

Chicago – Sunday, September 3, 2023 – Women’s Championship Match

3:00 pm – #1 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss vs #3 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson

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

Head to Head

- These two teams are playing each other for the 9th time (and 3rd time in an AVP finals)... Kloth / Nuss hold a 5-3 lead in the series, and 4 of the 8 meetings have gone to a third set... Kloth / Nuss have won both times when they have played in a finals (in Chicago 2022, with Kloth / Nuss winning in three sets and in Atlanta 2023 with Kloth / Nuss winning in a sweep)

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/6/23	AVP	Gold Series Atlanta Open	Finals	Kloth/Nuss	2	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	3	21-16, 21-12	0:47
8/5/23	AVP	Gold Series Atlanta Open	Winner 3	Kloth/Nuss	2	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	3	21-16, 21-17	0:48
7/29/23	FIVB	Elite16 Montréal	Winner 2	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	4	Kloth/Nuss	3	21-15, 14-21, 15-8	0:50
6/3/23	FIVB	Elite16 Ostrava	Winner 2	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	13, Q1	Kloth/Nuss	8	21-19, 13-21, 15-12	0:52
5/20/23	AVP	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	Winner 3	Kloth/Nuss	2	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	3	21-18, 21-14	0:41
4/16/23	AVP	Pro Series New Orleans Open	Semis	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	2	Kloth/Nuss	4	16-21, 21-15, 15-13	1:00
9/4/22	AVP	Chicago Open	Finals	Kloth/Nuss	6	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	3	21-18, 17-21, 15-10	1:06
9/2/22	AVP	Chicago Open	Winner 2	Kloth/Nuss	6	Humana-Paredes/Wilkerson	3	21-18, 21-15	0:46

Title Tidbits

- These two teams met for the title last season in Chicago... this is the first time in AVP history that the women’s championship match in Chicago featured the same matchup in consecutive years
 - Including the Tour Series the AVP has had 8 different winning team in 9 events... whichever team wins today will join Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes as the only tandems to win twice this season
 - Kloth / Nuss are the only active team which has won multiple Gold Series titles (won in Atlanta 2021, in Chicago 2022 and in Atlanta 2023)... the only team with more is Alix Klinemen / April Ross (won 6 times)... Melissa Humana-Paredes has won once before (in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Sarah Pavan)... Brandie Wilkerson has yet to win a Gold Series title
 - Since the start of the 2022 season, including the Tour Series, 16 different women’s team won in the 23 events in that span... however both of these two teams have won in that span
 - 21 of the last 28 AVP title matches (excluding Tour Series) have been sweeps... the team winning the first set is 26-2 in the last 28 championship matches
 - Match data is known for 15 women’s finals in AVP history, and the team winning the first set is 12-3... the exceptions were in 2002, 2008 and 2016
 - This weekend in Chicago teams winning the first set are 25-3
 - There have been 20 women’s teams crowned champions in Chicago on the AVP Tour, and in just two of those seasons neither player on the winning team had played at a PAC-12 school... in 2015 Nicole Branagh (Minnesota) and Jenny Kropp (Nebraska) won and then last season Taryn Kloth (Creighton and Louisiana State) and Kristen Nuss (Louisiana State) claimed the title... none of the 4 players competing in today’s championship went to a PAC-12 school
 - Both teams competing here today were teammates in college... Kloth and Nuss at Louisiana State and Humana-Paredes and Wilkerson at York University
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Kloth / Nuss are playing together for the 14th time on the AVP Tour and the 30th time overall

- The duo won 5 AVP titles (in their debut as a team in Atlanta 2021, Austin 2022, Chicago 2022, Phoenix 2022, Atlanta 2023)
- Including the Chicago championship match, 21 of their last 30 matches have come against teams seeded 5th or better
- Entering the Chicago championship match in 3 seasons as partners on the AVP (including qualifiers), they are 57-17 in matches... they are 49-5 when winning the first set, 7-10 when losing the first set, and 0-2 in one-set matches and one win by forfeit...they are 16-7 in three-set matches
- They won 38 of their first 39 matches in their partnership when winning the first set, but in the first two tournaments this season they already lost 3 times when winning the first set
- In their AVP careers, 13 of their 17 match losses have come against teams with at least one beach Olympian
- Kloth and Nuss both played for LSU beach volleyball in 2019, 2020 and 2021... Kloth and Nuss were teammates on court 1 in 2021, finishing the season 36-0
- The duo won a gold medal in Brazil at the end of April, their first Elite16 gold medal
- Internationally they have lost to Brazil's Duda / Ana Patricia in 5 of their last 6 tournaments (did not play them in Montreal)
- Kloth and Nuss were the AVP Team of the Year in 2022
- The duo has played twice before in Chicago, placing 3rd in 2021 and winning in 2022... entering today's championship match they have a career 13-4 match record in Chicago, with 2 losses to Alix Klineman / April Ross
- In their win in Atlanta they swept all 5 opponents, including 3 matches against teams seeded 4th or better

All AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	8/4-6/2023	Gold Series Atlanta Open	2	1	2572	\$30,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	2	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	4	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	9/23-24/2022	Phoenix Championships	4	1	1891	\$15,000.00
AVP	9/2-4/2022	Chicago Open	6	1	2321	\$30,000.00
AVP	8/18-21/2022	Manhattan Beach Open	6	5	1891	\$9,000.00
AVP	8/5-7/2022	Atlanta Open	4	5	1891	\$10,000.00
AVP	7/29-31/2022	Fort Lauderdale Open	4	5	1706	\$4,200.00
AVP	5/27-29/2022	New Orleans Open	2	2	1990	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/6-8/2022	Austin Open	6	1	2095	\$14,000.00
AVP	9/1-5/2021	Chicago Open	9	3	756	\$9,000.00
AVP	8/18-22/2021	Manhattan Beach Open	9	5	810	\$7,750.00
AVP	8/11-15/2021	Atlanta Open	14, Q4	1	1050	\$20,000.00

Taryn Kloth – age 26 – 6'4" – hometown Sioux Falls, S.D. – currently Sioux Falls, S.D. – Creighton / Louisiana St.

- This is Kloth's 14th AVP tournament (all with Nuss) and she has advanced to the semifinals 9 times, the finals 6 times, and has 5 wins
- Kloth won her first ever pro beach volleyball tournament that she played... outside of the early days of the AVP, no other player has ever won an AVP title when making their beach volleyball debut (in Glendale 2009 Julianna Felisberta / Larissa Maestrini won when both players were making the AVP debuts but were already one of the top teams in the world)
- And for another first, Kloth played indoors at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and is the first player known to go to Creighton in the bvbinform.net database of 22,000 players (which also includes international players)
- Kloth went 50-0 in matches her last two seasons of beach volleyball at LSU
- Kloth is 5-1 all time in AVP finals (5-1 with Kristen Nuss)

- Kloth had 3 hitting errors in the first match of the tournament (in 22 swings)... since then in the last 4 matches she has had just 3 hitting errors total (in 67 swings)

Kristen Nuss – age 25 – 5'6" – hometown New Orleans, La. – currently Metairie, La. – Louisiana State

- This is Nuss' 19th AVP event, and she has been to 9 semifinals, 6 championship matches, and has 5 wins
- She played 5 events with 3 other partners before teaming with Kloth and was 0-4 in main draw matches in those AVP tournaments... in 4 of her first 5 AVP tournaments, Nuss was eliminated in a three-set match
- All 4 of her career partners on the AVP Tour were teammates of hers at LSU
- Nuss is 5-1 all time in AVP finals (5-1 with Taryn Kloth)
- Nuss has had at least 16 kills in all 5 matches here and had 11+ digs in 4 of the 5 matches

Humana-Paredes / Wilkerson are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour and 13th time overall

- The duo advanced to the finals in each of their first 3 AVP tournaments together, winning in Miami 2023, then following a fifth in Huntington Beach they placed 2nd in Atlanta
- In their debut in Chicago 2022, the pair lost in the second round and had to win 4 straight must-win matches (including 2 three-setters) to reach the championship match
- In the 2023 season opener in Miami, the pair lost in the third round but then swept 3 three straight opponents to win the title
- The duo began the season 11-2 in matches but then went 4-4 in their last 8 matches entering Chicago and are 4-1 in matches here this weekend
- Entering the Chicago championship match the pair has a 24-9 match record... they are 21-2 when winning the first set and 3-7 when losing the first set... they are 7-3 in three-set matches
- Entering the Chicago championship match they are 7-5 all time against teams seeded 4th or better

All AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	8/4-6/2023	Gold Series Atlanta Open	3	2	2444	\$22,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	3	5	1796	\$4,200.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	2	2	2095	\$8,500.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
AVP	9/2-4/2022	Chicago Open	3	2	2205	\$22,000.00

Melissa Humana-Paredes – age 30 – 5’9” – hometown Toronto, Ontario – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif.

- This is Humana-Paredes’ 16th AVP event with 2 different partners... she played her first 10 with Sarah Pavan, with 2 wins (Manhattan Beach 2019 and Honolulu 2019), 3 seconds and 2 thirds... she won in the 2023 season opener in Miami with Brandie Wilkerson
- She has advanced to the semifinals in 11 of her 15 completed AVP events and to the championship match 9 times entering Chicago
- In her 9 AVP title matches she was the #1 seed twice... in the other 7 finals she played against the #1 seed 5 times
- She won 2 AVP awards, both in 2019 (Best Defensive Player and Newcomer of the Year)
- She has played in 80 FIVB / Volleyball World Beach Pro tournaments (9 golds, 7 silvers, 3 bronzes and 7 fourths)... all of her medals came with Sarah Pavan before getting her first with Brandie Wilkerson in June
- This is the 3rd time Humana-Paredes has played in Chicago... she was 5th in 2019 with Sarah Pavan and 2nd in 2022 with Brandie Wilkerson
- Humana-Paredes is 3-6 all time in AVP finals (2-3 with Sarah Pavan, 1-3 with Brandie Wilkerson)
- She has at least 10 digs in all 5 matches this tournaments

Brandie Wilkerson – age 31 – hometown Lausanne, Switzerland – currently Redondo Beach, Calif.

- Wilkerson is playing in her 25th AVP tournament with 7 different partners
- Won her first AVP title in the 2023 season opener in Miami... her other best career AVP finishes have been second 6 times (2017 Manhattan Beach and 2018 New York with Nicole Branagh, 2020 Long Beach event #1 with Sara Hughes, 2022 Chicago with Melissa Humana-Paredes, 2023 New Orleans with Humana-Paredes and 2023 Atlanta with Humana-Paredes) and 3rd five times
- Her appearance in the title match in New Orleans 2023 marked the only time in her AVP career that she has reached the finals through the winner’s bracket (she came through the contender’s bracket in the other 6)
- From 2019-2020 Wilkerson advanced to the semifinals in 4 straight AVP tournaments... then she played in 6 consecutive AVP events without reaching the semifinals... entering Chicago she has advanced to the semifinals in each 6 of her last 7 AVP outings
- In total she has been in the semifinals 12 times in her 24 AVP tournaments entering Chicago... she has reached the semis with 4 different partners and the title match with 3 different ones

- Wilkerson has played 60 sets alongside Humana-Paredes entering Atlanta, and has at least 1 block in 48 of them (total of 84 blocks in those 60 sets)
- This is the 5th time Wilkerson has played in Chicago on the AVP Tour, placing 5th in 2017 with Nicole Branagh, 3rd in 2019 with Sara Hughes, 5th in 2021 with Sara Hughes and 2nd in 2022 with Melissa Humana-Paredes
- Wilkerson is 1-6 all-time in AVP championship matches (1-3 with Melissa Humana-Paredes, 0-2 with Nicole Branagh, 0-1 with Sara Hughes)
- She had a total of 2 aces in her 2 matches on Friday, but in her 3 matches on Saturday and Sunday she has compiled 10 total aces