



2021 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour

Event #2 – Manhattan Beach Open

Manhattan Beach, California • August 18 - 22, 2021

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – For the 38th consecutive year, the AVP Tour is in action on the sands across America. This year the schedule features three events in a span of one month, with all being part of the Gold Series. The Tour kicked off appropriately in Atlanta, as the first domestic event following the Tokyo Olympics is being held in the same city where beach volleyball made its Olympic debut back in 1996. This weekend the biggest tournament of the year both in terms of number of teams as well as prize money will be held in Manhattan Beach, California. There will be a one-week hiatus before the Tour concludes in Chicago over Labor Day weekend. This was the fourth latest start of the Tour in history, behind 2011 (finals on October 22), 2012 (finals on September 2) and 2013 (finals on August 18).

- The Manhattan Beach Open has a total of \$250,000 in prize money that will be paid out to the two genders. This event has a rare two-day qualifier in order to accommodate all the teams vying for a spot in the main draw, which will be a 24-team, double elimination format on five courts at the Manhattan Beach Pier. The main draw will have 45 matches in both genders, beginning on Friday, August 20 and concluding on Sunday, August 22. The championship matches will be around 2:15 pm PT and 3:15 pm PT. The qualifier tournament is a single elimination event held on Wednesday, August 18 and Thursday, August 19 on 10 courts at the Manhattan Beach Pier. The men's qualifier has a total of 80 teams competing for the final four spots in the main draw, joining 20 teams seeded directly into the main draw, while the women have 50 qualifier teams and 20 more directly in the main draw. Included in that group are eight teams which earned automatic berths into the main draw. Both qualifiers will be divided into two phases, with 48 men's matches and 18 women's matches on Wednesday, August 18. Phase two will have the eight teams advancing from phase one joining the top 24-seeded qualifier teams in a single elimination bracket that will determine the final four main draw teams.

- This year the main draw matches will be streamed on LIVE SPORTS within Peacock Premium, the streaming arm of NBC. All of the NBCSports replays will be shown on a tape-delayed basis. Kevin Barnett, Dain Blanton, Camryn Irwin, Chris Marlowe and Kevin Wong will combine to handle the announcing duties.

TOURNAMENT TALLIES – With 100 men's teams vying to get their name on the Manhattan Beach Pier, this marks the 34th tournament in the history of the AVP with a field of at least 100 teams. Manhattan Beach has been the site 10 times, the most of any on the list of seven different cities. Hermosa Beach has had 100+ teams nine times, with Huntington Beach at seven. The other four places include two locales outside of California (Chicago 3, Ft. Lauderdale 2), with San Diego (2) and Santa Barbara (1) rounding out the list. In the last 23 AVP tournaments with 100+ teams, no team seeded lower than fourth has won. Twice in the 34 events has a qualifier team ever made it to the semifinals (finishing third both times); Brad Keenan / John Mayer in Hermosa Beach 2006 and Eric Beranek / Billy Koliinske in Manhattan Beach 2019

- The women's field is 70 teams, the 35th time the AVP has had that many teams. Hermosa Beach leads the list with 11 events, but now Manhattan Beach has closed the gap (9). Huntington Beach is next on the list (6), followed by Chicago and Santa Barbara (3 each). Ft. Lauderdale, Long Beach and San Diego have all had one tournament with a field of 70+ teams. The first 27 times the AVP had 70 or more women's teams, no duo with a double digit seed ever advanced to the semifinals and the winners were always seeded either first or second. But since 2010 that has changed. There have been 11 such tournaments, and three times the winner has been seeded outside the top four (seeds #5, #6 and in 2019 seed #11 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan). Moreover, six teams in that span have been seeded 10th or lower yet advanced to the semifinals, including the Hermosa Beach 2019 event which had the biggest sum of semifinal seeds in the history of the AVP (64) with the top-seeded winning team joined by seeds #18, #21 and #24.

2021 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$
August 11 - 15	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$200,000
<i>AVP returns to Atlanta for the first time since 2009</i>			
<i>Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk win men's title; Taryn Kloth / Megan Nuss win in Kloth's pro beach debut</i>			
August 18 - 22	Manhattan Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$250,000
<i>No Manhattan Beach Open in 2020 for the first time since 2010</i>			
<i>2019 winners were Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy and Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan</i>			
September 1 - 5	Chicago, Illinois	16-team double elimination	\$200,000
<i>Chicago has held the most domestic tournaments of any location outside the state of California</i>			
<i>Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross won in both 2018 and 2019</i>			

MANHATTAN BEACH HISTORY – There are tournaments in Manhattan Beach, and then there are the Manhattan Beach Opens. In addition to Manhattan Beach Opens listed below, there have been other tournaments held there as well. 2021 will mark the 63rd men's event held there, (59th Manhattan Beach Open) and the 52nd women's tournament (53rd Manhattan Beach Open). No other city in the U.S. has hosted more professional beach volleyball events. On the men's side, Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena have won three of the past five but won't be competing together as a team in 2021. Outside of that, six other teams have won the other seven titles in the last 11 years, with John Hyden / Sean Scott being the only to repeat. The women have seen nine different teams win in the last 11 years here (had repeat winners in 2011 and 2012, and again in 2016 and 2017).

- There have been 39 unique men's teams which have won an Open, led by five each by Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara (the first five in a row) and Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland. Karch Kiraly played in 16 Opens and has eight titles, the most of any player, going undefeated in title matches (8-0). He advanced to the Final Four in 12 of those 16 tournaments, and his titles came with five different partners. In 2018 Phil Dalhausser won his seventh MBO title, having done so with three different partners. Six men's players have won five times. Several players have had the unique experience of getting their first career win at a Manhattan Beach Open, including Fred Zeulich (1973), Chris Marlowe (1976), Steve Obradovich (1976), Randy Stoklos (1981), Ricci Luyties (1988) and Mike Lambert (2004). In 1976, the most notable was not just the team that won (Marlowe and Obradovich), but also a team that didn't (Greg Lee / Jim Menges). Until that tournament, Lee and Menges had won a record 14 consecutive tournaments that they entered as partners (although during that stretch Lee played three other tournaments with different partners). Jose Loiola's win in 2000 marked his 50th career win. Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers won for three consecutive years in Manhattan Beach in 2006-2008, becoming the first repeat winners since Kiraly and Kent Steffes won three straight times in 1991-1993, and are just the fourth team to win at least three straight. In the last 38 Manhattan Beach Opens (since 1979), the winning team has featured at least one Olympic beach volleyball competitor in all but six years (and three of those years had an indoor Olympian on the winning team). A total of 48 winners (of the 76) in that span had experience in Olympic beach volleyball, and 30 times that player had won an Olympic medal.

- On the women's side, 37 different partnerships have earned a plaque on the pier. Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings lead the pack with five Manhattan Beach Open titles, followed by Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies with four. The players who won their first career title in a Manhattan Beach Open include Roseann Wegrich (1970), Rose Duncan (1971), Susie Malpee (1971), Kathy Gregory (1972) and Nina Matthies (1972). A total of 45 different women have won a title. Kathy Gregory holds the record with eight titles, followed by Kerri Walsh Jennings and Nina Matthies who each won seven. Following those two are five players with five wins. While Liz Masakayan won her 20th career title in Manhattan Beach in 1993, it was not a Manhattan Beach Open. However, both Barbra Fontana (2001) and Misty May-Treanor (2003) recorded their 20th career victories with a Manhattan Beach Open win, but the most notable achievement was in 2004, when Holly McPeak made history with her record-breaking 68th career title in her hometown. That also marked the first time in an AVP event that May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings did not win, as they had won each of the previous 12 AVP tournaments they played together in their history. In 2008 May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings won for the fourth straight time, surpassing the record set by the team that won the first three Manhattan Beach Opens; Jean Brunicardi and Johnette Latreille in 1966-68. Elaine Youngs played in the championship match in each event between 2001 and 2007, advancing to the title game with five different partners in that time, and won again in 2009. April Ross has won three of the past six Manhattan Beach Opens, and has done so with three different partners. Listed below are Manhattan Beach Opens (both AVP and non-AVP events):

MEN

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1960	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Higer / Gene Selznick		
1961	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Higer / Gene Selznick		
1962	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Ron Lang / Gene Selznick		
1963	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Mike Colbert / Pete Hogan		
1964	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Rand Carter / Ron Von Hagen		
1965	Ron Lang / Gene Selznick	Rand Carter / Ron Von Hagen		
1966	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Bright / Mike O'Hara	Keith Erickson / Gene Selznick	
1967	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Bill Leeka / Bob Vogelsang	Spike Boarts / Bob Smith	Mike O'Hara / Gene Pflueger
1968	Henry Bergman / Larry Rundle	Ron Lang / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Bright / Butch May	
1969	John Vallely / Ron Von Hagen	Henry Bergman / Larry Rundle		
1970	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen	John Gonzales / Mitch Malpee	Bob Clem / Ron Lang	
1971	Bob Clem / Larry Rundle	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen	Buzz Swartz / Toshi Toyota	John Gonzales / Mitch Malpee
1972	Matt Gage / Buzz Swartz	Bob Clem / Larry Rundle	Henry Bergman / Ron Von Hagen	Greg Lee / Jon Lee
1973	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich	Matt Gage / Ron Von Hagen	Doug Dunlap / Kirk Kilgour	Bob Clem / Greg Lee
1974	Tom Chamales / Ron Von Hagen	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich	Matt Gage / Buzz Swartz
1975	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Tom Chamales / Ron Von Hagen	Mike Carey / Dennis Hare	Bob Jackson / Fred Zeulich
1976	Chris Marlowe/Steve Obradovich	Mike Carey / Bob Jackson		
1977	Chris Marlowe / Jim Menges	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Matt Gage / Fred Zeulich	Fred Sturm / Buzz Swartz
1978	Greg Lee / Jim Menges	Andy Fishburn / Fred Sturm	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Matt Gage / Dane Selznick

MEN (cont'd)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1979	Jim Menges / Sinjin Smith	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Chris Marlowe / Fred Sturm
1980	Karch Kiraly / Sinjin Smith	Matt Gage / Jim Menges	Steve Obradovich / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick
1981	Jim Menges / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich	Jon Stevenson / Tim Walmer
1982	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Gary Hooper / Steve Obradovich
1983	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Jay Hanseth / Tim Walmer
1984	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andy Fishburn / Jay Hanseth	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1985	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Scott Ayakutubby / Brent Frohoff	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1986	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andrew Smith / Jon Stevenson	Robert Chavez / Jay Hanseth	Scott Ayakutubby / Brent Frohoff
1987	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Andy Fishburn / Todd Schaefer	Kevin Cleary / Brent Frohoff
1988	Karch Kiraly / Ricci Luyties	Andy Fishburn / Dane Selznick	Dana Fitzgerald / Eugene LeDuff	Bob Ctvrtlik / Steve Timmons
1989	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Craig Moothart / Steve Obradovich
1990	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Al Janc / Tim Walmer
1991	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Scott Ayakutubby / Steve Timmons	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Ricci Luyties
1992	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Brian Lewis / Craig Moothart	Bruk Vandeweghe / Dan Vrebalovich
1993	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Adam Johnson / Bruk Vandeweghe	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Brian Lewis / Steve Timmons
1994	Adam Johnson / Randy Stoklos	Bill Boullianne / Brian Lewis	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola	Brent Frohoff / Ricci Luyties
1995	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Scott Ayakutubby / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes
1996	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Scott Ayakutubby / Brian Lewis
1998	Pepe Delahoz / Sean Scott			
1999	David Swatik / Mike Whitmarsh	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Dain Blanton / Eric Fonoimoana
2000	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers
2001	Stein Metzger / Kevin Wong	Eric Fonoimoana / Rob Heidger	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Dax Holdren / Todd Rogers
2002	Eric Fonoimoana / Dax Holdren	Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh	Eduardo Bacil / Fred Souza	[3rd] Brent Doble / Karch Kiraly
2003	Eric Fonoimoana / Kevin Wong	Eduardo Bacil / Jose Loiola	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Canyon Ceman / Mike Whitmarsh
2004	Karch Kiraly / Mike Lambert	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	Dain Blanton / Jeff Nygaard	[3rd] Eric Fonoimoana / Kevin Wong
2005	Jake Gibb / Stein Metzger	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Sean Rosenthal / Larry Witt	[3rd] Dax Holdren / Jeff Nygaard
2006	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger	Dax Holdren / Sean Scott	[3rd] John Hyden / Jeff Nygaard
2007	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Dax Holdren / Sean Scott	Anthony Medel / Fred Souza	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal
2008	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	Nick Lucena / Sean Scott	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	[3rd] Matt Olson / Kevin Wong
2009	Jake Gibb / Sean Rosenthal	Matt Olson / Kevin Wong	Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers	[3rd] Brad Keenan / Nick Lucena
2011	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Billy Allen / Brad Keenan	John Mayer / Matt Prosser	[3rd] Ryan Mariano / Ed Ratledge
2012	John Hyden / Sean Scott	Ryan Doherty / Casey Patterson	Matt Fuerbringer / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Billy Allen / Matt Prosser
2013	Matt Fuerbringer / Casey Jennings	Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Ryan Doherty / Todd Rogers
2014	Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal	Theo Brunner / Todd Rogers	Brad Keenan / John Mayer	[3rd] Tri Bourne / John Hyden
2015	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2016	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2017	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal	Theo Brunner / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Reid Priddy / Ricardo Santos
2018	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Jeremy Casebeer / Reid Priddy	[3rd] Theo Brunner / John Hyden
2019	Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	[3rd] Eric Beranek / Billy Kolinske

WOMEN

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1966	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1967	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1968	Jean Brunicardi / Johnette Latreille			
1969	Kathy Gregory / Laurie Lewis			
1970	Christie Hahn / Roseann Wegrich			
1971	Rose Duncan / Susie Malpee			
1972	Kathy Gregory / Nina Matthies			
1973	Rose Duncan / Kathy Gregory	Cathy Hahn / Nina Matthies	Sheri Caldwell / Sandy Malpee	
1974	Rose Duncan / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Christie Hahn / Roseann Wegrich	Ginny Fitzgerald / Sandy Malpee
1975	Nina Matthies / Miki McFadden	Kathy Gregory / Roseann Wegrich	Georjean Garvey / Hillary Johnson	Debbie Fonoimoana / Claire McCarty
1976	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones	Eileen Clancy / Georjean Garvey	Kathy Hanley / Ann McCampbell
1977	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Rose Duncan / Jill Durkee	Ann Cunningham / Mary Machado	Kathy Hanley / Maya Thiene
1978	Kathy Gregory / Miki McFadden	Eileen Clancy / Barbara May	Nancy Cohen / Susie Jones	Susan Schwartz / Bonnie Toth
1979	Nancy Cohen / Kathy Gregory	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Eileen Clancy / Barbara May	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones
1980	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Hanley / Ann McCampbell	Linda Chisholm / Rhonda Stoklos	Ann Cunningham / Anne Hansen
1981	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Beth Rogers / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Kathy Gregory / Kathy Hanley	Hillary Johnson / Sharkie Zartman
1982	Kathy Hanley / Diane Sebastian	Torrie Dorrell / Dale Keough	Darlene Bailey/Lou Ann Terheggen	Jill Durkee / Susie Jones

WOMEN (cont'd)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
1983	Kathy Gregory / Kathy Hanley	Cindy Cochran / Anna Prousalis	Nina Matthies / Julie Thornton	Bev Lidyoff / Liz Masakayan
1984	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis	Jeanne Goldsmith / Kathy Gregory	Torrie Dorrell / Dale Keough
1985	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis	Mary Diamond / Julie Thornton	Darlene Bailey / Gail Castro Kehl	Patty Dodd / Lizz Masakayan
1986	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Linda Chisholm / Heather Hafner	Kathy Hanley / Anna Prousalis
1987	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Gail Castro Kehl / Heather Hafner
1987	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Linda Hanley / Nina Matthies	Kathy Gregory / Janice Harrer	Patty Dodd / Dale Hall
1988	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva	Janice Harrer / Elaine Roque	Patty Dodd / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Gail Castro Kehl / Lori Forsythe
1989	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque	Linda Chisholm / Janice Harrer	Mary Jo Peppler/Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1989	Linda Chisholm / Janice Harrer	Patty Dodd / Jackie Silva	Dale Hall / Karolyn Kirby	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque
1990	Karolyn Kirby / Jackie Silva	Linda Chisholm / Linda Halney	Janice Harrer / Lisa Strand-Ma'a	Nina Matthies / Elaine Roque
1991	Karolyn Kirby / Angela Rock	Linda Chisholm / Liz Masakayan	Gail Castro / Lori Forsythe	Janice Harrer / Elaine Roque
1992	Marla O'Hara / Dennis Shupryt-Knoop	Marie Andersson / Alison Johnson	Charlotte Roach / Gayle Stammer	Heather Hafner / Shannon Millen
1992	Karolyn Kirby / Nancy Reno	Angela Rock / Jackie Silva	Patty Dodd / Elaine Roque	Alison Johnson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1993	Cammy Ciarelli / Holly McPeak	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock	Rita Crockett Royster / Linda Hanley	Linda Chisholm / Jackie Silva
1993	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Gail Castro Kehl / Elaine Roque	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsythe	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1994	Linda Chisholm / Linda Hanley	Cammy Ciarelli / Holly McPeak	Sandra Pires / Jackie Silva	Nancy Reno / Angela Rock
1994	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsyth	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop	Monique Oliver / Gayle Stammer
2001	Barbra Fontana / Elaine Youngs	Lisa Arce / Holly McPeak	Jennifer Meredith/Wendy Stammer	Dianne DeNecochea / Liz Masakayan
2002	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Carrie Dodd / Leanne McSorley	[3rd] Lisa Arce / Linda Hanley
2003	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Dianne DeNecochea/Nancy Mason	[3rd] Carrie Dodd / Leanne McSorley
2004	Holly McPeak / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	[3rd] Carrie Dodd / Nancy Mason
2005	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Rachel Wacholder / Elaine Youngs	Jennifer Kessy / Holly McPeak	[3rd] Tyra Turner / Makare Wilson
2006	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Nancy Mason / Elaine Youngs	Dianne DeNecochea/Tammy Leibl	[3rd] Nicole Branagh / Holly McPeak
2007	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Tyra Turner / Rachel Wacholder
2008	Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh	Jennifer Kessy / April Ross	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	[3rd] Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs
2009	Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs	Annett Davis/Jenny Johnson Jordan	Brooke Niles / Lisa Rutledge	[3rd] Priscilla Lima / Tatiana Minello
2011	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Jennifer Fopma / Tracy Jones	Kristen Batt / Brooke Sweat	[3rd] Emily Day / Heather Hughes
2012	Jenny Kropp / Whitney Pavlik	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	Nicole Branagh / Brittany Hochevar	[3rd] Lauren Fendrick / Rachel Scott
2013	Whitney Pavlik/Kerri Walsh Jennings	Jennifer Fopma / Brooke Sweat	Lauren Fendrick / Brittany Hochevar	[3rd] Jennifer Kessy / April Ross
2014	April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings	Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat	Emily Day / Summer Ross	[3rd] Lane Carico / Kim DiCello
2015	Jennifer Fopma / April Ross	Nicole Branagh / Jenny Kropp	Emily Day / Jennifer Kessy	[3rd] Lane Carico / Summer Ross
2016	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Lane Carico / Summer Ross	Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten	[3rd] Lauren Fendrick / Brooke Sweat
2017	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross	[3rd] Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes
2018	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar	Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman	[3rd] Emily Day / Betsi Flint
2019	Melissa Humana-Paredes/Sarah Pavan	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson	[3rd] Terese Canon / Kelly Reeves

ATLANTA'S ABSTRACT – For the first time since 2009, the AVP returned to Atlanta. It was a fitting location to hold the first domestic event following the Tokyo Olympics, given that in 1996 Atlanta hosted the first ever Olympics with beach volleyball. The men had a two-day qualifier to determine the final four main draw spots as a total of 60 qualifier teams were vying for those four spots. The tournament kicked off with a rare upset, as 16th-seeded Michael Groselle / David Vander Meer knocked off top-seeds Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in the first round. Dalhausser would later pull out of the tournament due to a family emergency. Three of the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals, and the title match featured four players who averaged over 36 years old. Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk were trying to do something that no AVP team had been able to do since 2015; win an AVP event in their first event as partners. Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson, on the other hand, had to fight back from a second-round defeat, and the championship match marked their fifth match against teams seeded in the top eight. Budinger / Patterson edged Brunner / Schalk in three sets, winning 14-21, 21-16, 15-13.

- The women had their fair share of upsets as well, with three qualifier teams knocking off seeds two, three and four in the first round, then seeds six and seven in the next couple rounds. Doing most of the damage was the #14 seeds, Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss. The duo, who went 36-0 at Louisiana State this past year, was not only playing together for the first time on the AVP, but Kloth was making her pro beach volleyball debut. The youngsters went 3-0 in the qualifier and then stormed through the main draw bracket undefeated to reach the finals. On the other side of the net were Tokyo Olympians Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil. Unlike the men's finals, the four players in the women's championship averaged just over 24 years of age. Kloth / Nuss jumped out quickly and won the first set 21-12, but the Olympians responded with a 21-19 win in the second set. Kloth / Nuss pulled out a 16-14 win to claim the title.

ATLANTA SAND BITS – There are 200 men's players competing this weekend, and of the ages known there are three teenagers competing, 17-year old Lucas Sands and 19-year olds Caleb Kwekel and Miles Partain. Meanwhile 19 players are 40 or older, with the oldest being Kevin Cleary (62), David Smith (49), John Hyden (48), Art Barron (47) and Ricardo Santos (46) and Brad Torsone (46). The three shortest players are Alex Amylon (5'8") and David VandeerMeer and Tal Shavit (both 5'9") while at the other end of the spectrum are 7'0" Robbie Page, and four players who stand 6'9" (Andy Benesh, Kevin Owens, Kyle Radde and Curt Toppel). Jake Gibb is playing in his 319th pro beach tournament, followed by Nick Lucena (276th), Ricardo Santos (260th) and John Hyden (247th), while there are 33 players who are making their pro beach volleyball debuts. There are four players competing in Atlanta who have won at least 10 AVP titles entering this weekend, led by Jake Gibb (34), Nick Lucena (16), Casey Patterson (16) and John Hyden (13). Out of 100 partnerships, 60 are competing together for the very first time. The most prolific partnerships are Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb (54 events before Manhattan Beach), Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb (32), and Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson (21). There are just three men's teams here which have previously won an AVP event (Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 8, Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb 1 and Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson 1).

• There are eight teenagers competing among the 140 women playing this weekend, 17-year olds Simone Gibson and Sophie Moore, 18-year olds Megan Kraft and Natalie Myszkowski and 19-year olds Peri Brennan, Delaynie Maple, Kate Reilly and Tessa Van Winkle. There are three players who are over 40 (Heather Lowe 46, Janelle Allen 40 and Carol Welcher 40). Katie Lindstrom is the shortest at 5'4" while Terri Del Conte, Inanna Eshoo and Lisa Reed all measure 5'5". At the other end of the spectrum is 6'5" Alix Klineman and four players who stand 6'4" (Kathryn Hogan, Jennifer Keddy, Taryn Kloth and Jessica Sykora). A total of 26 women are making their pro beach volleyball debuts, while the most experienced is April Ross (263 tournaments prior to Manhattan Beach), Maria Clara Salgado (181) and Emily Day (175). April Ross has tallied 39 AVP victories, far and away the most of any player here, followed by Alix Klineman (10) and Emily Day (9). The women feature 47 tandems (out of 70 total) playing alongside each other for the first time and five having played together 10 or more times before Atlanta (Alix Klineman / April Ross 41, Emily Day / Betsi Flint 34, Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil 33, Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw 13 and twins Annika Rowland / Teegan Van Gunst 11). Like the men, there are just three teams competing here which have won an AVP title as partners previously, Alix Klineman / April Ross (10 titles won), Emily Day / Betsi Flint (2) and last week's winners Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss

BRACKET BUSTERS – In Atlanta 16th-seeded Michael Groselle / David Vander Meer knocked off top-seeds Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in the first round. That marked the fourth time in AVP men's history that a #16 beat a #1 in a 16-team format. Groselle and Vander Meer went on to win their next match as well, which is the third time that a #16 seed won its first two matches. Here is a look at those four instances:

- In Seattle 2016 #16 Kevin McColloch / Roberto Rodriguez defeated #1 Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson in straight sets in the first round, then defeated #8 Mark Burik / Curt Toppel again in straight sets... McColloch and Rodriguez finished in 5th place
- In New York 2017 #16 Ricardo Santos / Chaim Schalk defeated #1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in three sets, then defeated #8 Ty Loomis / Marty Lorenz in three sets... Ricardo / Schalk finished in 3rd place
- In Austin 2019 #16 Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina defeated #1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb in three sets, but then lost to #9 Sean Rosenthal / Ricardo Santos... Lotman / Ospina finished in 9th place
- In Atlanta 2021 #16 Michael Grosells / David Vander Meer defeated #1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena in three sets, then defeated #9 Eric Beranek / Troy Field in two sets... Groselle / Vander Meer finished in 5th place

TOP SEED TIDBITS – Alix Klineman and April Ross just won the gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics, and have won 10 of the 15 AVP tournaments they have played as partners. This will be their ninth consecutive AVP tournament in which they have played that they have held the number one seed. In each of their last 12 AVP tournaments, they have played in the championship match. The women's top-seeded team in Manhattan Beach had a stretch of winning seven of eight tournaments, but have not done so in any of the last four events.

• Chase Budinger and Casey Patterson, fresh off their win in Atlanta, are this week's top-seeded team. The only other time the duo, as well as Budinger individually, have been ranked number one on the AVP Tour was in Chicago 2019, when the pair finished in third place. Prior to that tournament, the last time Patterson was seeded number one on the AVP was in 2016, when he was part of the top-seeded team for the final four events of the year. In the 18 years of Manhattan Beach Opens in which seeds were known, the top-seeded team has won just six times.

ON THIS DAY – On Sunday of last week's event, NBC announcer Chris Marlowe celebrated the anniversary of his first ever win in Manhattan Beach in 1976. This week, it's Dain Blanton's turn to celebrate, as on August 22, 1999, Blanton and Eric Fonoimoana won the title in Cleveland. That was the third career win for Blanton, who won eight AVP titles in addition to two FIVB golds including the gold medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.