

Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Friday, September 2, 2022 – Match 6
1:30 pm – #1 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske vs #9 Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman

Head to Head

- These two teams met in Manhattan Beach in August, with Hughes / Kolinske winning 21-15, 21-13
- Kolinske and Stockman were partners for 12 AVP events (1 win in Seattle 2019 and 3 3rd place finishes) as well as 30 international events (1 silver, 1 bronze, 2 4th place finishes)

Hughes / Kolinske are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour and 12th time overall

- They played in 6 FIVB events this year, improving from 9th to 5th to winning a gold medal in the Itapema (Brazil) Challenge on April 17... the duo also placed 5th in the World Championships in Rome in June
- In capturing the FIVB title in April, the duo beat 5 Olympians, including 2016 Silver Medalist Barbara Seixas
- On the AVP they placed 5th in Austin and then 3rd in 3 straight events (New Orleans, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta) before winning in Manhattan Beach
- 5 of their 8 match losses this season have come to teams seeded either first, second or third... 6 of their 8 losses have come to teams with at least one beach Olympian
- On the AVP Tour they are 18-8 in matches, including 16-0 when winning the first set and 1-8 when losing the first set... they are 1-0 in one-set matches and 4-2 in three-set matches

Sara Hughes – age 27 – 6’2” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Hughes’ 33rd AVP event with 8 different partners... she has 4 wins, 4 seconds and 11 thirds... her very first win came in Chicago 2017 (Hughes and Kelly Cheng became the youngest team to ever win an AVP title... Hughes was 22 1/2 years old while Cheng was two weeks shy of turning 22)
- Hughes has been in the semifinals in 19 of her 32 AVP events (59%), and in the championship match 7 times (25%)
- Hughes got her first 3 AVP wins consecutively (2017 season-ender, first two events of 2018) during a span in which she advanced to the semifinals in 8 straight AVP tournaments and 5 straight finals
- Hughes has a 16-5 career record in Chicago... she has finished worse each time however (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th)

Kelley Kolinske – age 30 – 6’2” – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently Jamul, Calif. – Pepperdine

- Kolinske is playing in her 38th AVP Tournament with 4 different partners... she has 4 wins, 3 seconds, 7 thirds... her victories came in 2015 (Mason), 2017 (San Francisco), 2019 (Seattle) and 2022 (Manhattan Beach)
- Kolinske played just once in 2014 (9th place), but since then has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of the last 8 seasons, including to a championship match in 5 different years
- Billy Kolinske proposed to Kelley Larsen on stadium court in Chicago in August 2019... they were then married in 2020
- Kolinske has reached the semifinals in Chicago twice with two different partners
- Kolinske has been in the semifinals in 6 of her last 7 AVP tournaments (exception was Austin 2022)

Kraft / Stockman are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour and 9th time overall

- Duo placed 5th in an international event in Turkey in May in their debut as a team, then won a gold medal in Poland in June
- On the AVP they finished 3rd in New Orleans then 13th in Atlanta and 5th in Manhattan Beach
- They have an 8-6 match record... they are 6-1 when winning the first set and 2-5 when losing the first set... they are 4-3 in three-set matches
- This match is the 15th of the year for Kraft / Stockman, and is the 8th against a team seeded 4th or better
- This is the 2nd time in their last 3 AVP matches that they have played against Hughes / Kolinske

Megan Kraft – age 19 – 6’0” – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently San Diego, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Kraft's 10th AVP event with her 4th different partner
- In her short AVP career, Kraft has a 6-4 match record against teams seeded 1st through 4th
- In her career she is 6-3 in Manhattan Beach main draw matches
- This is Kraft's first time playing in Chicago
- Kraft is the youngest competitor in Chicago

Emily Stockman – age 34 – 6'0" – hometown Colorado Springs, Colo. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Wichita State

- This is Stockman's 48th AVP event with her 14th different partner
- She has 1 win (in Seattle 2019 with Kelley Kolinske) and 1 second (in Austin 2017 with Kim DiCello)... she has 8 third-place finishes... in all, her 10 AVP semifinals have come with 6 different partners
- Stockman is playing in Chicago for the 8th time with a best of 5th twice... she was 5th in 2015 with Ali McColloch and 5th in 2016 with Jennifer Fopma