



2016 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR – Event #7 Chicago, Illinois • September 1 - 4, 2016

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – The 2016 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour has its season finale, the AVP Championships in Chicago. This is the only tournament of the year with 24 teams, and it also ties for largest prize money payout. The seven events on the slate this year will be held in five different states, and include the three most populous cities in the U.S. (New York, Los Angeles and Chicago). The only change from last year's slate is that San Francisco has been added while Cincinnati will now feature an FIVB tournament that the AVP is hosting. This marks the 33rd consecutive season the AVP has held competitions. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$200,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals \$1,150,000.

- The main draw will be a 24-team, double elimination format. Twenty teams from each gender are granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four events points totals from their last five AVP and AVPNext tournaments). The remaining four teams in each gender must earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event held on Thursday, September 1. There are a total of 68 men's teams and 40 women's teams in the field. The qualifier will consist of 41 men's matches and 16 women's matches, while the main draw features 45 matches for each gender. The main draw begins on Friday, September 2 and concludes on Sunday, September 4, and will be played on six courts at Oak Street Beach. General admission is free throughout and premium ticket packages are available at avp.com or onsite. The championship matches begin Sunday at 12:00 pm (CT).

- NBC will broadcast live between 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm CT. Chris Marlowe (play by play) and Kevin Wong (color commentary) will handle the announcing duties, with Dain Blanton contributing sideline reports. Live streaming takes place Friday through Sunday with the exception of the finals.

SEEDINGS SUMMARY – Jake Gibb and Casey Patterson own the top seed for the fourth straight AVP event. The duo has won the last two tournaments and 13 since their partnership began in 2013. Brothers Taylor and Trevor Crabb, the only team which has advanced to the semifinals in each AVP event this year, are seeded second. The other two times this season the duo was seeded second, they also placed second. The winners of the season opener, Ryan Doherty and John Mayer, are the third seeds here. The fourth seeds are Billy Allen and Theo Brunner.

- The top-seeded women's team is Lane Carico and Summer Ross. The duo has advanced to the semifinals in all eight of their tournaments together as partners. Kim DiCello and Kendra VanZwieten, who won the season opener, are seeded second. They have advanced to the semifinals in eight of their 10 AVP events together. Playing together as partners for the first time are the third seeds, Kelly Reeves and April Ross. Lauren Fendrick and Brooke Sweat are the fourth seeds, and are looking for their first AVP win together. They have advanced to the semifinals in seven of their eight tournaments as partners, as well as to five championship matches.

2016 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$ - TV
April 14 - 17	New Orleans, Louisiana	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Doherty / Mayer 7th different team to win men's season opener in 7 years while DiCello / VanZwieten get first win</i>			
May 5 - 8	Huntington Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>Gibb / Patterson win 11th AVP title together as Ross / Walsh Jennings win their 9th straight AVP title</i>			
June 2 - 5	Seattle, Washington	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>Both men (Allen / Brunner) and women (Carico / S. Ross) have first-time winners as partners</i>			
June 16 - 19	New York City, New York	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Teams that qualified for the 2016 Olympics win (Dalhausser / Lucena and Ross / Walsh Jennings)</i>			
June 23 - 26	San Francisco, California	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Gibb / Patterson become first men's team to win twice in 2016 while Ross / Walsh Jennings win third of year</i>			
July 14 - 17	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Three new names get on the Pier as Emily Day, Brittany Hochevar and Casey Patterson join Jake Gibb</i>			
September 1 - 4	Chicago, Illinois	24-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Season ending championships occur after the Rio Olympics in most frequented location outside of California</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 26 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. 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 18 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), and Kropp has won the last three tournaments here (first two were non-AVP events). Here is a look at the AVP 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 Ayakatubby / Brent Frohoff	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Leif Hanson / John Hanley
1987	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andrew Smith / Dan Vrebalovich	Scott Ayakatubby / 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 Ayakatubby / Tim Hovland
1994	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Troy Tanner / Wes Welch	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola
1995	Scott Ayakatubby / Karch Kiraly	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Brent Frohoff / Rob Heidger	Eduardo Bacil / Tim Hovland
1996	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Scott Ayakatubby / 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 Ayakatubby/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
2009	Brad Keenan / Ty Tramble	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Casey Jennings / Billy Kolinske	[3rd] Todd Rogers / Stafford Slick

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 Tramble	Stein Metzger / Mark Williams	[3rd] Brad Keenan / John Mayer

WOMEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
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

WOMEN – AVP events cont'd

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

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 – Of the 136 men's players competing this weekend, 21 call Illinois home, and a total of 16 different states plus Puerto Rico are represented. There is one teenager competing, 19-year old Ben Vaught, while 12 players are 40 or older, led by Wayne Bopp at 50 years old. Of the heights known, Silvio Azevedo is the shortest at 5'8" while at the other end of the spectrum is 7'1" Ryan Doherty and 6'9" Phil Dalhausser. Five players have competed in more than 200 pro beach volleyball events, Jake Gibb (262), Sean Rosenthal (247), Phil Dalhausser (223), Nick Lucena (222) and John Hyden (204) while 19 players are playing their first ever pro beach event. There are 13 players here who have previously won an AVP tournament (Phil Dalhausser – 48 AVP wins, Jake Gibb – 26, Casey Patterson – 14, Sean Rosenthal – 12, John Hyden – 11, Nick Lucena – 5, John Mayer – 4, Tri Bourne – 3, Theo Brunner – 2, Ryan Doherty – 2, Billy Allen – 1, Ty Loomis – 1, Ty Trambly - 1). Out of 68 partnerships, 26 are competing together for the very first time and eight have played together 10 or more times. The most experienced tandem is Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson (70th event together) followed by Tri Bourne / John Hyden (56th) and Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena (54th). There are five teams here which has previously won an AVP event, Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson (13 AVP wins), Tri Bourne / John Hyden (3), Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena (3), Ryan Doherty / John Mayer (2), and Billy Allen / Theo Brunner (1).

• There are 80 women playing this weekend, just four of whom are from Illinois. The players come from 12 different states, including four which are unique from the men (meaning a total of 20 states plus Puerto Rico are represented). The field includes four teenagers (17-year olds Ashley Delgado and Katie Smoot, and 19-year olds Isabelle Carey and Elise Zappia) while there is one player over the age of 40 (Valinda Roche – 52 years old). Of the heights known, Maria J Orellana measures 5'4" while Christina Vucich is 6'4" and Lauren Fendrick, Jennifer Fopma and Summer Nash are all 6'3". Just five players are making their pro beach volleyball debut while nine competitors have played 100 or more events, with the four most experienced being April Ross (207 previous tournaments), Lauren Fendrick (196), Jennifer Fopma (160) and Brittany Hochevar (160). There have been 13 different women playing here who have won an AVP event before (April Ross – 27 AVP wins, Jennifer Fopma and Emily Day both have three, Lauren Fendrick and Summer Ross each have two, while eight players have one AVP win (Lane Carico, Kim DiCello, Betsi Flint, Brittany Hochevar, Kelley Larsen, Whitney Pavlik, Brooke Sweat and Kendra VanZwieten). The women feature 15 tandems (out of 40 total) playing alongside each other for the first time, including four seeded 10th or better. At the other end of the spectrum, four teams have played together 10 or more times. Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat (39 previous events) lead the pack in experience, followed by Lane Carico / Summer Ross (27), and Kim DiCello / Kendra Van Zwieten (25). There are just three teams here that have previously won an AVP title, and each has won just once – Lane Carico / Summer Ross, Kim DiCello, Kendra VanZwieten and Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen.

R&R IN CHICAGO – Kelly Reeves and April Ross are teaming up for the first time ever. For Reeves, this is her first season on the AVP Tour, and she enters Chicago with a 9-12 main draw match record this season, with her longest win streak being two straight matches. Her first AVP main draw match ever resulted in a win over the fourth-seeded team, and six of her nine wins have come against teams seeded in the top 10. For Ross, she enters Chicago having won 14 of her last 15 AVP tournaments, and has won with three different partners in that span. Ross has won her last 6 straight AVP events, and brings in a 31-match winning streak on the AVP Tour, which encompasses three different partners.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING – There are quite a few family connections in this event. On the men's side there are brother pairs competing together including the Crabbs (Trevor and younger brother Taylor), the Bomgrens (Brian and younger brother Tim) and the McKibbins (Riley and younger brother Maddison) as well as one pair of sisters (Megan Vander Meer and younger sister Jenn Vander Meer). Other family members who are playing in this event include Bill Kolinske and younger sister Julie Kolinske, John Zappia is older brother to Elise Zappia, and Brian Marsh is playing alongside his son Tyler Machie-Marsh. And there are more than just blood relationships in this tournament, with at two married couples competing – Billy and Janelle Allen and Kevin and Allison McColloch.

NEW ORLEANS NUGGETS – The 2016 season opener in New Orleans was the earliest start for the AVP since 2009. Both the men's and women's #1 seeds won the same tournament for the first time since the 2015 New Orleans Open. In the same weekend, the tallest player to ever win an AVP title (Ryan Doherty, 7'1") won as did the shortest player (tied) to ever win an AVP event (Kendra VanZwieten, 5'6").

- For the seventh straight season a different team won the AVP season opener as top-seeded Ryan Doherty and John Mayer claimed the title. The duo went undefeated in matches, but three of the five matches went to a third set after the top seeds lost the first set each time.

- Kim DiCello and Kendra VanZwieten each earned the top seed for the first time in both players' careers, and they lived up to their billing. This marked the first AVP win for both players, who got revenge in the finals against a team that defeated them the prior day.

#1 Ryan Doherty / John Mayer def. Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson 9-21, 21-17, 15-8 (1:09)

#1 Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten def. #4 Angela Bensend / Geena Urango 21-19, 19-21, 15-13 (1:00)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HAPPENINGS – There were familiar faces in the women's title match, as in the last 13 AVP Huntington Beach Opens including 2016, either April Ross or Kerri Walsh Jennings were in the finals 11 times.

- Jake Gibb and Casey Patterson claimed their 11th AVP victory in 22 tournaments with a tough match against a team competing in its first AVP final. The Crabbs had knocked off the top seeds, Ryan Doherty and John Mayer, to reach the championship match and pushed Gibb / Patterson, who managed to sweep all five Huntington Beach opponents.

- April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings extended their streak to 46 consecutive match wins and nine straight AVP titles in tournaments they have played. The win was the 10th AVP title for the duo, who became just the sixth women's team to reach that mark, and they did that in just 11 tournaments.

#2 Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson def. #4 Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb 21-19, 23-21 (:49)

#1 April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings def. #5 Angela Bensend / Geena Urango 21-13, 21-16 (:55)

SEATTLE SNIPPETS – Both winning teams won for the first time as partners, which also happened in Seattle in 2015.

- Billy Allen and Theo Brunner were playing together for just the second time ever, facing the young Crabb brothers (Taylor and Trevor). Both teams had a player with a Washington connection, as Allen's wife Janelle played at Eastern Washington so he formerly lived in Washington, and Trevor Crabb began his collegiate career at Puget Sound. Allen, who was competing in his 84th AVP tournament but first championship match and Brunner got the three-set win.

- Lane Carico and Summer Ross began their partnership in Seattle in 2015, and in just their fifth event together they recorded a win, which was the first ever AVP title for Carico. Ross had a tie with the host city, as she played one season at the University of Washington. The duo defeated a team (Jennifer Fopma and Brittany Hochevar) that had played 23 times together on the AVP in 2008-09, but this marked both their first AVP event together since then and the first domestic action for either player.

#4 Billy Allen / Theo Brunner def. #2 Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb 21-19, 19-21, 15-12 (1:15)

#2 Lane Carico / Summer Ross def. #5 Jennifer Fopma / Brittany Hochevar 21-17, 21-17 (:51)

NEW YORK NIBLETS – New York uniquely had two live NBC broadcasts, as on Saturday the women's quarterfinal was shown live. Teams that had just sealed their 2016 Rio Olympic bids won in both genders.

- Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena became the fourth different team in as many events to win in 2016. The duo won all five matches in sweeps, and Dalhausser defeated former partner Sean Rosenthal, who was celebrating his 36th birthday, in the finals. Jeremy Casebeer and Rosenthal were playing together for the first time, and they had to play three matches against teams seeded third or higher.

- April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings extended their AVP match winning streak to 50, with the last 30 matches being sweeps. They won their 11th AVP title in 12 tournaments together, defeating Lane Carico and Summer Ross. Adding to her three wins in Brooklyn from 2006-08. Walsh Jennings improved her record in New York to 23-0 in matches, all by streaks. The top two seeds met for the title for just the second time in the last 12 tournaments, and the #1 seed won for the eighth straight time against the #2 seeds.

#2 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena def. #8 Jeremy Casebeer / Sean Rosenthal 21-19, 21-12 (:50)

#1 April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings def. #2 Lane Carico / Summer Ross 21-16, 21-18 (:55)

SAN FRANCISCO SUMMARY – Just like the season opener, the top seeds in each gender won the title.

- The men's championship featured the top two seeds of the event, with Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson striving to become the first team to win multiple times in 2016 and Taylor and Trevor Crabb were looking for their first career victory. This was just the second time in the last 10 AVP tournaments in which the top two seeds were in the title match.

- The championship was quite the contrast; veterans and Olympic medalists April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings against a team that would be the youngest team to ever win an AVP title, Kelly Claes and Sara Hughes. Claes and Hughes were the second lowest seeds to ever advance to an AVP championship match, and just the day prior had managed to end Ross / Walsh Jennings' winning streak at 66 consecutive sets.

#1 Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson def. #2 Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb 18-21, 21-15, 15-10 (:54)

#1 April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings def. #13 (Q1) Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes 21-17, 21-13 (:53)

MANHATTAN BEACH MEMORIES – Three of the four players earning a spot on the pier became first-time plaque holders, with only Jake Gibb being a repeat Manhattan Beach Open winner.

- Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson have been in the semifinals in 23 of their 25 AVAP tournaments together, with the only exceptions being Manhattan Beach in 2014 (7th place) and 2015 (5th place). The duo avoided their third finish prior to the semifinals by overcoming a fourth round loss to reach the title match. For the second straight tournament, Gibb / Patterson dropped the first set of the championship match but rebounded to win their second consecutive title.

- Brittany Hochevar joined an exclusive list, becoming just the fourth player (men or women) to record their first AVP title in Manhattan Beach (joining Ricci Luyties in 1988, Mike Lambert in 2004 and Whitney Pavlik in 2013). Hochevar had been 0-5 in AVP title matches. This was just the second tournament together for Hochevar and Emily Day.

#1 Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson def. #3 Tri Bourne / John Hyden 17-21, 21-18, 16-14 (1:07)

#6 Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar def. #1 Lane Carico / Summer Ross 21-16, 19-21, 19-17 (1:11)

2016 QUALIFIER LIST – Here's a look at the teams who have qualified this season (qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw:

NEW ORLEANS - Men

Ty Loomis / Ed Ratledge (Q1) – 13th place
Marty Lorenz / Adam Roberts (Q2) – 7th place
Adam Cabbage / Alejandro Parra (Q3) – 13th place
Skylar DeSol / Raffe Paulis (Q13) – 13th place
DeSol advances to his first AVP main draw

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Men

Avery Drost / Gregg Weaver (Q5) – 13th place
Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q6) – 9th place
Michael Brunsting / Chase Frishman (Q7) – 9th place
Miles Evans / Curt Toppel (Q9) – 5th place
No top 4 seed advances for first time since Sept. 2013

SEATTLE - Men

Paul Araiza / Alejandro Parra (Q1) – 7th place
Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q2) – 13th place
Avery Drost / Gregg Weaver (Q3) – 3rd place
Kevin McColloch/Roberto Rodriguez-Bertran (Q13) – 5th place
Drost / Weaver become 3rd qualifier to ever reach semifinals

NEW YORK CITY - Men

Paul Araiza / Alejandro Parra (Q1) – 9th place
Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q2) – 9th place
Michael Brunsting / Chase Frishman (Q4) – 7th place
Orlando Irizarry/Roberto Rodriguez-Bertran (Q14) – 9th place
McKibbin brothers advance for 3rd straight time

SAN FRANCISCO - Men

Ty Loomis / Marty Lorenz (Q1) – 3rd place
Paul Araiza / Alejandro Parra (Q2) – 13th place
Michael Brunsting / Chase Frishman (Q4) – 13th place
Torey DeFalco / Matthew Hilling (Q22) – 13th place
19-Year old DeFalco/Hilling lowest to advance since May '15

MANHATTAN BEACH - Men

Paul Araiza / Alejandro Parra (Q1) – 25th place
Ed Ratledge / Adam Roberts (Q2) – 13th place
Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q3) – 17th place
Kevin McColloch/Roberto Rodriguez-Bertran (Q4) – 9th place
Matt Prosser / Gregg Weaver (Q8) – 17th place
Michael Boag / Jorge Martinez (Q11) – 25th place
Connor Hughes / Travis Woloson (Q28) – 25th place
Andy Ces / Dylan Maarek (Q39) – 17th place
Araiza / Parra qualify for 4th straight tournament

NEW ORLEANS - Women

Kristine Monforte / Traci Morin (Q3) – 13th place
Aurora Davis / Traci Weamer (Q4) – 13th place
Bree Scarbrough / Brittany Tiegs (Q25) – 7th place
Brook Bauer / Madison Fitzpatrick (Q26) – 9th place
Bauer / Fitzpatrick 4th youngest team to ever qualify

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Women

Ali McColloch / Kelly Reeves (Q2) – 5th place
Taylor Nutterfield / Claire Smalzer (Q8) – 13th place
Katie Jameson / Tracy Jones (Q19) – 9th place
Avery Bush / Carol Welcher (Q20) – 13th place
Bush and Reeves both qualify in their first ever event

SEATTLE - Women

Leah DeKok / Amanda Wiggins (Q2) – 9th place
Meg Dawson / Delaney Knudsen (Q4) – 13th place
Katey Schroeder / LeeAnn Starr (Q6) – 13th place
Karissa Cook / Brittany Tiegs (Q17) – 13th place
3rd straight AVP event in which #1 qualifier did not advance

NEW YORK CITY - Women

Diane Fiume / Amanda Wiggins (Q1) – 9th place
Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes (Q5) – 3rd place
Terri Del Conte / Summer Nash (Q10) – 13th place
Jace Pardon / Brittany Tiegs (Q19) – 7th place
Claes / Hughes become 2nd lowest seed to advance to semis

SAN FRANCISCO - Women

Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes (Q1) – 2nd place
Aurora Davis / Bree Scarbrough (Q5) – 13th place
Jace Pardon / Brittany Tiegs (Q6) – 9th place
Madison Witt / McKenna Witt (Q26) – 9th place
Claes / Hughes second lowest seed to ever reach finals

SAN FRANCISCO - Women

Katie Jameson / Tracy Jones (Q1) – 17th place
Meg Dawson / Delaney Knudsen (Q3) – 25th place
Lynne Galli / Briana Hinga (Q4) – 17th place
Lara Dykstra / Kelly Schumacher (Q7) – 13th place
Nicollet Martin / Allie Wheeler (Q12) – 9th place
Nicole Bateham / Kimberly Smith (Q15) – 13th place
Michelle Iaffiagliola / Jennifer Solm (Q24) – 25th place
Jess Clausen / Xi Zhang (Q27) – 25th place
Tracy Jones played in 2011 championship in her last MBO

MEN'S SEMIFINAL SYNOPSES – The six men's events so far have produced four different winning teams, with Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson winning three tournaments. In 2016, there have been 12 different teams advance to the semifinals, with the Crabb brothers (Taylor and Trevor) leading the pack with semifinal appearances in all six tournaments. Gibb / Patterson have been in four championship matches while the Crabbs have been in three title matches, but no other team has been in the title match more than once.

WOMEN'S SEMIFINAL SYNOPSES – Just like the men, the six women's events so far have seen one team, April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings, win three times and three other teams win once. Lane Carico / Summer Ross lead all teams with five AVP semifinal appearances, while Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten have been to four semis. Ten different teams have advanced to the semifinals, and seven of those teams have played for the title. Of the 18 matches that have made up the Final Four (two semifinals and the championship match), just three of those has gone three sets – the season opening title match in New Orleans, and then a semifinal and title match in Manhattan Beach.

DOUBLY SURE – In the first six tournaments of 2016, one thing has been certain – the top two seeds, in both genders, have advanced to the semifinals. On the men's side the streak has reached nine consecutive tournaments, with the last time the top teams did not advance to the semifinals was in Manhattan Beach in 2015. The number one and number two seeds have played their way to the semifinals in 13 of the last 14 events. For the women, the streak sits at seven events. But the top two tandems have also reached the semifinals in 23 of the last 26 AVP tournaments.

QUALIFIER QUIPS – Through the first six events, both Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin as well as Paul Araiza / Alejandro Parra have qualified four times. In Seattle Avery Drost / Gregg Weaver became the third AVP qualifier to ever advance to the semifinals, as they placed third. The other two times it happened both occurred in 2015 (in New Orleans and Mason). The top-seeded men's team has successfully emerged from the qualifier in five of the six 2016 tournaments. • On the women's side, Brittan Tieggs has advanced four times with three different partners. One trend so far has been the success of teams seeded low advancing to the main draw. In the first six qualifiers, there have been a total of nine teams which have advanced that were seeded 17th or higher. By comparison, in last year's seven events, the highest seeded team to qualify was 16th. In addition, the #1 seeded qualifier team advanced in each of the last four tournaments in 2015, but has done so just three times in 2016. Kelly Claes and Sara Hughes in New York became the second-lowest qualifier seed to reach the semifinals, then the next weekend in San Francisco they became the second-lowest qualifier seed to reach the finals.

BROTHERLY BATTLES – In Huntington Beach, top seeds Ryan Doherty and John Mayer most likely set an all-time record, as their six matches featured battles against three sets of brothers. The event's top tandem defeated Maddison and Riley McKibbin and then Brian and Tim Bomgren, but lost in the semifinals against Taylor and Trevor Crabb. • There have been two meetings between brother tandems as well. The Crabbs have twice this season played against the Bomgrens (Crabbs won both meetings), and all three sets of brothers are in the main draw in Chicago.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – There will be just one more FIVB event this season, the SWATCH FIVB World Tour Finals in Toronto Sep. 13-18, an event featuring the top 12 teams (with a country quota of two teams per country). The two teams representing the U.S. on the men's side will be Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Tri Bourne / John Hyden. Dalhausser / Lucena have collected four FIVB wins on the season, the most on Tour, and finished in fifth place in the Rio Olympics. Tri Bourne and John Hyden had enough points to rank in the top 15 (one means of qualifying for Rio), but were the only men's team that did not make the Olympics due to country quotas. On the women's side, April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings will be the only American team competing. Fresh off winning a bronze in the Rio Olympics followed by a gold medal in the Long Beach Grand Slam last week, Ross and Walsh have won five times this season on the FIVB Tour, trailing only the Rio Gold medalists, Germany's Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst.

AND FINALLY, THE FINALE – The last event of the year on the AVP schedule will feature a couple rules changes. First of all, the let serve rule, which has been in place since 2000, is being modified. If a serves touches the net and stays inbounds on the opponent's side of the court, no point is awarded and will be replayed. However if the replayed serve also touches the net then it is considered a service error and a point is awarded to the receiving team. The second rule change has to do with match point. Once a team reaches match point, scoring changes from rally scoring to side-out scoring for the remainder of that set for both teams. A team must serve in order to score a point, and the two-point margin requirement is still in place. There are no additional time outs allocated, and teams will still switch every seven serves (in a second set) or five serves (in a third set).