

Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Friday, September 2, 2022 – Match 3
11:20 am – #1 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk vs #16 Jake Dietrich / Hagen Smith

Head to Head

- These two teams met in Hermosa Beach in July, with Brunner / Schalk winning 21-18, 21-19

Brunner / Schalk are playing together for the 9th time on the AVP Tour and the 24th time overall

- The duo has advanced to the semifinals in 7 of their 8 AVP tournaments, have won in Hermosa Beach, and have played for the title in 5 of the 8 completed events... after starting this year 4-3 on the AVP Tour, the duo has since gone 19-4
- Internationally they played 15 times with one gold and one fourth-place finish
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP (including qualifiers), they are 32-9 in matches, 28-4 when winning the first set, 2-7 when losing the first set... they are 2-0 in one-set matches and 6-4 in three-set matches
- Last year the duo placed 7th in Chicago, their only AVP tournament together in which they did not advance to the semifinals

Theo Brunner – age 37 – 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Conn. – currently Torrance, Calif. – Cal-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 62nd AVP event, winning 4 times (in Huntington Beach 2013 with Nick Lucena, in Seattle 2016 with Billy Allen, in Hermosa Beach 2018 with John Hyden and Hermosa Beach 2022 with Schalk)... he also has 8 seconds and 12 thirds... he has now been in the semifinals in 24 of his AVP tournaments
- Since advancing to his first semifinal in 2013, he has been in at least one AVP semifinal in each season with the exception of 2015 (played just 2 tournaments that year)
- Brunner has never played with a partner more than 8 times in his AVP career... he has played with 15 different partners, has advanced to the semifinals with 6 of them and to a title match with 5 different players
- Brunner is playing in Chicago for the 6th time with a 5th different partner... his best here is a 5th-place finish with Billy Allen in 2016

Chaim Schalk – age 36 – 6'5" – hometown Red Deer, Alberta – currently Gardena, Calif.

- Schalk is playing in his 32nd AVP Tournament with his 7th different partner
- He has 2 wins (in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer and Hermosa Beach 2022 with Brunner), 6 second-place finishes, and 8 third-place finishes
- Schalk has advanced to the semifinals in 16 of his 31 AVP tournaments (52%), and has done so with 5 different partners
- Schalk has advanced to the semifinals in Chicago twice before (2nd place in 2018 with Tim Bomgren and 3rd place with Jeremy Casebeer in 2019)... the 2018 event marked his first ever AVP title match appearance

Dietrich / Smith are playing together for the 5th time on the AVP Tour

- Duo placed 25th in their debut in Denver on the Tour Series, then followed that up with a fifth-place finish in Hermosa Beach... they then finished in 7th place in both Atlantic City on the Tour Series as well as in Manhattan Beach
- In Manhattan Beach 2021, Smith knocked Dietrich out of the qualifier
- This season they are 23-7 in matches on the AVP Tour (includes Tour Series)... they are 20-2 when winning the first set and 1-5 when losing the first set... they are 2-0 in one-set matches and 5-2 in three-set matches

Jake Dietrich – age 33 – 6'3" – hometown Santa Clarita, Calif. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Pierce Junior College / Cal State-Santa Cruz

- This is Dietrich's 14th AVP event with 7 different partners
- Dietrich played 9 events with 6 different partners, but is now playing for the 5th time with Smith
- His career AVP best is 5th place (Hermosa Beach 2022)
- This marks the first time ever Dietrich has played in Chicago

Hagen Smith – age 27 –6’0” – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Santa Monica, Calif. – UCLA

- Smith is playing in his 26th AVP Tournament with 7 different partners
- Smith has secured his best ever AVP finish in Hermosa Beach with Dietrich