

## Huntington Beach – Sunday, May 21, 2023 – Women’s Championship Match

### 2:30 pm – #1 Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes vs #4 Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles

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

#### Head to Head

- This is the 4th meeting between these teams
  - Cheng / Hughes won in the gold medal match in the Torquay Elite 16 event in December 2022 (21-17, 21-11)
  - Cheng / Hughes won in the New Orleans semifinals 8-21, 21-19, 16-14
  - Cheng / Hughes won in the winner’s bracket yesterday 21-14, 21-18
- Cheng and Flint were teammates for 8 AVP tournaments, winning once (in New Orleans 2022)... they advanced to the semifinals 7 of the 8 times, and to the championship match 4 times

#### Title Tidbits

- Regardless of which team wins, it will be the 19th different winning team in Huntington Beach on the AVP Tour
  - The #1 seed has won in Huntington Beach in 18 of the past 24 events (including Tour Series)
  - 4 of the last 6 AVP titles (excluding Tour Series and excluding Phoenix which was just 6 teams), have been won by a team coming from the contender’s bracket... in Huntington Beach Flint / Scoles reached the title match via the contender’s bracket while Cheng / Hughes were from the winner’s bracket
  - Since the start of the 2022 season, including the Tour Series, 12 different women’s team won in the 17 events in that span... a win by Flint / Scoles will make it 13 different teams in 18 events
  - 17 of the last 24 AVP title matches (excluding Tour Series) have been sweeps... the team winning the first set is 22-2 in the last 24 championship matches
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**Cheng / Hughes** are playing together for the 12th time on the AVP Tour and 38th time overall

- The duo has won 3 times on the AVP Tour (Chicago 2017, Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series and New Orleans 2023)... they also have one 2nd place finish and three 3rds together
- The two began playing together in 2013 at the FIVB U-19 World Championships in Portugal (won bronze medal)... in 2014 they lost in an AVP qualifier, and won a bronze medal in the FIVB U-21 World Championships in Cyprus... in 2015 they formed a partnership at Southern Cal as sophomores... they competed together on the AVP through the end of the 2017 season before reuniting in Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series
- Cheng and Hughes became the youngest team to ever win an AVP title in Chicago 2017... Hughes was 22 1/2 years old while Cheng was two weeks shy of turning 22
- Entering the Huntington Beach championship match including qualifiers and Tour Series, in 6 seasons the pair has a 51-15 match record... they are 47-4 when winning the first set and 4-11 when losing the first set... they are 11-7 in three-set matches
- They have won 3 straight AVP tournaments together (one in 2017, one in 2022, one in 2023) and have won 20 consecutive matches (and each of their last 6 third sets)... they have won 26 of their last 27 matches, with their last loss in the 2017 Manhattan Beach semifinals against Emily Capers / Brittany Hochevar (losing 16-14 in the third set)
- In New Orleans their first set scores were 21-8, 21-16, 10-21, 8-21 and 21-9
- In the semifinal match against Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil, the third set score of 23-21 tied for the highest scoring third set on the Tour this season... Cheng / Hughes had 4 match points while Cannon / Sponcil had 5

## All AVP Results

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	1	1	2205	\$14,000.00
AVP	11/11-13/2022	Huntington Beach Open	1	1	1891	\$8,000.00
AVP	8/31-9/3/2017	Chicago Championships	12	1	1200	\$22,000.00
AVP	8/17-20/2017	Manhattan Beach Open	23	3	864	\$9,000.00
AVP	6/22-25/2017	Seattle Open	7	9	300	\$2,500.00
AVP	6/8-11/2017	New York City Open	13	7	444	\$4,400.00
AVP	6/23-26/2016	AVP San Francisco Open	13, Q1	2	640	\$10,000.00
AVP	6/16-19/2016	AVP New York City Open	14, Q5	3	540	\$7,000.00
AVP	8/13-16/2015	AVP Manhattan Beach Open	14	9	300	\$3,000.00
AVP	7/16-19/2015	AVP New York City Open	16, Q10	3	540	\$7,000.00
AVP	8/14-17/2014	Manhattan Beach Open	Q12	33	120	\$0.00

### Kelly Cheng – age 27 – 6’2” – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Cheng’s 37th AVP event with 5 different partners... she has been to the finals with 4 of them
- Cheng has won 3 times (Chicago 2017, New Orleans 2022 and New Orleans 2023) plus a win in Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series ... she has also placed 2nd 8 times, and placed 3rd 16 times... she has advanced to the semifinals in 28 of her 35 AVP events entering New Orleans (80% of the tournaments)
- Cheng has played in 10 different states on the AVP Tour and has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of them, and to the championship match in 6 different states... she is 0-5 in finals in California excluding Tour Series
- Cheng has played in at least 1 AVP championship match in each of the past 8 seasons (2016-2023)... the only partner she did not play in a title match with was Brandie Wilkerson (played one event, finished 7th)
- All time she has a 4-8 record in AVP title matches... she is 3-1 with Sara Hughes, 1-3 with Betsi Flint, 0-3 with Sarah Sponcil and 0-1 with Brittany Hochevar
- In Huntington Beach she has had at least 15 kills and 2 blocks in every match

### Sara Hughes – age 28 – 6’2” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Hughes’ 37th AVP event with 8 different partners... she has 5 wins (plus one Tour Series win), 4 seconds and 12 thirds
- Hughes has been in the semifinals in 23 of her 37 AVP events (62%) including Huntington Beach, and in the championship match 11 times (30%)
- 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 4 partners with whom she has only played one tournament with... the other 4 partners she has played at least 6 times, and has been to a championship match with each of them
- All time she has a 6-4 record in AVP championship matches... she is 3-1 with Kelly Cheng, 2-2 with Summer Ross, 1-0 with Kelley Kolinske, and 0-1 with Brandie Wilkerson
- In Huntington Beach she has had at least 11 digs each match

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### Flint / Scoles are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour and the 8th time overall

- In their AVP debut (2023 season opener in Miami), the pair advanced to the championship match with their only 2 match losses coming to the #1 and #2 seeds in the event
- The duo then placed 3rd in New Orleans 2023 despite losing their first round match, winning 4 straight contender’s bracket matches to reach the semis
- Their first 3 tournaments as partners came on 3 different tours (AVP, World Beach Pro Tour and NORCECA)
- They won a silver medal internationally and then a gold on the NORCECA Beach Tour Final in December
- Entering the championship match in Huntington Beach the duo has a 12-5 match record... they are 9-2 when winning the first set and 3-3 when losing the first set... they are 5-2 in three-set matches (3-0 this weekend)

## All Results As Partners

Tour	Date	Tournament	Seed	Finish	Points	Money
FIVB	4/26-30/2023	Elite16 Uberlândia	8	13	460	\$5,000.00
AVP	4/13-16/2023	Pro Series New Orleans Open	3	3	1990	\$6,000.00
FIVB	4/6-9/2023	Challenge Itapema	6	5	600	\$3,750.00
FIVB	3/22-26/2023	Elite16 Tepic	6	13	460	\$5,000.00
AVP	3/16-19/2023	Pro Series Miami Open	3	2	2095	\$8,500.00
NORCECA	12/9-11/2022	2022 Norcea Beach Tour Final	1	1	800	\$0.00
FIVB	11/29-12/3/2022	Torquay Elite 16	5	2	1100	\$20,000.00

## Betsi Flint – age 30 - 5’10” – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Los Angeles, Calif. – Loyola Marymount

- This is Flint’s 47th AVP event with her 5th different partner
- Flint has 6 AVP wins with 3 different partners, and her wins came in 2015, 2017, 2018 (twice), 2019 and 2022... she has won with each of her partners that she has played more than 3 tournaments with
- Her wins came in Mason 2015 (with Kelley Kolinske), San Francisco 2017 (with Kolinske), Seattle 2018 (with Emily Capers), San Francisco 2018 (with Capers), Hermosa Beach 2019 (with Capers) and New Orleans 2022 (with Kelly Cheng)
- Outside of Larissa Maestrini (who won in Glendale 2009) she and Kolinske have the earliest AVP win of all players entered here
- She finished in 17th place in New Orleans 2015 with Kelley Kolinske, which marked the only AVP tournament in her career that she did not play in the main draw
- Flint is playing an AVP event in Huntington Beach for the 5th time in her career... she and Kelley Kolinske placed 5th in 2016, 7th in 2016 and 2nd in 2017... in 2019 she and Emily Capers were 3rd
- Flint’s 6 AVP titles is the most of any women’s player competing this weekend (Sara Hughes has 5 AVP titles plus a Tour Series win)
- She is 6-10 in AVP title matches in her career (3-3 with Emily Capers, 2-3 with Kelley Kolinske, 1-3 with Kelly Cheng and 0-1 with Julia Scoles)
- Flint has had at least 11 kills and 13 digs in all 5 matches in Huntington Beach entering the finals

## Julia Scoles – age 25 – 6’1” – hometown Mooresville, N.C. – currently Mooresville, N.C. – North Carolina / Hawai’i / USC

- This is Scoles’ 14th AVP tournament with 6 different partners
- She has 1 win (Atlanta 2022 with Geena Urango), 3 seconds (in Muskegon 2022 on the Tour Series with Urango, in Fort Lauderdale 2022 with Urango, and in Miami 2023 with Betsi Flint)... she also has 3 thirds (twice with Urango, once with Flint)
- Her first 4 AVP events came with 4 different partners, and she lost in the qualifier 3 times then placed 17th... since then, she has advanced to the semis in 8 of her last 10 AVP tournaments including Huntington Beach
- Since the start of the 2022 season, she has been eliminated from 8 AVP events and 7 times the other team had an Olympian on it
- All time she has a 1-3 record in AVP championship matches (1-2 with Geena Urango and 0-1 with Betsi Flint)
- Scoles has had 20+ kills in 4 of her 5 matches here... she had 11 blocks in the first two matches in Huntington Beach, but then just 1 block in her last 3 matches entering the finals