

Huntington Beach – Sunday, May 21, 2023 – Men’s Championship

1:30 pm – #1 Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk vs #5 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain

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

Head to Head

- These two teams met yesterday in the winner’s bracket, with Bourne / Schalk winning 18-21, 21-17, 15-9

Title Tidbits

- In the last 29 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series), there has been just one winner who was seeded lower than 4th, and that was in Atlanta 2022 when Partain and Paul Lotman won as the 6th seeds
- A win by Benesh / Partain would be the 2nd consecutive AVP event with the winning team playing as partners on the AVP Tour for the first time as in New Orleans Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk won in their AVP debut
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 35 of the last 42 times
- 10 of the last 18 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- 23 of the last 29 AVP championship matches were won by the higher seeded teams (just 6 upsets in that span)
- The #1 seed has won in just 4 of the last 15 AVP events (excluding Tour Series), and in 16 of the last 53 tournaments prior to Huntington Beach... a win by Bourne / Schalk would be the 3rd straight AVP title by the top seeded team though
- Each of the last 10 AVP champions (including Tour Series) has come from the winner’s bracket (meaning they were undefeated throughout the whole tournament)... this weekend Bourne / Schalk came from the winner’s bracket while Benesh / Partain came from the contender’s bracket... the last time a team came from the contender’s bracket and won a title was in Hermosa Beach 2022 when Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk won
- A Benesh / Partain win would mean that including the Tour Series, 14 different teams have won the last 19 events (including Huntington Beach)
- Benesh and Partain are trying to become the first team to win an AVP event in California since San Francisco 2018 in which neither player had been an Olympian (beach or indoors)

Bourne / Schalk are playing together for the 2nd time on the AVP Tour and 6th time overall

- The duo won in their AVP debut together in New Orleans 2023
- They have played 4 times internationally, improving from a 19th to a 13th to a pair of 5ths
- Both players competed in the Olympics in beach volleyball but for different countries and different years
- Bourne all time is 10-6 when playing against Schalk, including 2-0 in AVP title matches (Fort Lauderdale 2022 and Manhattan Beach 2022)
- At least one of these players has been in the championship match in 8 of the last 10 AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series but including this weekend)... Bourne has won 3 times and Schalk 2 times in that span

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	4/26-30/2023	Elite16 Uberlândia	15, Q4	5	760	\$8,000.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	7	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	15, Q8	13	460	\$5,000.00
FIVB	3/16-19/2023	La Paz Challenge	10	19	300	\$1,000.00

Tri Bourne – age 33 – 6’5” – hometown Honolulu, Hawai’i – currently Honolulu, Hawai’i – Southern Cal

- This is Bourne’s 43rd AVP event with just his 4th different partner... he played 21 times with John Hyden, 19 with Trevor Crabb, 1 with Raffe Paulis and this will be his 2nd with Chaim Schalk

- He has won 9 times (3 with John Hyden in 2014-15, 5 with Trevor Crabb in 2020-2022, and once in 2023 with Chaim Schalk), placed second 8 times, third 13 times, and fourth once
- Including Huntington Beach he has been in the semifinals in 32 of his 43 AVP events
- Including Huntington Beach Bourne has advanced to the championship match in 6 of his last 8 AVP tournaments
- He has won 4 of his titles in California, and the other 5 in 5 different states
- This weekend will mark his 5th AVP event in Huntington Beach and he has advanced to the semifinals each time... he was 2nd in both 2013 and 2014 with John Hyden, then won in 2015 with Hyden, then placed 3rd with Trevor Crabb in 2019... entering the championship match he has a 20-4 career record in Huntington Beach with all 4 losses coming against teams seeded 1st, 1st, 2nd and 4th (and 3 of the 4 losses were three-set matches)
- All time he is 9-8 in AVP finals (5-1 with Trevor Crabb, 3-7 with John Hyden, and 1-0 with Chaim Schalk)
- In Friday's match against Tim Bomgren / Paul Lotman, he had 9 blocks (the most blocks in any match on Tour this season), the in the semifinals he had 8 blocks (2nd most by any player on tour this year)

Chaim Schalk – age 37 – 6'5" – hometown Red Deer, Alberta – currently Gardena, Calif. – Red Deer College / Trinity Western

- Schalk is playing in his 36th AVP tournament with his 8th different partner
- He has 3 wins (in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer, Hermosa Beach 2022 with Theo Brunner and New Orleans 2023 with Tri Bourne), 6 second place finishes and 9 third place finishes
- Schalk has been to the semifinals in just over half his AVP events including Huntington Beach (19 of 36 events), and has done so with 6 different partners
- He has competed in 10 different states while playing on the AVP Tour and has advanced to the semifinals in all 10 and to the finals in 7 different states
- In Schalk's first ever AVP main draw match (in New York 2017 with Ricardo Santos), he defeated top-seeded Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in three sets... all time on the AVP Tour he has a 6-5 match record against teams seeded number one
- Schalk has at least 15 kills in each of his 4 matches in Huntington Beach so far... he had 6 hitting errors in one match (yet still hit .421), and has 6 hitting errors combined from his other 3 matches

Benesh / Partain are playing together for the 1st time on the AVP and 6th time overall

- The duo has played 5 international Challenge events, winning one gold... they also have one other semifinal and a pair of 5th-place finishes
- In all 5 of those international tournaments they had to first play in the qualifier... in total they played 33 matches in 5 tournaments
- They have a match record of 25-8 internationally, and 5 of their 8 losses have come to teams seeded either first or second
- Partain is 5-2 against Benesh all time
- Entering the Huntington Beach finals, in 1 season together they have a 4-1 match record... they are 4-1 when winning the first set and 0-0 when losing the first set... they are 1-1 in three-set matches
- Benesh / Partain had to win 2 matches after being sent into the contender's bracket in order to reach the championship match... in those two matches they combined for 64 kills and just 3 hitting errors

All Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	4/13-16/2023	Challenge Saquarema	8, Q2	4	680	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	13, Q3	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	10/27-30/2022	Dubai 2nd Challenge	4, Q1	9	460	\$2,500.00
FIVB	10/22-25/2022	Dubai 1st Challenge	15, Q3	1	800	\$10,000.00
FIVB	10/13-16/2022	Maldives Challenge	22, Q9	5	600	\$3,750.00

Andy Benesh – age 28 – 6’9” – hometown Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. – Southern Cal

- Benesh is playing in his 30th career AVP tournament with his 10th different partner
- Benesh has won twice on the AVP Tour (in the 2022 season opener in Austin and in Denver 2022 on the Tour Series)
- Including Huntington Beach, in 7 of his last 14 AVP tournaments, Benesh has reached the semifinals... prior to that stretch he had never made a semifinal in his first 16 tournaments
- Huntington Beach marks his 4th straight AVP tournament with a 4th different partner
- Benesh began 2023 playing with Billy Allen in Miami, losing both matches 15-12 in the third set and finishing in 13th place
- This marks the 2nd time he has ever played in Huntington Beach, placing 33rd with Cole Fiers in 2019
- Benesh is 2-0 in AVP championship matches, winning with Phil Dalhausser in Austin 2022 (against Chase Budinger / Troy Field in a sweep) and winning with Miles Evans in Denver 2022 on the Tour Series against Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske in straight sets
- Benesh has had at least 4 blocks in every match in Huntington Beach

Miles Partain – age 21 – 6’2” – hometown Pacific Palisades, Calif. – currently Pacific Palisades, Calif. - UCLA

- Partain is playing in his 29th AVP tournament with his 9th different partner... he has played 13 times with Lotman and 7 times with his brother Marcus Partain, while the other 9 events came with 7 different partners (including Huntington Beach)
- In his first 19 AVP tournaments, he had a best of 5th place... in his last 10 events (including Huntington Beach), he finished in 3rd place 5 times and then won in Atlanta, placed 5th in both Manhattan Beach and Chicago, and 2nd in Phoenix and now either 1st or 2nd in Huntington Beach
- In Atlanta he became just the second male to win an AVP title before turning 21 years old (Scott Ayakhtubby did it twice in 1984)
- Huntington Beach marks his 2nd straight AVP tournament Partain has played in, and he has advanced to the championship match both times
- Entering Huntington Beach his last AVP tournament with a partner other than Paul Lotman was in August 2021 in Atlanta (finished 9th with Avery Drost)
- This is the first time Partain has ever played in Huntington Beach
- Partain is 1-1 in AVP finals (both times with Paul Lotman), having won in Atlanta 2022 in three sets and then losing in Phoenix 2022 in three sets... he lost the first set in both of those matches
- Partain has had at least 14 kills in every Huntington Beach match so far