of 65 teams competing for the final four spots in the main draw, joining 12 teams seeded directly into the main draw, while the women have 37 qualifier teams and 12 more directly in the main draw. One team in each gender earned an automatic berth into the main draw from winning a tournament in Seaside (Evan Cory / Logan Webber and Meagan Nash / Brittany Tiegs). Both qualifiers will be divided into two phases, with 33 men's matches and five women's matches on Wednesday, September 1. Phase two will have the eight teams advancing from phase one joining the top 24-seeded qualifier teams in a single elimination bracket that will determine the final four main draw teams, with 28 matches in each gender.

- This year the main draw matches on stadium court will be streamed on LIVE SPORTS within Peacock Premium, the streaming arm of NBC. All of the NBCSports replays of the title matches will be shown on a tape-delayed basis. Kevin Barnett, Dain Blanton, Camryn Irwin, Chris Marlowe and Kevin Wong will combine to handle the announcing duties.

CHARTING CHICAGO – In July 2008, Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers won in Chicago. The significance of that victory was that it marked the last time a top-seeded men's team won in Chicago. Since then, second-seeded teams have claimed three titles, while the number one seeds have been the runners up three times. In the 13 AVP tournaments in Chicago since going to rally scoring, 11 of the men's championships have been sweeps (2004 and 2009 were the exceptions). Moreover, the team in the men's title match in that span that won the first set has won the title all 13 times. In the last three years here (2017-2019), each winning team has had a player who was at least 42 years old

- In the 13 AVP tournaments held in Chicago in which seeds were known (since 2002), the top-seeded women's team has won seven times/ But in four of the last five years here, there has been a darkhorse in the semifinals. In 2015, a team from the qualifier advanced to the semifinals, then the next two years saw teams seeded ninth and 12th make it to the final four. In 2018, 18th-seeded Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil finished third, which at the time was the second-lowest seeded team to ever play in the semifinals (currently it is tied for fourth lowest). In the first 10 AVP title matches in Chicago with rally scoring, five were sweeps and five went three sets, but each of the last three women's championship matches have been sweeps.

2021 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$
August 11 - 15	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$200,000
<i>AVP returns to Atlanta for the first time since 2009</i> <i>Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk win men's title; Taryn Kloth / Megan Nuss win in Kloth's pro beach debut</i>			
August 18 - 22	Manhattan Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$250,000
<i>No Manhattan Beach Open in 2020 for the first time since 2010</i> <i>Tri Bourne (2nd straight MBO win) / Trevor Crabb claim title; Alix Klineman / April Ross win 4th straight AVP title</i>			
September 1 - 5	Chicago, Illinois	16-team double elimination	\$200,000
<i>Chicago has held the most domestic tournaments of any location outside the state of California</i> <i>Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross won in both 2018 and 2019</i>			

CHICAGO HISTORY – The Windy City has a rich history with the AVP, hosting events every year since the AVP began playing in 1984 through 2009 with the exception of 2001. On top of the 30 AVP men's events here, P&R had tournaments in 1983 and 2012, Wide Open had one in 2011 and there was an FIVB dual gender tournament in 2000. Chicago has held the most domestic tournaments of any location outside of the state of California. In each of the first 25 AVP championship matches, there was at least one individual who has competed in the Olympics in beach volleyball, but that streak ended in 2015. There have been 21 different men's teams which have won titles on the AVP here. In 1999, Kiraly's win gave him 140, overtaking Sinjin Smith for the all-time lead. Todd Rogers won three times in his career here with three different partners. In 2004, the Chicago event was the first domestic tournament following the Athens Olympics, and both winners had just competed in Athens. Ironically though, Dain Blanton and Jeff Nygaard, who were 0-3 in the Olympics, went undefeated in Chicago, while Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings, who did not lose a single set in their seven Olympic matches, not only lost a match but also two other games yet still won the title. Amazingly, May-Treanor / Walsh Jennings became the first women's team since the reorganization in 2001 that had won a title with one loss, having lost in the winner's bracket semifinals (all 43 other winners had been undefeated). The 2005 event offered the most prize money ever (at the time) for a dual-gender domestic event (\$375,000). In 2006, after winning for the fourth straight time in Chicago, Walsh Jennings eclipsed the \$1 million mark in career earnings. In 2007, 14th-seeded Jenny Kropp and Jenny Pavley became the lowest seeded team in AVP history to reach the semifinals (since eclipsed). The 2017 winners set records on both ends of the spectrum in both genders. John Hyden (along with Theo Brunner) won the men's title at 44 years, 10 months and 27 days old, becoming the oldest player to win an AVP event, surpassing Karch Kiraly's mark. On the women's side, Kelly Claes and Sara Hughes won, becoming the youngest women's team to win (combined age of 44 years, 6 months, 6 days), bettering the previous mark held by Betsi Flint and Kelley Larsen in Mason in 2015. Claes and Hughes combined age was less than Hyden's. The same teams on both the men's and women's side have won the past two times here (2018 and 2019). Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb are trying to become the first men's team to win three consecutive Chicago titles. Six other men's duos before them have won twice in a row. Alix Klineman and April Ross became just the second women's tandem to win consecutive AVP titles, joining Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings who won four in a row. Here is a look at the tournaments in Chicago:

MEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1984	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Robert Chavez / Jeff Southcott
1985	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Mark Eller / Andrew Smith	Ricci Luyties / Steve Obradovich	Andy Fishburn / Jay Hanseth
1986	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Scott Ayakattubby / Brent Frohoff	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Leif Hanson / John Hanley
1987	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andrew Smith / Dan Vrebalovich	Scott Ayakattubby / Steve Obradovich	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1988	Pat Powers / Jon Stevenson	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Brent Frohoff / Andrew Smith	John Hanley / Dan Vrebalovich
1989	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Dan Vrebalovich	Rudy Dvorak / Craig Moothart
1990	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Tim Hovland / Kent Steffes	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Wally Goodrick / Craig Moothart
1991	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Brent Frohoff / John Hanley	Eric Boyles / Shawn Davis	Mike Dodd / Ricci Luyties
1992	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Adam Johnson / Ricci Luyties	Brent Frohoff / Mike Whitmarsh
1993	Brian Lewis / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Scott Ayakattubby / Tim Hovland
1994	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Troy Tanner / Wes Welch	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola
1995	Scott Ayakattubby / Karch Kiraly	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Brent Frohoff / Rob Heidger	Eduardo Bacil / Tim Hovland
1996	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Scott Ayakattubby / Brian Lewis	Eduardo Bacil / Randy Stoklos
1997	Jose Loiola / Kent Steffes	Randy Stoklos / Troy Tanner	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Dain Blanton / Canyon Ceman
1998	Kent Steffes / Mike Whitmarsh	Dain Blanton / Eric Fonoimoana	Rob Heidger / Troy Tanner	Brian Lewis / David Swatik
1999	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Roberto Lopes / Franco Neto	Dain Blanton / Eric Fonoimoana	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers
2000	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Canyon Ceman / Brian Lewis
2002	Eric Fonoimoana / Dax Holdren	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	Mike Lambert / Lee LeGrande	[3rd] Carl Henkel / Casey Jennings
2003	Dain Blanton / Jeff Nygaard	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Brent Doble / Karch Kiraly	[3rd] Scott Ayakattubby/Brian Lewis
2004	Dain Blanton / Jeff Nygaard	John Hyden / Mike Lambert	Paul Baxter / Scott Wong	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Adam Jewell
2005	Todd Rogers / Sean Scott	Karch Kiraly / Mike Lambert	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger
2006	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	[3rd] Dax Holdren / Sean Scott
2007	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	John Hyden / Brad Keenan	Nick Lucena / Mark Williams	[3rd] Ty Loomis / Hans Stolfus
2008	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	John Hyden / Brad Keenan	[3rd] Nick Lucena / Sean Scott
2009	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	[3rd] Pedro Brazao / Matt Prosser
2015	Brad Keenan / Ty Trambie	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Casey Jennings / Billy Kolinske	[3rd] Todd Rogers / Stafford Slick
2016	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb	[3rd] Ryan Doherty / John Mayer
2017	Ryan Doherty / John Hyden	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Jeremy Casebeer / John Mayer	[3rd] Billy Allen / Stafford Slick
2018	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Tim Bomgren / Chaim Schalk	Ed Ratledge / Roberto Rodriguez	[3rd] Jeremy Casebeer/Reid Priddy
2019	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Jeremy Casebeer/Chaim Schalk

MEN – non-AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1983	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Robert Chavez / Steve Obradovich
1988	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Rick Arce / Chris Hannemann	Mike Fitzgerald / Eugene LeDuff	Dave Morehouse / Wes Welch
2011	John Hyden / Sean Scott	John Mayer / Matt Prosser	Braidy Halverson / Adam Roberts	[3rd] Ty Loomis / Mark Williams
2012	Ryan Doherty / Casey Patterson	Avery Drost / Ty Trambie	Stein Metzger / Mark Williams	[3rd] Brad Keenan / John Mayer

WOMEN – AVP events

1984	Linda Hanley / Dale Keough	Nancy Cothron / Donna Townsend	Kathy Hanley / Beth Rogers	Kathy Kehoe / Patti Walsh
1986	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Patty Dodd / Janice Harrer	Linda Chisholm / Heather Hafner	Lori Forsythe / Jeanne Goldsmith
1993	Linda Chisholm / Holly McPeak	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock	Rita Crockett / Linda Hanley	Cammy Ciarelli / Jackie Silva
1994	Cammy Ciarelli / Holly McPeak	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock	Sandra Pires / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Linda Hanley
1999	Liz Masakayan / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Holly McPeak / Gabrielle Reece	Patty Dodd / Angela Rock
2002	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Nancy Mason / Rachel Wacholder	[3rd] Carrie Dodd / Leanne McSorley
2003	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Jennifer Meredith/Wendy Stammer	[3rd] Nancy Mason/Dianne DeNecochea
2004	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Carrie Dodd / Nancy Mason	[3rd] Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs
2005	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Mimi Amaral / Tatiana Minello	Rachel Wacholder/ Elaine Youngs	[3rd] Jennifer Kessy / Holly McPeak
2006	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Rachel Wacholder / Elaine Youngs	Dianne DeNecochea/Tammy Leibl	[3rd] Nicole Branagh / Holly McPeak
2007	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Angie Akers / Brooke Hanson	Barbra Fontana / Alicia Polzin	[3rd] Jenny Kropp / Jenny Pavley
2008	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Jennifer Kessy / April Ross
2009	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Tatiana Minello / Priscilla Lima
2015	Nicole Branagh / Jenny Kropp	Kim DiCello / Kendra Van Zwieten	Amanda Dowdy / Heather McGuire	[3rd] Lane Carico / Summer Ross
2016	Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat	Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen	Ali McColloch / Geena Urango	[3rd] Lane Carico / Summer Ross
2017	Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes	Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross	[3rd] Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar
2018	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Sara Hughes / Summer Ross	Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil	[3rd] Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar
2019	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Emily Day / Betsi Flint	Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson	[3rd] Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil

WOMEN – non-AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1985	Nancy Cothron/Donna Townsend	Anne Crocker / Marcie Rasmussen	Kathy Bay / Fran Knapiewitz	Julie Bowser / Kathy Drumboski
1987	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Patty Dodd / Dale Hall	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Lori Forsythe / Jeanne Goldsmith
1996	Holly McPeak / Nancy Reno	Barbra Fontana / Linda Hanley	Elaine Roque/Dennis Shupryt Knoop	Karolyn Kirby / Angela Rock
1997	Liz Masakayan / Elaine Youngs	Lisa Arce / Holly McPeak	Krista Blomquist/Christine Podraza	Karrie Poppinga / Angela Rock
2011	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Jennifer Fopma / Tracy Jones	Emily Day / Heather McGuire	[3rd] Erin Gray / Olaya Pazo
2012	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Priscilla Lima / Tyra Turner	Kristen Batt-Rohr/Raquel Ferrerira	[3rd] Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat

CHICAGO SAND BITS – There are 154 men’s players competing this weekend, and of the ages known there are two teenagers competing, 19-year olds Caleb Kwekel and Miles Partain. Meanwhile 14 players are 40 or older, with the oldest being Pete DiVenere (50), Jon Gubera (49), John Hyden (48), Christopher Shipps (48), Chris Luers (47) and Ricardo Santos (46). The three shortest players are David VandeerMeer (5’9”) and Bobby Jones and Francisco Quesada-Paneque (both 5’10”) while at the other end of the spectrum are 7’0” Robbie Page, and three players who stand 6’9” (Andy Benesh, Kyle Radde and Phil Dalhausser). Jake Gibb is playing in his 320th pro beach tournament, followed by Phil Dalhausser (279th), Nick Lucena (277th), Ricardo Santos (261st) and John Hyden (249th), while there are 24 players who are making their pro beach volleyball debuts. There are five players competing in Chicago who have won at least 10 AVP titles entering this weekend, led by Phil Dalhausser (59), Jake Gibb (34), Nick Lucena (16), Casey Patterson (16) and John Hyden (13). Out of 77 partnerships, 38 are competing together for the very first time. The most prolific partnerships are Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena (108 events before Chicago), Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb (57), Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb (33), and Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson (22). There are just four men’s teams here which have previously won an AVP event (Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena 14, Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 8, Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb 2 and Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson 1).

• There are four teenagers competing among the 98 women playing this weekend, 17-year olds Bailey Showalter and Mabyn Thomas, and 18-year olds Sophie Moore and Natalie Myszkowski. There are six players who are over 38 years old (Janelle Allen 40, Lindsey Fuller 39, Larissa Maestrini 39, Crystal Meadows 39, April Ross 39 and Maria Clara Salgado 38). Katie Lindstrom is the shortest at 5’4” while Lisa Reed measures 5’5” and Kristen Nuss is 5’6”. At the other end of the spectrum are 6’5” players Alix Klineman and Sarah Pavan, and six players who stand 6’4” (Falyn Fonoimoana, Lindsey Fuller, Kathryn Hogan, Jennifer Keddy, Taryn Kloth and Rachel Krabacher). Just 8 women are making their pro beach volleyball debuts, while the most experienced is April Ross (264 tournaments prior to Chicago), Maria Clara Salgado (182), Emily Day (177) and Larissa Maestrini (158). April Ross has tallied 40 AVP victories, far and away the most of any player here, followed by Alix Klineman (11) and Emily Day (9). The women feature 22 tandems (out of 49 total) playing alongside each other for the first time and five having played together eight or more times before Chicago (Alix Klineman / April Ross 42, Emily Day / Betsi Flint 36, Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil 34, Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw 14 and twins Annika Rowland / Teegan Van Gunst 12). There are just three teams competing here which have won an AVP title as partners previously, Alix Klineman / April Ross (11 titles won), Emily Day / Betsi Flint (2) and Atlanta’s winners Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss

ATLANTA'S ABSTRACT – For the first time since 2009, the AVP returned to Atlanta. It was a fitting location to hold the first domestic event following the Tokyo Olympics, given that in 1996 Atlanta hosted the first ever Olympics with beach volleyball. The men had a two-day qualifier to determine the final four main draw spots as a total of 60 qualifier teams were vying for those four spots. The tournament kicked off with a rare upset, as 16th-seeded Michael Groselle / David Vander Meer knocked off top-seeds Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in the first round. Dalhausser would later pull out of the tournament due to a family emergency. Three of the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals, and the title match featured four players who averaged over 36 years old. Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk were trying to do something that no AVP team had been able to do since 2015; win an AVP event in their first event as partners. Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson, on the other hand, had to fight back from a second-round defeat, and the championship match marked their fifth match against teams seeded in the top eight. Budinger / Patterson edged Brunner / Schalk in three sets, winning 14-21, 21-16, 15-13.

- The women had their fair share of upsets as well, with three qualifier teams knocking off seeds two, three and four in the first round, then seeds six and seven in the next couple rounds. Doing most of the damage was the #14 seeds, Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss. The duo, who went 36-0 at Louisiana State this past year, was not only playing together for the first time on the AVP, but Kloth was making her pro beach volleyball debut. The youngsters went 3-0 in the qualifier and then stormed through the main draw bracket undefeated to reach the finals. On the other side of the net were Tokyo Olympians Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil. Unlike the men's finals, the four players in the women's championship averaged just over 24 years of age. Kloth / Nuss jumped out quickly and won the first set 21-12, but the Olympians responded with a 21-19 win in the second set. Kloth / Nuss pulled out a 16-14 win to claim the title.

MANHATTAN'S MEMORIES – In 2019, the last time the AVP played in Manhattan Beach, three of the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals, joined by a much lower seed (26th). Trevor Crabb claimed his first ever win, along with his partner Reid Priddy. Fast forward to 2021, and again three of the top four seeds were in the semis, along with 10th-seeded Billy Allen and Andy Benesh. In his young career, Benesh had a career best of seventh entering 2021, then placed fifth in Atlanta before taking a third in Manhattan Beach. Top seeds Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson, the winners in Atlanta, were undefeated heading into the championship match. But on the other side of the net was the defending Manhattan Beach open winner, Trevor Crabb, along with Tri Bourne. The duo had lost to the top seeds in the quarterfinals in three sets, then eliminated seeds two and three to get a rematch with Budinger and Patterson. The finals marked the fourth straight match against a team seeded in the top three for Bourne and Crabb. Bourne and Crabb won in two tight sets, fought off three set points, and won 21-19, 24-22.

- The women's semifinalists consisted of the event's top three seeds plus the FIVB and Brazilian National Tour all-time wins leader and three-time Olympian Larissa Franca Maestrini. Seeded 20th, Larissa and her wife Lili lost in three sets to the fourth-seeded team, but then won five straight elimination matches (four of those in three sets) to reach the semifinals. Losing is something very foreign to the top-seeded team of Alix Klineman and April Ross. That duo last suffered an AVP loss in Honolulu in 2019, and were playing their first event since winning the gold medal in Tokyo. They extended their winning streak to four straight AVP events and 17 consecutive matches with a 21-13, 22-20 victory over Emily Day and Betsi Flint. In the championship match, Ross, who had four aces in her first four matches in Manhattan Beach, ripped four aces in the title match, and had 12 kills with no errors in 14 attempts in the second set to win her fourth plaque on the Manhattan Beach pier.

AGE AWARENESS – When Taryn Kloth (24 years old) and Kristen Nuss (23) won in Atlanta, their combined age of 47 meant they were the fourth-youngest women's team to ever win an AVP tournament. The youngest happened right here in Chicago in 2017, when Kelly Claes (21) and Sara Hughes (22) won. The other two on that list were Cincinnati 2013 (Emily Day was 26, Summer Ross was 20) and Cincinnati 2015 (Betsi Flint, and Kelley Kolinske were both 23).

- The men on the other hand, haven't had a player under the age of 25 win a championship since the 2004 season opener in Ft. Lauderdale, when Sean Rosenthal (23) and Larry Witt (24) won the title. In the last 38 AVP tournaments, at least one player on the men's championship team has been at least 40 years old in 20 of those. Twice both players were over 40 years old, and those came in the Long Beach events in 2020. In the Brooklyn event in July 2009, the winning players' ages added up to 59 years, which is the last men's title match in which the winning team wasn't at least a combined 60 years old.

DALHAUSSER'S DOMINANCE – Phil Dalhausser would like nothing more than to go out with a win in Chicago, which would be the 60th AVP title in his career. Just five others have reached that mark (Karch Kiraly, Kent Steffes, Randy Stoklos, Sinjin Smith and Mike Dodd), but they all played in an era that saw 20-27 tournaments a year while the AVP has had 68 total events since the start of the 2010 season. Among the top six in AVP victories, Dalhausser has won 41% of all the tournaments entered (trails only Kent Steffes in that category), and his 73.8% winning percentage in championship matches is second only to Steffes at 76.1%. One side note about the victory tally is that the AVP has had six tournaments which were never completed due to weather, and four of those (including one in which Dalhausser was slated to play in the finals) gave ties without crediting any wins for players. But twice the AVP gave wins to multiple players, so Dodd, Sinjin and Stoklos all got two wins when there were four teams in those two events credited with victories.

- Entering Chicago Dalhausser has compiled a career AVP main draw match record of 558-140 (.799). More impressively, since the start of the 2006 season (his fourth year on the Tour), he is 485-86 (.849). Dalhausser had to pull out of the tournament in Atlanta to begin the 2021 AVP season, which marked the sixth time in his AVP career that his event ended in a forfeit loss. Since winning in Austin in 2005, Dalhausser has won at least one title (AVP or FIVB) in each of the past 16 seasons but is still looking for his first in 2021.
- Here is a look at the top six players on the AVP's all-time wins list, both with totals and then by percentages of tournaments entered:

	Wins	2nd	3rd	4th	Finals	Semis	Events
Karch Kiraly	122	52	43	12	174	229	301
Kent Steffes	102	32	20	12	134	166	218
Randy Stoklos	96	74	43	21	170	234	307
Sinjin Smith	92	54	30	10	146	186	241
Mike Dodd	62	73	63	32	135	230	309
Phil Dalhausser	59	21	21	1	80	102	143

	Wins	2nd	3rd	4th	Finals	Semis	Events
Karch Kiraly	40.5%	17.3%	14.3%	4.0%	57.8%	76.1%	301
Kent Steffes	46.8%	14.7%	9.2%	5.5%	61.5%	76.1%	218
Randy Stoklos	31.3%	24.1%	14.0%	6.8%	55.4%	76.2%	307
Sinjin Smith	38.2%	22.4%	12.4%	4.1%	60.6%	77.2%	241
Mike Dodd	20.1%	23.6%	20.4%	10.4%	43.7%	74.4%	309
Phil Dalhausser	41.3%	14.7%	14.7%	0.7%	55.9%	71.3%	143

BROADCASTERS VS THE BEAST – Kevin Wong won four of his first five meetings against Phil Dalhausser, and six of his first 10 over Dalhausser's first three seasons on the beach. However from 2006 to 2011, Dalhausser would go 23-3 against Wong. The two big men met nine times in semifinals (eight times on AVP, once on NVL), and Dalhausser was 6-3 in those. Overall, Dalhausser was 27-9 against Wong.

- Dain Blanton experienced more success against Dalhausser, going 6-8 against him in his career, but all his wins came in Dalhausser's first three years playing beach volleyball. Blanton and Dalhausser played together in the 2004 AVP season finale in Santa Barbara, where they lost to Scott Wong before beating Nick Lucena, and finished in ninth place. Blanton and Wong as teammates were 3-3 all time against Dalhausser.

ON THIS DAY – On Sunday Judd Smith will turn 43 years old. As a player who never has made the main draw on the AVP Tour, it is understandable – or rather, expected – that you do not know who this is. But instead the focus is on his last name. In Chicago there are five Smiths competing, with Lydia Smith the only female. Ryan Smith from Parker, Colorado, is in the qualifier along with a pair of brothers from New York, Christian and Nick Smith, who won national championships at SUNY-New Paltz and who were All-Americans. And Hagen Smith, son of Sinjin Smith, is looking to qualify for the second straight tournament.