



# 2019 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR – Event #8 Honolulu, Hawai'i • September 19 - 22, 2019

**ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT** – For the second consecutive year, the AVP is having its season ender in Honolulu. The tournament is a blend of an invitational as well as open event. Teams could secure a spot by winning one of four tournaments during the season, or by having compiled the most points from their best two finishes from the three Gold Series events (New York City, Manhattan Beach, Chicago). The combination of those two determined the 12 teams automatically into the main draw, while the remaining four teams are being decided by an open qualifier. This marks the 35th consecutive season the AVP has held competitions. The three Gold Series events featured the most prize money (\$300,000 per event, split equally between men and women) in any AVP tournament since 2008. In addition, the total purse for the season, \$1,800,000, is the most the AVP has offered in a season since 2009 (when there were 16 events).

- The main draw will be a 16-team, double elimination format, the fourth such time this format has been used in 2019 (also in Austin, New York City and Seattle). The qualifier tournament is a single elimination event held on Thursday, September 19. The total number of teams entered is 24 for both genders as the field was capped due to space limitations (five men's teams women's teams were turned away). The qualifier will consist of 24 matches for both genders, while the main draw features 29 matches for each gender. The main draw begins on Friday, September 20 and concludes on Sunday, September 22, and will be played on four courts at Fort DeRussy Beach. General admission is free throughout and premium ticket packages are available at [avp.com](http://avp.com) or onsite. The championship matches will be around 2:00 pm HT and 3:30 pm HT.

- NBC Sports Network will broadcast a championship match on a tape-delayed basis on Sunday, with the two finals occurring around 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm HT. Chris Marlowe (play by play) and Kevin Wong (color commentary) will handle the announcing duties, with Dain Blanton contributing sideline reports. Live streaming via Amazon Prime takes place Friday through Sunday. Kevin Barnett, Camryn Irwin and Dain Blanton will combine to handle the announcing duties for Amazon Prime.

## 2019 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

<b>Event Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Tournament Format</b>	<b>Prize \$ - TV</b>
<b>May 2 - 5</b>	<b>Huntington Beach, California</b>	24-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Top seeds in both genders win season opener, Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			
<b>May 16 - 19</b>	<b>Austin, Texas</b>	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb lose in first round but claim title while Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon get first career win</i>			
<b>June 6 - 10</b>	<b>New York City, New York</b>	16-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena defend their NYC title while Alix Klineman / April Ross win their 5th straight event</i>			
<b>June 20 - 23</b>	<b>Seattle, Washington</b>	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>Jeremy Casebeer, Chaim Schalk and Emily Stockman (who won with Kelley Larsen) become first-time winners</i>			
<b>July 25 - 28</b>	<b>Hermosa Beach, California</b>	24-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Chase Budinger, alongside Casey Patterson, gets first ever title while Emily Day / Betsi Flint win</i>			
<b>August 15 - 18</b>	<b>Manhattan Beach, California</b>	32-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>All four winners got their first ever AVP win; Trevor Crabb, Reid Priddy, Melissa Humana-Paredes, Sarah Pavan</i>			
<b>Aug 27 – Sep 1</b>	<b>Chicago, Illinois</b>	24-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>Both Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross defend 2018 titles plus win for 3rd time in 2019</i>			
<b>Sep 19 – 22</b>	<b>Honolulu, Hawai'i</b>	16-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>2018 winners were Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			

**HONOLULU HISTORY** – Last year the AVP returned to Hawai'i for the first time since 2005. Honolulu was a regular stop for the AVP in its first 10 years of existence. And Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos winning the title in Honolulu was a regular occurrence as well, winning seven of the eight tournaments held between 1984 and 1992. The 2004 AVP event was an individual type event where players switched partners each match and the one with the best record won the title. The men had a fitting champion, Kailua native Sean Scott, while the women's crown went to Annett Davis. The next year, 2005, was a team format with eight teams playing a double elimination tournament. Sean Scott again won, with Todd Rogers, while Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings won on the women's side, their 45th victory as a team. Added during the 2019 season as an invitational event, last year's format featured four USA teams and four foreign teams in each gender. Here is a look at the tournaments in Honolulu:

**MEN – AVP events**

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1984	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Ricci Luyties / Steve Obradovich	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland
1985	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Ricci Luyties / Steve Obradovich
1986	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Leif Hanson	Andrew Smith / Jon Stevenson
1987	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Leif Hanson / Dan Vrebalovich	Pat Powers / Andrew Smith
1988	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Scott Ayakatabby / Brent Frohoff	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Wally Goodrick / Craig Moothart
1989	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Leif Hanson / Dan Vrebalovich	Scott Ayakatabby / John Hanley	Roger Clark / Wally Goodrick
1991	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Rudy Dvorak / Bruk Vandeweghe	John Eddo / Sean Fallowfield	Jon Stevenson / Mike Whitmarsh
1992	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Adam Johnson / Kent Steffes	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Andrew Smith / Bruk Vandeweghe
2004	Sean Scott	Jake Gibb	Mike Lambert	Casey Jennings
2005	Todd Rogers / Sean Scott	Dax Holdren / Jeff Nygaard	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Mark Williams / Scott Wong
2018	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Alexander Brouwer/Robert Meeuwssen	Saymon Barbosa / Guto Carvalhaes	[3rd] Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb

**WOMEN – AVP events**

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
2004	Annett Davis	Kerri Walsh Jennings	Holly McPeak	Jenny Johnson Jordan
2005	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Jennifer Kessy / Holly McPeak	Dianne DeNecochea/Tammy Leibl	[3rd] Rachel Scott / Elaine Youngs
2018	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Sara Hughes / Summer Ross	Agatha Bednarczuk / Duda Lisboa	[3rd] Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar

**WOMEN – non-AVP events**

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1990	Karolyn Kirby / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Linda Hanley	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque	Janice Harrer / Lisa Strand-Ma'a

**HONOLULU SAND BITS** – Of the 72 men's players competing this weekend, there are two teenagers competing, 17-year old Miles Partain and 19-year old John Schwengel. Meanwhile eight players are 40 or older. The three oldest are Pete DiVenere 48, Christopher Shipp, 47 and John Hyden 46. Of the heights known, Tal Shavit is the shortest at 5'9" and Bobby Jones is 5'10" while at the other end of the spectrum are 7'1" Ryan Doherty, 6'9" Andy Benesh and 6'9" Phil Dalhausser. Jake Gibb is playing in his 305th pro beach tournament, followed by Sean Rosenthal (280th), Phil Dalhausser (266th), Nick Lucena (263rd) and Ricardo Santos (255th), while there are no players competing in their first ever pro beach event. There are seven players competing in Honolulu who have won at least five AVP titles entering this weekend; Phil Dalhausser (57), Jake Gibb (33), Casey Patterson (15), Nick Lucena (14), John Hyden (13), Sean Rosenthal (12) and Taylor Crabb (7). Out of 36 partnerships, 13 are competing together for the very first time and only four have played together 20 or more times before Chicago (Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena 94 events, Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 42, Billy Allen / Stafford Slick 28 and Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin 26). There are seven men's teams here which have previously won an AVP event (Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena, Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb, Billy Allen / Stafford Slick, Theo Brunner / John Hyden, Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson and Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk).

• There are 72 women playing this weekend, and the field includes three teenagers, 16-year old Natalie Myszkowski and 17-year olds Peri Brennan and Tessa Van Winkle. On the flip side, two players are over 40, 48-year old Dianne Johansson and 43-year old Shannon Ferris. Of the heights known, Jade Race is the shortest at 5'4" while Katie Spieler measures 5'5". At the other end of the spectrum are Alix Klineman and Sarah Pavan (6'5") and two players who are 6'4" (Falyn Fonoimoana and Jessica Sykora). There are three players (Shannon Ferris, Tawnee Luafalemana and Ally Slaughter) who are making their pro beach volleyball debut while the most experienced is April Ross (253rd tournament) followed by Maria Clara Salgado (180th), and Emily Day (163rd). April Ross has tallied 36 AVP victories, far and away the most of any player here, followed by Emily Day (9) and Alix Klineman (7). The women feature 14 tandems (out of 36 total) playing alongside each other for the first time and four having played together 20 or more times before Chicago (Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan 36, Emily Day / Betsi Flint 30, Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman 30 and Alix Klineman / April Ross 29). There are four teams competing here which have won an AVP title as partners previously, Alix Klineman / April Ross (7), Emily Day / Betsi Flint (3), Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan (1), Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon (1) and Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman (1).

**GOLD SERIES** – The Gold Series is a three-event series featuring the tournaments in New York City, Manhattan Beach, and Chicago. This series is used in part to determine the teams eligible to compete in the season-ender in Hawai'i. There will be 16 teams in each gender competing in Hawai'i, with the winners of any of the non-Gold Series events automatically gaining a berth. Hermosa Beach was the final opportunity for teams to earn an automatic berth. Then additional teams up to 10 entries will be selected based on the Gold Series Standings (best two of the three tournaments). The remaining six teams will come in the form of two wild cards and four teams from a qualifier taking place the day before the Hawai'i main draw. Here is a look at who automatically secured a berth in Hawai'i and how they achieved it, as well as the points breakdown for the other teams who gained a main draw berth (please note that seeding once in the main draw was based on the usual process):

**MEN**

Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb (won Huntington Beach)  
 Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk (won Seattle)  
 Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson (won Hermosa)

**WOMEN**

Alix Klineman / April Ross (won Huntington Beach)  
 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon (won Austin)  
 Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman (won Seattle)  
 Emily Day / Betsi Flint (won Hermosa)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Men's Team</u>	<u>NYC</u>	<u>MBO</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Best 2/3 Total</u>
1	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	1650	1188	1408	3058
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	1188	0	1650	2838
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	990	1408	1188	2596
2	Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy	0	1650	814	2464
3	Tim Bomgren / Troy Field	1408	990	418	2398
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk	990	990	1188	2178
4	Sean Rosenthal / Ricardo Santos	1188	660	0	1848
5	Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin	330	660	990	1650
6	Eric Beranek / Billy Kolinske	0	1188	418	1606
7 (t)	Billy Allen / Stafford Slick	814	0	660	1474
7 (t)	Ryan Doherty / Miles Evans	0	814	660	1474
9	Avery Drost / Chase Frishman	0	814	528	1342

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Women's Team</u>	<u>NYC</u>	<u>MBO</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Best 2/3 Total</u>
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Alix Klineman / April Ross	1650	1408	1650	3300
1	Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan	0	1650	990	2640
2	Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil	1408	0	1188	2596
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Emily Day / Betsi Flint	990	990	1408	2398
3	Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson	0	1188	1188	2376
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman	1188	0	814	2002
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon	990	528	990	1980
4	Caitlin Ledoux / Maria Clara Salgado	0	990	660	1650
5	Terese Cannon / Kelly Reeves	0	1188	418	1606
6 (t)	Amanda Dowdy / Corinne Quiggle	528	660	814	1474
6 (t)	Brittany Howard / Molly Turner	0	814	660	1474
8 (t)	Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn	528	660	660	1320
8 (t)*	Crissy Jones / Susannah Muno	0	660	660	1320

\* - - lost tiebreaker

**TOP FOUR ARE TOP ONES** – Beginning with the Hermosa Beach event last year, all 1 men's winners on the AVP Tour have been seeded fourth or better. In that span, the top seeds have won four times, second seed four times, the third seed twice, and the fourth seed once. For the women their equivalent streak just came to an end in Manhattan Beach, as they had 13 consecutive events won by a team seeded fourth or better until Manhattan Beach, when 11th-seeded Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan claimed the title.

**HYDEN'S HOPES** – The top seed in the men's qualifier for the second straight tournament is the tandem of John Hyden and Theo Brunner. For Hyden, playing in the qualifier is a rare thing. The last time he competed in an AVP qualifier before Chicago was April 25, 2003 in Tempe, when he and Chip McCaw advanced from the qualifier and placed 17th. To put that into perspective, the youngest competitor here, Miles Partain, was just 16 months old when Hyden was last in a qualifier. Hyden became the oldest player to ever advance from a qualifier, besting Brent Frohoff's mark of 45 years, 4 months, 7 days. Hyden, who on qualifier day in Chicago was 46 years, 10 months, 22 days old, already owns the AVP record for oldest player to win a title, which he initially set right here in Chicago in 2017. He then extended that record with current partner Theo Brunner in Hermosa Beach 2018 when he was 45 years, 9 months, 22 days old. Since collecting that win, he has a 13-14 main draw match record on the AVP Tour in seven events alongside four different partners.

**ROSENTHAL'S RETURN** – Not to be outdone, this week Sean Rosenthal is playing in the qualifier, which marks the first time for him in an AVP event since Hermosa Beach on June 2001. At the time, he was just shy of his 21st birthday while this weekend he is 39 years old.

**TRYING FOR TEN** – Emily Day is striving to become the 10th player to record 10 career AVP victories. The top two on the list, Kerri Walsh Jennings (77) and Misty May-Treanor (66) have comfortable leads over the rest of the field. Ranking third all-time, but with the most among active AVP players, is April Ross (36), who just pulled ahead of Elaine Youngs (34) with her victory in New York City. The other women in the double-digit win club include Holly McPeak (28), Nicole Branagh (17), Jennifer Kessy (15), Linda Hanley (15) and Cammy Ciarelli (13).

**DOUBLE TAKE** – The women's qualifier in the season opener in Huntington Beach was very notable. There were two sets of twins that advanced, and being seeded 14th and 24th, this was certainly not a given. McKenna (Witt) Thibodeau and Madison Witt, who both played at Arizona and Cal Baptist, were competing in their fifth AVP tournament, while Audrey and Nicole Nourse, a pair of 18-year old twins, were playing together for the sixth time on the AVP Tour.

- In addition, a pair of 16-year olds advanced to the main draw, becoming the youngest team ever to qualify on the AVP. Megan Kraft, who was 16 years, 7 months and 5 days old when she qualified, was the fourth youngest individually to do so on the women's side, while Delaynie Maple (16 years, 10 months, 23 days) was the sixth youngest.

- In New York City, a third set of twins advanced from the qualifier. Annika (Van Gunst) Rowland and Teegan Van Gunst won three qualifier matches to reach the main draw. The twins both competed indoors at Georgia Tech followed by one season on the beach at Georgia State.

- Also in New York City, one of the qualifier matches featured two sets of twins facing off against each other. Veronica and Victoria Corcoran defeated Lauren and Lindsey Hattaway in the first round of the qualifier.

**2019 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:

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Men

Marty Lorenz / Raffe Paulis (Q1) – 17th place  
 Duncan Budinger / Kyle Friend (Q3) – 17th place  
 Spencer Sauter / Ben Vaught (Q4) – 13th place  
 Branden Clemens / Dylan Maarek (Q5) – 17th place  
 Daniel Dalanhese / Andrew Dentler (Q9) – 17th place  
 Christian Honer / Logan Webber (Q15) – 13th place  
 Kacey Losik / Lev Priima (Q22) – 17th place  
 Alex Diaz / Yamil Yanes Rodriguez (Q39) – 17th place  
*39th seeded team lowest to advance since Manhattan Beach 2016*

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Women

Jessica Sykora / Brittany Tiegs (Q4) – 9th place  
 Emily Hartong / Alexa Strange (Q5) – 17th place  
 McKenna Thibodeau / Madison Witt (Q14) – 17th place  
 Lauren DeTurk / Sasha Karelov (Q16) – 17th place  
 Traci Callahan / Maria Clara Salgado (Q18) – 7th place  
 Marija Milosevic / Megan Rice (Q22) – 17th place  
 Audrey Norse / Nicole Nourse (Q24) – 17th place  
 Megan Kraft / Delaynie Maple (Q26) – 13th place  
*Kraft/Maple youngest team to ever qualify; 2 sets of twins qualify*

**2019 QUALIFIER LIST cont'd** – Here's a look at the teams who have qualified this season (qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw:

AUSTIN - Men

Eric Beranek / Marty Lorenz (Q2) – 13th place  
 Bruno Amorim / Skylar del Sol (Q3) – 7th place  
 Daniel Dalanhese / Joe Hillman (Q12) – 13th place  
 Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina (Q25) – 9th place  
*Top seeded team fails to advance for 7th time since start of 2015*

NEW YORK CITY - Men

Chase Frishman / Piotr Marciniak (Q1) – 9th place  
 Michael Brunsting / Ty Loomis (Q3) – 13th place  
 Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina (Q15) – 13th place  
 Peter Connole / Steven Roschitz (Q20) – 13th place  
*Connole advances to his first AVP main draw ever*

SEATTLE - Men

Duncan Budinger / Kyle Friend (Q2) – 13th place  
 Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina (Q5) – 13th place  
 Jacob Landel / Lev Priima (Q6) – 13th place  
 David Lee / Raffe Paulis (Q8) – 13th place  
*Lotman / Ospina advance for third straight time*

HERMOSA BEACH - Men

David Vander Meer / Logan Webber (Q7) – 17th place  
 Christian Honer / Brian Miller (Q8) – 13th place  
 Dylan Maarek / Dave Palm (Q13) – 9th place  
 Andy Benesh / Adam Roberts (Q14) – 7th place  
 Jake Rosener / Christopher Vaughan (Q15) – 13th place  
 Earl Schultz / Jake Urrutia (Q16) – 17th place  
 Garrett Roberts / Garrett Wessberg (Q22) – 17th place  
 Wyatt Harrison / Kacey Losik (Q28) – 17th place  
*1st time ever that no team seeded 6th or better advanced*

MANHATTAN BEACH - Men

Jacob Landel / Lev Priima (Q1) – 17th place  
 Kyle Radde / David Vander Meer (Q3) – 17th place  
 Marcus Partain / Miles Partain (Q5) – 25th place  
 Eric Beranek / Billy Kolinske (Q8) – 3rd place  
 Christopher Austin / Kristopher Johnson (Q10) – 25th place  
 Marty Lorenz / Travis Schoonover (Q11) – 25th place  
 Michael Boag / Matt Motter (Q15) – 25th place  
 Ric Cervantes / Lucas Yoder (Q52) – 17th place  
*Beranek/Kolinske 1st qualifiers in semis since New York 2017*

CHICAGO - Men

Theo Brunner / John Hyden (Q1) – 7th place  
 Duncan Budinger / Kyle Friend (Q4) – 17th place  
 Peter Connole / Steven Roschitz (Q5) – 17th place  
 Paul Lotman / Miles Partain (Q7) – 5th place  
 Ben Vaught / Logan Webber (Q18) – 17th place  
 Jake Rosener / Christopher Vaughan (Q11) – 13th place  
 Jon Ferrari / Garrett Wessberg (Q18) – 17th place  
 Cody Caldwell / David Vander Meer (Q19) – 17th place  
*17-year old Partain and 46-year old Hyden both advance*

AUSTIN - Women

Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw (Q3) – 13th place  
 Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn (Q7) – 2nd place  
 Meghan Mannari / Taylor Nyquist (Q8) – 5th place  
 Lauren Dickson / Katie Lindelow (Q12) – 9th place  
*Hildreth / Schermerhorn 4th qualifier ever to play for title*

NEW YORK CITY - Women

Amanda Dowdy / Corinne Quiggle (Q1) – 13th place  
 Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn (Q6) – 13th place  
 Taylor Nyquist / Tory Paranagua (Q13) – 9th place  
 Annika Rowland / Teegan Van Gunst (Q15) – 13th place  
*Rowland / Van Gunst 3rd set of twins to qualify in 2019*

SEATTLE - Women

Lara Dykstra / Kimberly Smith (Q4) – 7th place  
 Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw (Q6) – 13th place  
 Brittany Tiegs / Molly Turner (Q7) – 5th place  
 Emily Hartong / Delaney Knudsen (Q8) – 13th place  
*Tiegs ties for AVP best finish while Turner set her career best*

HERMOSA BEACH - Women

Abril Bustamante / Sara Hughes (Q1) – 13th place  
 Traci Callahan / Carly Wopat (Q3) – 15th place  
 Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw (Q5) – 3rd place  
 Audrey Norse / Nicole Nourse (Q10) – 15th place  
 Lauren DeTurk / Sasha Karelov (Q11) – 13th place  
 Kathryn Hogan / Megan Rice (Q13) – 2nd place  
 Iya Lindahl / Morgan Martin (Q25) – 15th place  
 Crissy Jones / Susannah Muno (Q47) – 3rd place  
*1st time in AVP history for 3 qualifier teams to reach semifinals*

MANHATTAN BEACH - Women

Jessica Gaffney / Chelsea Ross (Q4) – 17th place  
 Katie Lindelow / Carolyn Meister (Q5) – 25th place  
 Aurora Davis / Tori Rodriguez (Q6) – 25th place  
 Iya Lindahl / Morgan Martin (Q7) – 9th place  
 Macy Jerger / Bre Moreland (Q15) – 25th place  
 Lexi McKeown / Piper Monk-Heidrich (Q30) – 25th place  
 Jenna Belton / Chanti Holroyd (Q32) – 25th place  
 Lindsey Sparks / Abby Van Winkle (Q41) – 25th place  
*Sparks and Van Winkle are both 19 years old*

CHICAGO - Women

Taylor Nyquist / Megan Rice (Q1) – 13th place  
 Falyn Fonoimoana / Alexa Strange (Q2) – 15th place  
 Tory Paranagua / Kerri Schuh (Q4) – 17th place  
 Traci Callahan / Carly Wopat (Q6) – 13th place  
 Lara Dykstra / Allie Wheeler (Q7) – 17th place  
 Kimberly Smith / Brittany Tiegs (Q8) – 17th place  
 Aurora Davis / Marija Milosevic (Q12) – 17th place  
 Katie Horton / Carly Kan (Q30) – 13th place  
*1st time since Manhattan Beach 2015 (with 8 teams advancing from qualifier) that no QT team finished as high as 9th*

**HUNTINGTON HAPPENINGS** – Both the men's and women's top-seeded teams won on the same weekend in the season opener in Huntington Beach. Jake Gibb became just the third different player to win an AVP title after turning 43 years old (joining John Hyden and Karch Kiraly). Alix Klineman and April Ross continued their hot streak, as they won their 20th straight match and fourth consecutive AVP title.

- Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb looked anything but the top seeds at the start of the tournament, outlasting a team from the qualifier in three sets only to lose to the other Crabb (Trevor) in the next round. Facing elimination, the duo won four matches (three of them in a third set) to reach the championship match. On the other side of the net was a team making its AVP debut as partners, Chase Budinger and Casey Patterson. A close first set could not derail the team with more experience, as Crabb and Gibb won for the fifth time together on the AVP Tour.

- The top seeds in the women's field, Alix Klineman and April Ross, looked very much like an elite team. The pair swept their first three opponents then outlasted the number two seeds in the semifinals to reach the championship match. Their foes were also an elite team, but seeded 14th due to not having much experience on the AVP Tour. Melissa Humana-Parades / Sarah Pavan of Canada had a similar route to the finals, sweeping four teams before overcoming a challenging semifinal test. The Canadians had to play each of the events' top four seeds in the competition and in the end, Klineman and Ross won a thrilling three-set victory. Klineman / Ross had reached match point at 14-11, but Humana-Parades / Pavan fought back to take the lead at 15-14 with one match point try. However Ross and Klineman tied it up and then a bit later scored two straight points to win 17-15 on their sixth match point try.

*#1 Alix Klineman / April Ross def. #14 Melissa Humana-Parades / Sarah Pavan 18-21, 21-12, 17-15 (1:14)*

*#1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb def. #6 Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson 27-25, 21-14 (:48)*

**AUSTIN ANALYSIS** – While a number of teams were competing in an FIVB event in Brazil, there was plenty of intrigue and history being made in Austin. Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb rebounded from a first round loss to win the title, while Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn became just the fourth women's team to ever advance from the qualifier all the way to the championship match.

- Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb won their third straight AVP open event, but they made history doing it. By getting upset in the first round, they became just the third team seeded #1 to lose in the first round to a #16 seed (others were in Seattle 2016 and New York 2017). In order to win the title, Crabb and Gibb had to play seven matches, four of which required a third set to determine the winner. After beating fourth-seeded Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk, who hadn't even lost a set entering the finals, Crabb and Gibb also became just the second AVP team to ever lose its first match and come back to win the tournament (only other time was Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger in Huntington Beach 2007).

- The women's championship match pitted a team playing together for just the second time (#4 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon) against a team whose previous best finish was 13th (Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn). Both teams had to overcome quite a bit to reach the title match, as Cook and Pardon lost in the second round and had to win four straight elimination matches. Two of those went to a third set and three were against teams seeded seventh or better. On the other side of the net, Hildreth and Schermerhorn entered the finals undefeated, having won three qualifier matches and all four main draw matches, dropping just one set in that span. Cook and Pardon proved too much though, winning in a sweep.

*#1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb def. #4 Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk 21-16, 21-16 (:52)*

*#4 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon def. #14 (Q7) Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn 21-11, 21-11 (:38)*

**NEW YORK CITY IN A NUTSHELL** – In the first of the three-event Gold Series, the New York City tournament appropriately saw the men's top two seeds battle, but it was in the semifinals. The top two seeds on the women's side were on course to meet for the championship until the second seeds were upset in the semifinals.

- For the second straight event, a team lost its first match but fought back to reach the title match. Seventh-seeded Tim Bomgren and Troy Field, who were playing together for just the third time, lost a three-set match to begin the tournament. But after that, the duo did not lose a single set en route to the finals. The title match appearance was the third ever for Bomgren, while it marked a first for Field. Across the net was the team of Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena, who are nearly unbeatable in the Big Apple. The pair won in 2016 and 2018, and placed ninth in 2017 after withdrawing from the event due to Lucena's wife going in labor. With the sweep of Bomgren and Field in the championship match, Dalhausser and Lucena improved to 16-2 in New York City matches (including a forfeited match).

- Kelly Claes and Sarah Sponcil were playing together for the first time ever on the AVP (had played six times together on the FIVB Tour). Seeded fifth, the pair lost to top-seeded Alix Klineman / April Ross in the match to reach the semifinals, but then won their next two matches to force a rematch in the championship. Klineman and Ross continued their impressive streak, winning their 25th consecutive AVP match (18 of them by sweeps). The title marked the fifth straight AVP victory the pair has won in their partnership, and they have now won six times in their nine events.

*#2 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena def. #7 Tim Bomgren / Troy Field 21-14, 21-16 (:40)*

*#1 Alix Klineman / April Ross def. #5 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil 21-19, 22-20 (1:02)*

**SEATTLE'S SYNOPSIS** – The men's championship match was a rematch from the Austin event, with different results, while the women's champions ended up being the fifth different team to win in the five years that the AVP has played in Seattle. Both genders featured teams in the championship match which had won in 2018, but both of those teams failed to successfully defend their titles this year. After the dust settled, three players had won for the first time on the AVP Tour.

- Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb won in Seattle in 2018 and had placed third in 2017. Entering the 2019 finals, the duo sported a 12-1 match record in Seattle. Ready to challenge them was the pair of Jeremy Casebeer and Chaim Schalk, both of whom had played in title matches before but never tasted victory. Casebeer was on a mission to change that, as he logged 25 aces in just five matches, the most in a tournament since 2007, when Fred Souza had 26 while playing eight matches. Casebeer and Schalk, playing together for just the fourth time, won the title in two close sets.

- Former teammates were now vying for the title in Seattle, as Betsi Flint and Kelley Larsen had been teammates for 19 AVP tournaments, winning twice. But this weekend they were on opposite sides of the net, as Flint and Emily Day were looking to defend their 2018 title in Seattle while Larsen was hoping to help Emily Stockman collect her first ever AVP title. The series history between these two teams had favored Larsen and Stockman, who had won five times including the day before, while the only win by Day / Flint was a forfeited match. Larsen and Stockman added to the lopsided series by sweeping Day and Flint.

*#2 Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman def. #3 Emily Day / Betsi Flint 21-17, 21-12 (:42)*

*#3 Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk def. #1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 21-19, 21-18 (:59)*

**FABULOUS 40's** – In the season opening tournament in Huntington Beach, Jake Gibb joined Karch Kiraly and John Hyden as the only players to ever win an AVP title at the age of 43 or older. He then added another title in the following event in Austin. From the Cincinnati event in September 2015 through Hermosa Beach, there have been 31 AVP events and 15 of the men's titles have been won by a player age 40 or older. In those 30 championship matches, at least one player has been over the age of 40 a total of 21 times. In Manhattan Beach Reid Priddy won his first title ever, and doing so at the age of 41 years, 10 months and 17 days meant he became the sixth different player to win after turning 40 (in addition to John Hyden, Karch Kiraly, Mike Whitmarsh, Jake Gibb and Ed Ratledge).

**HAWAII'IAN FLAVOR** – Here are some of the local connections the players have with Hawai'i:

- The men have at least five players who grew up in Hawai'i. Tri Bourne, Taylor Crabb, Trevor Crabb, Maddison McKibbin and Riley McKibbin all list Honolulu as their hometown.

- The men have three players who currently live in Hawai'i. Scott Cronick, Andrew Ellis and Nemanja Komar all list Honolulu as their current residence.

- The men have two players who competed collegiately in Hawai'i. Ric Cervantes played indoor volleyball for four seasons at Hawai'i (2007-10) as a libero, while Jon Ferrari went to Hawai'i after playing at Grossmont JC.

- The women have at least one player who grew up in Hawai'i as Carly Kan's hometown is Honolulu.

- The women have four players who currently live in Hawai'i. Shannon Ferris, Caly Kan, and Ally Slaughter all list Honolulu as their current residence, while Dianne Johannson lives in Kaneohe.

- The women have four players who competed collegiately in Hawai'i. Emily Hartong played four seasons (2010-13) at Hawai'i while Katie Spieler played four years of beach volleyball at Hawai'i (2013-16) after redshirting her first season on the indoor team. Carly Kan, who played volleyball at Punahou High School and then four years of indoor volleyball at Missouri, competed in beach volleyball for two seasons at Hawai'i (2017-18). Karissa Cook followed up her four-year indoor career at Stanford with one season of beach volleyball (2014) at Hawai'i. Heather (Boyan) Friesen played the 2015 season of beach volleyball at Hawai'i after her four years of indoor volleyball at Western Kentucky.

**ODE TO OLYMPIANS** – On the men's side each of the winning teams in 2019 has included at least one Olympian (including Indoor Olympians). In fact, 12 of the 14 teams to play in the finals this season have had at least one prior Olympian on the team. In 2018, seven of the eight winning teams contained an Olympian and 13 of the 16 teams playing in the championship matches had at least one player who had competed in the Olympics.

**PROLIFIC PARTNERSHIPS** – The growing popularity of the AVP Tour can be measured in part by the number of teams entering tournaments. The Manhattan Beach tournament featured 138 men's teams and 96 women's teams. Here's a look at where those rank all-time.

- The 138 total men's teams is the most ever, surpassing the next four highest which were all Manhattan Beach events (136 in 2009, 135 in 2006, 130 in 2017 and 127 in 2007).
- The 114 men's teams in the qualifier is also the most ever, just eclipsing the previous record of 111 in Manhattan Beach in 2006.
- The 96 total women's teams ranks as the 3rd most ever, behind only the 102 that competed in Hermosa Beach in 2018 and the 98 in Hermosa Beach 2019.
- The 234 combined teams is tied for the biggest combined field in AVP history along with the 234 teams (136 men, 98 women) in Manhattan Beach in 2009, with the next two biggest being 221 teams in both the 2017 Manhattan Beach event and the 2019 Hermosa Beach tournament.