

# Manhattan Beach – Sunday, August 20, 2023 – Men’s Championship

## 10:00 am – #1 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb vs. #4 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 6 times before, including yesterday... Brunner / Trevor Crabb have a 5-1 lead... 4 of the matches have gone to a third set... this will be the 5th time they have played against each other in Southern California

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/19/23	AVP	Gold Series Manhattan Beach Open	Winner 4	Brunner/Crabb	1	Crabb/Sander	4	21-17, 16-21, 23-21	1:12
8/5/23	AVP	Gold Series Atlanta Open	Contender 4	Brunner/Crabb	2	Crabb/Sander	4	21-18, 17-21, 17-15	1:10
7/14/23	FIVB	Challenge Portugal	Pool A	Crabb/Sander	24, Q22	Brunner/Crabb	12, Q3	21-13 Retired	0:12
9/23	AVP	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	Finals	Brunner/Crabb	2	Crabb/Sander	3	19-21, 21-13, 15-10	1:04
7/8/23	AVP	Pro Series Hermosa Beach Open	Winner 3	Brunner/Crabb	2	Crabb/Sander	3	17-21, 21-15, 15-12	1:00
5/20/23	AVP	Pro Series Huntington Beach Open	Winner 3	Brunner/Crabb	2	Crabb/Sander	3	21-14, 24-22	0:42

### Title Tidbits

- This marks the 50th time that an AVP finals has been a rematch from earlier in the tournament (since match by match data has been known since 2002)...30 times a team has been able to win both matches, while 19 times the team that lost during bracket play came back to win in the finals
  - This year there have been rematches in Huntington Beach (Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk won in bracket play but Andy Benesh and Miles Partain won the finals), Hermosa Beach (Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb defeated Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander twice) and Atlanta (Andy Benesh / Miles Partain defeated Chase Budinger / Miles Evans twice)
  - This will be the 5th time in Manhattan Beach (since 2002) that the teams battling for the title had met earlier in the event... in 2002 Eric Fonoimoana / Dax Holdren twice defeated Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh... in 2005 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena won the first match but Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger won the championship... in 2013 Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings twice defeated Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal... in 2021 Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson won the first match but then Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb won the title match
- 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. Then in Hermosa Beach 2023 the Crabbs again met for the title with Trevor winning. Today will mark the 4th time the Crabbs have played against each other in a championship match.
- This season the AVP has held 8 tournaments (between Pro Series and Tour Series), and there have been 7 different winning teams and 14 different winning players...both of these teams have already won once this season
- In the last 32 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... both finalists today are seeded 4th or better
- The team winning the first set of AVP title matches has won 36 of the last 45 times
- 12 of the last 21 men’s championships overall (excluding Tour Series) have been three-set matches
- 25 of the last 32 AVP championship matches were won by the higher seeded teams (just 7 upsets in that span)
- The #1 seed has won in just 5 of the last 18 AVP events (excluding Tour Series), and in 17 of the last 56 tournaments prior to Manhattan Beach... #1 seeds Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb hope to become the second straight team to win that was seeded #1

- 11 of the last 13 AVP champions (including Tour Series) has come from the winner's bracket (meaning they were undefeated throughout the whole tournament)... this weekend Brunner / Trevor Crabb came through the winner's bracket while Taylor Crabb / Sander came through the contender's bracket
- Trevor Crabb has won 4 Gold Series titles, Taylor Crabb has won 2... neither Theo Brunner nor Taylor Sander has won a Gold Series title to date
- Each of the last 3 men's title matches in Manhattan Beach have been upsets
- The Crabb brothers have met 26 times previously, including 22 times on the AVP Tour and as recently as yesterday... Trevor has won 15 times, Taylor has won 11... Trevor has won 12 of the last 15 meetings... 7 of the last 9 meetings have gone to a third set... 3 times they have met in a title match, in Hermosa Beach 2017 (Taylor won), in Chicago 2022 (Trevor won) and in Hermosa Beach 2023 (Trevor won)... they have previously met 4 times in Manhattan Beach, with Trevor winning all 3 times (in 3 sets in 2017, in 2 sets in 2021, in 3 sets in the 2022 semis, in 3 sets in 2023 yesterday)
- 2023 could be the first year ever that blood relatives have both won a Manhattan Beach Open... to date there have been two instances of spouses both winning plaques on the pier (Mike Dodd, who turns 66 on Sunday, won in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1987 while his wife Patty Dodd won 1989... Kerri Walsh Jennings won 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013 and 2014 while her husband Casey Jennings claimed the 2013 title)... with Trevor Crabb winning the past 3 times here (2019, 2021 and 2022) his younger brother Taylor could join him on the pier
- Trevor Crabb is trying to win his fourth straight Manhattan Beach Open title, as he won in 2019 with Reid Priddy (which was his first career victory), then each of the last two seasons with Tri Bourne (no event was held in 2020)... Two players in history have won five consecutive titles and they were the first five Opens ever held, Mike Bright and Mike O'Hara from 1960-64. Mike Dodd and Tim Hovland won four straight from 1982-85, then Karch Kiraly won four in a row from 1990-93... Since that point the only players to win three straight Manhattan Beach Open titles are Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers (from 2006-08) and now Trevor Crabb.