

Hermosa Beach – Sunday, July 9, 2023 – Men’s Championship

1:00 pm – #2 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb vs #3 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander

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

Head to Head

- These two teams have met twice... in Huntington Beach 2023 Brunner / Trevor Crabb won 21-14, 24-22... then yesterday Brunner / Trevor Crabb won 17-21, 21-15, 15-12
- The Crabb brothers have played each other 22 previous times (Trevor won 12, Taylor won 10)... Trevor has won 4 straight and 7 of the last 8 meetings... they met for the title in Hermosa 2017 (Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb defeated Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal 21-16, 17-21, 15-11) as well as in Chicago 2022 (Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb defeated Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander 21-18, 19-21, 18-16)

Title Tidbits

- This season the AVP has held 6 tournaments (between Pro Series and Tour Series), and there have been 6 different winning teams and 12 different winning players... Theo Brunner and Trevor Crabb have yet to win so there could be a 7th different team or the first time a team repeats as winners
- In the last 30 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series), there have been just two winners who were seeded lower than 4th, and that was in Atlanta 2022 when Miles Partain and Paul Lotman won as the 6th seeds and in Huntington Beach when Andy Benesh and Miles Partain won as the 5th seeds
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 35 of the last 43 times
- 11 of the last 19 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- 23 of the last 30 AVP championship matches were won by the higher seeded teams (just 7 upsets in that span)
- The #1 seed has won in just 4 of the last 16 AVP events (excluding Tour Series), and in 16 of the last 54 tournaments prior to Hermosa Beach
- 10 of the last 11 AVP champions (including Tour Series) has come from the winner’s bracket (meaning they were undefeated throughout the whole tournament)
- From 1986 through June 1991, Sinjin Smith battled his younger brother Andrew Smith for AVP titles five times (Sinjin won four times, Andrew won once). The first time it ever happened was in Arizona, on October 5, 1986 when Sinjin defeated Andrew. Like the Crabbs, the Smith brothers also played as partners early on but then went their separate ways. Following the fifth meeting between the two Smiths, no brothers competed in an AVP championship match until July 2017 in Hermosa Beach when Taylor Crabb got his second AVP title by defeating his older brother Trevor. In Chicago 2022 the two brothers met again in an AVP finals, with Trevor winning in Chicago against Taylor.

Brunner / Trevor Crabb are playing together for the 2nd time on the AVP and the 8th time overall

- In their AVP debut as partners, they finished in 3rd place in Huntington Beach 2023
- Entering the finals, in 1 season together on the AVP, they have a 7-1 match record... they are 5-0 when winning the first set and 2-1 when losing the first set... they are 2-1 in three-set matches
- Internationally the duo has three 5th-place finishes in 6 tournaments

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	6/15-18/2023	Challenge Jurmala	16	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	5/31-6/4/2023	Elite16 Ostrava	16, Q12	13	460	\$5,000.00
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	2	3	1990	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	9	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	6	19	300	\$1,000.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	14, Q6	13	460	\$5,000.00
FIVB	3/16-19/2023	La Paz Challenge	9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Theo Brunner – age 38 - 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Ct. – currently Torrance, Calif. – California-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 66th AVP event with 16 different partners
- He has 4 wins with 4 different partners... in Huntington Beach 2013 he won with Nick Lucena... in Seattle 2016 he won with Billy Allen... in Hermosa Beach 2018 he won with John Hyden... in Hermosa Beach 2022 he won with Chaim Schalk
- 7 of his partners have been Olympians (either beach or indoors)... of his 26 AVP semifinals entering Hermosa Beach, 23 of them came when partnering with an Olympian (only exceptions were a win and a 3rd place alongside Billy Allen, and his 3rd place in Huntington Beach 2023 with Trevor Crabb)
- This will be the 5th time that Brunner is playing an AVP event in Hermosa Beach... he was 25th in 2009 with Aaron Mansfield and 13th with Mansfield in 2010
- He has won here the last 2 times he played in Hermosa Beach... in 2018 he won with John Hyden, then in 2022 he won with Chaim Schalk (in that event he defeated Trevor Crabb in the contender's bracket and then beat his brother Taylor in the finals)
- Entering the finals he has won 15 of his last 17 matches played in Hermosa Beach
- Brunner has just 6 hitting errors in the tournament (.581 hitting percentage, 49 kills, 6 errors, 74 attacks)
- Brunner has 21 blocks in Hermosa Beach, and has at least 1 in all 9 sets played
- He is 4-8 all time in AVP finals

Trevor Crabb – age 33 – 6'4" – hometown Honolulu, Hawai'i – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Puget Sound / Long Beach State

- Crabb is playing in his 58th AVP tournament with 10 different partners
- He has won 6 AVP titles (won in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Reid Priddy, then won 5 times with Tri Bourne, in Long Beach 2020, Manhattan Beach 2021, Fort Lauderdale 2021, Manhattan Beach 2022 and Chicago 2022)
- He has now advanced to 32 AVP semifinals in his career, doing so with 7 different partners
- This marks the 4th time Crabb has played on the AVP in Hermosa Beach, playing with 4 different partners... he was 2nd in 2017 with Sean Rosenthal, 5th with John Mayer in 2018, and 7th with Tri Bourne in 2022
- Trevor Crabb made his pro beach volleyball debut in Hermosa Beach in 2011 on the Wide Open Tour, playing alongside his brother Taylor and finishing in 49th place
- Trevor Crabb had 9 hitting errors in the first meeting against Taylor Crabb / Sander, but had just 2 hitting errors in his other 3 matches here
- All time he has a 6-8 record in AVP finals

Taylor Crabb / Sander are playing together for the 12th time on the AVP Tour and 20th time overall

- The duo has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (Phoenix 2022, Huntington Beach 2022, Miami 2023), finished 2nd three times and 3rd three times
- Entering the finals in 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 44-14 in matches, 32-4 when winning the first set, 12-9 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in one-set matches and 17-8 in three-set matches... their last 3 matches have all gone to a third set
- They began their partnership with an 11-3 match record, but then went 5-5... since that point they have gone 28-6 entering the Hermosa Beach finals
- Of their 14 match losses, 12 have come to teams seeded 1st or 2nd

AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	5/18-21/2023	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	3	3	1990	\$6,000.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
AVP	11/11-13/2022	Huntington Beach Open	1	1	1891	\$8,000.00
AVP	9/23-24/2022	Phoenix Championships	3	1	1891	\$15,000.00
AVP	9/2-4/2022	Chicago Open	4	2	2205	\$22,000.00
AVP	8/18-21/2022	Manhattan Beach Open	5	3	2095	\$12,000.00
AVP	8/5-7/2022	Atlanta Open	4	7	1796	\$7,600.00
AVP	7/29-31/2022	Fort Lauderdale Open	4	3	1891	\$6,000.00
AVP	7/8-10/2022	Hermosa Beach Open	5	2	1990	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/27-29/2022	New Orleans Open	3	2	1990	\$8,500.00
AVP	5/6-8/2022	Austin Open	7	5	1706	\$4,200.00

Taylor Crabb – age 31 – 6'0" – hometown Honolulu, Hawai'i – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Long Beach State

- This is Taylor Crabb's 54th AVP event with 7 different partners
- Taylor Crabb has 12 wins (8 with Jake Gibb, 3 with Taylor Sander, 1 with Phil Dalhausser), 12 seconds (with 4 different partners), and 15 thirds
- Taylor Crabb led the AVP Tour in victories in 2019 with 4, and tied for team lead last year with 3
- Taylor Crabb has now advanced to the semifinals in 40 of his 54 AVP tournaments (74% of the events)
- He has now been in the semis in each of the 4 AVP events he has played in Hermosa Beach... in 2017 he won with Jake Gibb, in 2018 he placed 3rd with Gibb, and in 2022 he finished in 2nd place with Taylor Sander
- In his 4 AVP tournaments here including this weekend, he has a career match record of 16-3 in Hermosa Beach
- In his 5 matches here this weekend, Taylor Crabb had 20+ kills 3 times and 10+ digs 4 times
- All time he is 12-12 in AVP finals

Taylor Sander – age 31 – 6'5" – hometown Corona, Calif. – currently Huntington Beach, Calif. – Brigham Young

- Sander is playing in his 13th AVP event (12 alongside Taylor Crabb and 1 with his brother Brenden Sander)
- Sander has 3 wins (all with Taylor Crabb) and has now been in the semifinals in 10 of his 13 AVP events including Hermosa Beach
- Sander, a two-time indoor Olympian, is 14-11 in AVP matches with at least one Olympian (indoors or beach) on the opposing team... entering Hermosa Beach 25 of his 56 matches have been against teams with at least one Olympian
- In his short AVP career, Sander has lost 16 matches on the AVP tour (entering Hermosa Beach), and 14 of those were to teams seeded higher than him (has been upset just twice, to #13 Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend in Atlanta and to #18 Gage Basey / Lars Basey in Denver on the Tour Series)
- This weekend Sander has 31 blocks, with 23 of those coming in his last 3 matches entering the finals
- All time he is 3-3 in AVP finals