



2023 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Season Event #9 • Gold Series #2

Manhattan Beach, California • August 17 – 20, 2023

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – The second Gold Series event of the year on the AVP Tour takes place in Manhattan Beach. This is the ninth tournament on this year's schedule, and the biggest in terms of both main draw size (32 teams in each gender) and qualifier. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$300,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals nearly \$1,500,000 before the Championships. This is the largest payday of the season (tied).

- The main draw will be a 32-team, double elimination format. The field is comprised of 19 teams from each gender being granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four events points totals from their last five AVP, AVPNext and international tournaments). Four teams in each gender earned a berth based on their finish in the Waupaca event on the Tour Series last month, and one team gained a spot by having the best two finishes in three CBVA events. The remaining eight spots will be determined on Thursday, August 17 in a single-eliminate qualifier. The men's qualifier has 84 teams and will have 76 matches while the women's qualifier will have 49 teams and 41 matches. The main draw begins on Friday, August 17 and concludes on Sunday, August 20, and will be played on 10 courts at the Manhattan Beach pier. Both main draws feature 64 matches in a double-elimination format. General admission is free while premium seats are available for purchase at avp.com. The championship matches will be at 1:00 pm PT (men) and 2:00 pm PT (women).

- Live streaming of stadium court matches takes place Friday through Sunday on ESPN+ (and in Canada on TSN+). Live streaming on Courts 1 and 2 will take place on the Bally Live app. Dain Blanton, Camryn Irwin, and Matt Prosser will combine to handle the announcing duties on stadium court, while Drew Beyer, Megan Burgdorf, Emily Capers, Victoria Dennis and Ci Michel will call the action on the outer courts. The championship matches will be shown live on ESPNU on Sunday from 1-3 pm PT.

MANHATTAN'S MAJESTIES – Theo Brunner and Trevor Crabb won the last time the AVP was in California (the Hermosa Beach Open in early July). After being seeded number two in each of their three AVP events as partners, they have earned the top spot this weekend. That might not be such a great thing though, as the top-seeded team in Manhattan Beach has won just two of the last 10 times (in 2016 and 2018). This season the duo enters Manhattan Beach with an 11-3 match record, and has been in the semifinals in all three of their events. Last year's Manhattan Beach championship match saw Crabb (and Tri Bourne) defeat Brunner (and Chaim Schalk). This will be the seventh time that Brunner has been a number one seed in an AVP event. The first time he won (in Hermosa Beach 2018), and advanced to the championship match the first four times he was a top seed. Crabb has previously played in an AVP event in Manhattan Beach nine times, and has faced the top-seeded teams in eight of those tournaments (exception was 2018). This marks the 5th time in Crabb's career that he has been a top seed (once in 2016 and three times last year).

- The top women's seeds are Betsi Flint and Julia Scoles, who haven't played an AVP event together since Huntington Beach in May (finished second). Like Brunner and Crabb, they have played three times before on the AVP Tour and have advanced to the semifinals each time. They bring a 12-6 match record into this weekend, with five of their losses coming to teams seeded either first or second. Flint has played for the Manhattan Beach title in each of the past two years, while Scoles has a career match record (including qualifiers) in Manhattan Beach of 2-5 entering this weekend. This is the eighth time that Flint has ever been a number one seed on the AVP Tour, and she has won the title four of those times. This tournament marks the first time ever that Scoles has been a top seed.

THE CENTURY MARK – The men have a total of 108 teams registered (84 in the qualifier, 24 in the main draw). This marks the 35th men's AVP event with at least 100 teams. Manhattan Beach has now had 11 of those events with 100+ teams, ahead of Hermosa Beach's nine such tournaments. The last three times the AVP has had a tournament with at least 100 teams have all occurred in Manhattan Beach (in 2019, 2022 and now in 2023).

- There are 73 women's teams competing this weekend, which is the most of any AVP event since the 2019 Manhattan Beach Open (96 teams that tournament). The record for most women's teams happened in Hermosa Beach 2018, when a total of 102 teams took to the sand.

SCHEDULE SNAPSHOT – The 2023 AVP schedule has 12 tour stops, the second most the AVP has had since 2009 (behind the 15 last season). The 12 women’s tournaments marks the 10th time in AVP history there have been that many. The nine different states that the Tour is visiting is the second most since the 2008 season (12 different states last year), with only California hosting more than one (this year will be the site of four events). It is only fitting that the AVP began the season in Florida given that three of the first five AVP events ever were in Florida, and in total has hosted the second most events in Tour history. This was the earliest start since 1998 while the mid-October finish is the latest for the Tour (besides last year) since 2013, which previously had been the last time an event was held as late as October. Last year the AVP held one in November and one in December (both of which were firsts on the AVP Tour). Three locations are slated to have night sessions (New Orleans, Atlanta, and the Championships). The combined total of \$1,480,000 in prize money (in addition to the Championships) also features the third most the Tour has distributed since 2009.

- The Tour is divided into four different classifications. One level is the Tour Series, which comprises four different events in four different states from June to October. These events will all have on-site qualifiers the day before the main draw begins. The Pro Series has four events from March through July, including the Tour’s first three tournaments of the year. The first three events all will have an on-site qualifier, with the fourth, in Hermosa Beach, using results from a Tour Series event to round out the field. Once again the Gold Series, with three events, will be held towards the end of the season, as the three this year will be in August and September. Each of the three will have a different manner of qualifying. Atlanta will use a Tour Series event, Manhattan Beach will have an on-site qualifier the day before, and Chicago will use one-day single elimination qualifier held in Southern California on August 11. The last type of event is the AVP championships, which will be held in a location to be determined in September. Last season the six-team draws were based on the best two out of the three results in Gold Series events.

2023 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$
March 16 - 19	Miami, Florida	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
	<i>Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander win 3rd straight; Brandie Wilkerson (with Melissa Humana-Parades) gets first win</i>		
April 13 - 16	New Orleans, Louisiana	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
	<i>Top seeds in both genders win after weather delay, Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk and Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes</i>		
May 18 - 21	Huntington Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
	<i>Andy Benesh / Miles Partain win in their AVP debut; Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes win second straight AVP title</i>		
June 9 – 11	Virginia Beach, Virginia	Pool play & 18-team single elimination	\$20,000
	<i>Four first-time winners; Hagen Smith / Logan Webber and Macy Jerger / Megan Rice claim the Tour Series titles</i>		
June 30 – July 2	Denver, Colorado	Pool play & 18-team single elimination	\$20,000
	<i>Billy Allen / Alison Cerutti win in rematch of Virginia Beach event; top seeds Hailey Harward / Kelley Kolinske win</i>		
July 6 - 7	Waupaca, Wisconsin	Pool play & 18-team single elimination	\$20,000
	<i>Seain Cook gets first win (with Cody Caldwell); both women are first-time winners Alaina Chacon / Kylie Deberg</i>		
July 7 - 9	Hermosa Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
	<i>Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb win in their 2nd event; Corinne Quiggle and Sarah Schermerhorn get first win</i>		
Aug 4 – 6	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$300,000
	<i>Andy Benesh / Miles Partain win 2nd event; Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss become the 7th different team to win</i>		
Aug 17 – 20	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$300,000
	<i>Biggest event on the schedule in terms of both main draw and qualifier sizes; Gold Series event #2</i>		
Sep 1 – 3	Chicago, Illinois	16-team double elimination	\$300,000
	<i>Chicago trails only Manhattan Beach on list of most frequented stops in AVP history; Gold Series event #3</i>		
Sep 22 – 23	TBD		
	<i>Season Championships; Only invitational on schedule</i>		
Oct 13 – 15	Laguna Beach, California	Pool play & 18-team single elimination	\$20,000
	<i>First time the AVP has played in Laguna Beach since 1988; fourth California stop on 2023 Tour</i>		

THREE HUNDRED AND COUNTING – Including this weekend, the AVP has held 211 men’s events and 94 women’s events in the state of California, for a combined total of 305. While there have now been just over 300 tournaments in California, no other state has reached 100 (next most is Florida with 95). The AVP, celebrating its 40th year, has played at least one tournament in the state of California in all 40 of those years. The state with the next most different number of seasons hosting an AVP event is Illinois, which has done so in 32 different years (and will be 33 with the Gold Series event scheduled over Labor Day weekend).

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. 2023 will mark the 65th men’s event held there, (61st Manhattan Beach Open) and the 54th women’s tournament (55th Manhattan Beach Open). Under the AVP umbrella, there have been 34 men’s and 20 women’s Manhattan Beach Opens. No other city in the U.S. has hosted more professional beach volleyball events. On the men’s side, of the last 15 teams to win there are players from 12 of those teams who are competing this weekend, but there are no teams here which have previously won. The individuals who have previously earned a plaque who are competing this weekend include Tri Bourne, Trevor Crabb, Phil Dalhausser and John Hyden. Trevor Crabb has won the last three titles (with two different partners) and will be competing this year with a third different partner. The only players here who already have a place on the pier are Kelley Kolinske and Sarah Pavan.

- There have been 40 unique men’s teams which have won an Open, with 10 of them winning multiple times led by five each by Mike Bright / Mike O’Hara (the first five in a row) and Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland. In total there have been 50 different individuals who have won a plaque. 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 tourneys, 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), Mike Lambert (2004), Trevor Crabb (2019) and Reid Priddy (2019). 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 41 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). Every championship match since 2014 has had at least one Olympian on both sides of the net.

- On the women’s side, 38 different partnerships have earned a plaque on the pier. Like the men, nine different teams have won multiple titles, and 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), Nina Matthies (1972) and Brittany Hochevar (2016). A total of 47 different women have won a title, as both winners in 2023 (Sara Hughes and Kelley Kolinske) were first-time plaque winners. Kathy Gregory holds the record with eight titles, followed by Nina Matthies and Kerri Walsh Jennings with seven each. 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 Brunnicardi 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. 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

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MEN (cont'd)

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
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
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 Ayakatubby / Brent Frohoff	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson
1986	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Andrew Smith / Jon Stevenson	Robert Chavez / Jay Hanseth	Scott Ayakatubby / 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 Ayakatubby / 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 Ayakatubby / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes
1996	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Adam Johnson / Jose Loiola	Mike Dodd / Mike Whitmarsh	Scott Ayakatubby / 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
2021	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk	[3rd] Billy Allen / Andy Benesh
2022	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk	Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander	[3rd] Andy Benesh / Miles Evans

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

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WOMEN cont'd

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd / 4th
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
1983	Kathy Gregory / Kathy Hanley	Cindy Cochrane / 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
2021	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Emily Day / Betsi Flint	Larissa Meastrini / Lili Maestrini	[3rd] Kelly Cheng / Sarah Sponcil
2022	Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske	Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint	Zana Muno / Brandie Wilkerson	[3rd] Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil

RELATIVELY SPEAKING – Larissa and Lili Maestrini are a married couple that reside in Florida (Winter Garden). They are playing as partners on the AVP Tour for the 21st time with three Tour Series wins to their credit. Jake and Lisa Dietrich are a married couple and both players will be in the qualifier. Kelley Kolinske is married to Billy Kolinske, and they are competing in the same AVP tournament for the fourth time this season (also Denver on the Tour Series, Hermosa Beach and Atlanta). The Aspidovs (David and Vitaly) are competing together as the 54th seeds in the qualifier. Chase and Duncan Budinger are brothers who are competing on different teams. Taylor and Trevor Crabb are brothers who were partners for 12 AVP events, finishing second three times and third six times, but now play with different partners. Charles and Clark Porter are brothers who are teammates in the qualifier. There are two sets of twin sisters who are playing together (Veronica and Victoria Corcoran, Audrey and Nicole Nourse). Abby and Tessa Van Winkle are sisters who are competing on different teams.

MANHATTAN BEACH SAND BITS – There are 216 men’s players competing this weekend, and of the ages known there are four teenagers (14-year old Mateo Fuerbringer, 18-year old Zephyr Dew and 19-year olds Gage Basey and Thomas Hurst). The three oldest are Kevin Cleary (64), John Hyden (50), and Christopher Shipp (50). Cleary and Hyden both went to San Diego State (what’s in the water there?). Cleary made his pro beach debut in June 1978, and only 10 players here (of the ages known) were even alive when he first played pro beach volleyball. Tal Shavit is listed at 5’9” and Bobby Jones is 5’10” while at the other end of the spectrum are 6’9” Phil Dalhausser, Charlie Siragusa and Curt Toppel. The least experienced players include 29 individuals who are making the pro beach volleyball debuts. The most veteran players are Phil Dalhausser, John Hyden and Adam Roberts. Phil Dalhausser, with 62 AVP titles, has the most of any player here, followed by John Hyden (13 AVP wins), Taylor Crabb (11 AVP wins plus an AVP Tour Series win) and Tri Bourne (nine AVP wins). Out of 108 partnerships, 64 are competing together for the very first time while the two most experienced tandems are Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander and Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend. The teams that have previously won on the AVP Tour are Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (two AVP titles plus a Tour Series title), Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk (in New Orleans 2023), Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb (in Hermosa Beach 2023), Hagen Smith / Logan Webber (on the Tour Series in Virginia Beach 2023), Cody Caldwell / Seain Cook (Tour Series win in Waupaca 2023) and Billy Allen / Alison Cerutti (Tour Series win in Denver 2023).

• There are 146 women playing this weekend, and two youngest are playing together as the number one seeds in the qualifier (17-year old Kennedy Coakley and 18-year old Ashley Pater). There are two other teenagers competing (of the ages known (19-year olds Bailey Showalter and Savannah Standage). Four of the five oldest players were born outside of the U.S. (Larissa Maestrini, 41 years old, Sarah Pavan, 37, Lili Maestrini, 35, and Arina Gerasimova, 35). Katie Lindstrom (5’4”) and a pair of 5’5” players (Lisa Reed and Katie Spieler) are the shortest competitors, while at the other end of the spectrum are 6’5” Sarah Pavan and three 6’4” players (Jennifer Keddy , Kylie Deberg and Katie Hogan). There are 16 women here who are playing in their first pro beach volleyball tournaments with the exception of Jaden Whitmarsh (playing in her eighth AVP tournament), while six players have played in more than 100 tournaments (led by Larissa Maestrini and Emily Stockman). Larissa Maestrini is the all-time FIVB wins leader with 62 titles, to go with four AVP wins (three of those on the Tour Series). Betsi Flint leads the field with six AVP wins, followed by Kelley Kolinske with four AVP victories (in addition to one Tour Series win). Of the 73 women’s tandems, 38 are playing alongside each other for the first time while the most experienced are Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman, Corinne Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn and Larissa / Lili Maestrini. There are six teams competing here which have previously won the on the AVP Tour as partners: Corinne Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn (in Hermosa Beach 2023), Larissa / Lili (three Tour Series titles, all in 2022), Macy Jerger / Megan Rice (one Tour Series win in Virginia Beach 2023), Alaina Chacon / Kylie Deberg (one Tour series win in Waupaca 2023), Hailey Harward / Kelley Kolinske (one Tour Series win in Denver 2023).

GOLD SERIES HISTORY – The AVP Tour introduced the Gold Series in 2017. Each season, with the exception of 2020, there have been three events which have comprised the Gold Series, and to date a total of 16 tournaments have been held. Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena have won four times while the women’s team leader is Alix Kleinman / April Ross, with six titles. Individually, Ross has won seven times to lead all players. On the men’s side, there have been 13 different individuals win a Gold Series event, and every team to have won has included at least one Olympian (beach or indoors) until the Atlanta 2023 event. On the women’s side there have been 15 different players to claim a title, with April Ross, Alix Klineman, Sarah Hughes, Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss the only players to have won more than twice. In Manhattan Beach there are no men’s or women’s teams playing which have previously won a Gold Series event. Here is a look at the 16 Gold Series events:

Date	Location	Men’s Winners	Women’s Winners
6/11/17	New York City	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross
8/20/17	Manhattan Beach	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar
9/3/17	Chicago	Ryan Doherty / John Hyden	Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes
6/10/18	New York City	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Sara Hughes / Summer Ross
8/19/18	Manhattan Beach	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Alix Klineman / April Ross
9/2/18	Chicago	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
6/9/19	New York City	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/18/19	Manhattan Beach	Trevor Crabb / Reid Priddy	Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan
9/1/19	Chicago	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/15/21	Atlanta	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss
8/22/21	Manhattan Beach	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Alix Klineman / April Ross
9/5/21	Chicago	Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson	Alix Klineman / April Ross
8/7/22	Atlanta	Paul Lotman / Miles Partain	Julia Scoles / Geena Urango
8/21/22	Manhattan Beach	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske
9/4/22	Chicago	Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss
8/6/23	Atlanta	Andy Benesh / Miles Partain	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss

FOUR FOR TREVOR – 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.

CLEARLY THE 25TH – This is the 35th time the AVP has played in Manhattan Beach and this will be the 25th for Kevin Cleary (for AVP events, he has played eight other times in Manhattan Beach on other tours). He has played every year here since 2000 (no tournaments were held on any tour in 2010 and 2020). In 1987 he finished fourth in Manhattan Beach, his best finish of his career in this location.

PLAQUE RELATIONS – In addition to the players competing this weekend who have already earned a plaque on the pier, there are also entrants who have relatives who have a spot on the pier. Taylor Crabb’s brother, Trevor, has won the last three times. Billy Kolinske’s wife, Kelley Kolinske, won last year’s title. Hagen Smith’s father, Sinjin, is a four-time winner (1979, 1980, 1986 and 1989). Mateo Fuerbringer’s dad, Matt, won in 2013. Jaden Whitmarsh’s dad, Mike, won in 1999.

WILL THE REAL SLIM SHADY PLEASE STAND UP – Megan Rice aka Megan J. Rice (who played beach volleyball at Loyola Marymount and lives in Hermosa Beach, Calif.) made her pro beach volleyball debut in the qualifier in New Orleans. Meanwhile Megan Rice (who played beach volleyball at Florida Atlantic and lives in Highland Beach, Fla.) has played on the AVP Tour since 2016. Both of the Megan Rices competed in the qualifier in Huntington Beach and in the main draws in both Virginia Beach and Denver, without facing each other. Then in Hermosa Beach the two players met in the second round, with Megan J. Rice winning in three sets. It is believed to be the first time that two players with the same name have played against each other.

HYDEN GOING INTO HIDING – While he is not really going into hiding, John Hyden is going to retire. Hyden’s AVP career spanned from 2001 to this season, and Manhattan Beach will be his 167th AVP event. He has won 13 times on the AVP, including twice in individual events, and has reached a title match with eight different partners. Hyden won twice in Manhattan Beach (not on AVP Tour), in 2011 and 2012. Entering this weekend he has compiled a career match record of 501-276 (.645). He holds a hosts of records, many relating to his longevity in the sport despite him not playing beach volleyball until the age of 28. He was the oldest to win internationally (in Berlin 2014 at nearly 42 years old), and oldest to win an AVP event (in Hermosa Beach 2018 when he was 45 years, 9 months, 22 days old). In Hawai’i 2019 he and Theo Brunner became the first team to advance from a qualifier to an AVP championship match. Hyden has won five times since turning 40, and is the oldest player to both play in an AVP main draw match and to win an AVP main draw match.

FAMILIAR FOES – Two of the big men competing here are very familiar with each other and have similar accomplishments on the court. Phil Dalhausser has won 62 AVP titles plus 38 FIVB gold medals (in addition to other domestic wins). Alison Cerutti won 40 times on the Brazilian Tour plus 25 times on the FIVB. Dalhausser has played in four Olympics, winning gold in 2008 while Alison is a three-time Olympian, winning silver in 2012 and gold in 2016. In Hermosa Beach they faced each other with Alison winning in three sets. They have now played against each other 31 times in their career. Fittingly, five of the six last meetings between the big blockers went to a third set. Dalhausser has won 21 of the 31 meetings, including seven times in a gold medal match, while Alison has won 4 gold medal matches against Dalhausser.

DOMINATING DUO DEBUTS – Twice this season on the Pro Series a men’s tandem playing for the first time on the AVP Tour won the title. In New Orleans, Tri Bourne and Chaim Schalk were playing together for the first time on the AVP, although they had previously played three times internationally. The duo went 5-0 on the weekend in winning the title, beating three teams seeded fifth or better. Then in Huntington Beach, Bourne and Schalk advanced to the finals where they would face Andy Benesh and Miles Partain, who had played five times as partners internationally but were making their AVP debuts. Although Bourne and Schalk had sent Benesh and Partain to the contender’s bracket the day before, the new duo was up to the challenge and won the finals in a three-set match.

COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS – The NCAA first sanctioned women’s beach volleyball in 2016 and there have been seven national champions crowned since then (none in 2020 due to COVID). Southern Cal won the first two (in 2016 and 2017), then UCLA claimed the next two (2018 and 2019). After the one-year hiatus, Southern Cal, with coach Dain Blanton, have won the past three titles (2021, 2022 and 2023). Here is a look at the four women who competing in Manhattan Beach who have won a national championship, three of whom have won a pair of titles and one (Megan Kraft) has won three rings.

Hailey Harward (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022
Megan Kraft (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022, 2023

Zana Munoz (UCLA) 2018, 2019
Savvy Simo (UCLA), 2018, 2019

OLYMPICALITY – This week's AVP event features nine men's and three women's players who have played in the Olympics (either indoors or on the beach). Players here have competed for three different countries.

• Men with Olympic experience:

Tri Bourne played beach in 2020 as a substitute for Taylor Crabb (ninth place)

Alison Cerutti played beach for Brazil in 2012 (won silver), 2016 (won gold) and 2020 (5th place)

Phil Dalhausser played beach in 2008 (won gold), 2012 (ninth place), 2016 (fifth place), and 2020 (ninth place)

Alvaro Filho played beach for Brazil in 2020 (5th place)

John Hyden played indoors in 1996 (ninth place) and 2000 (11th place)

Paul Lotman played indoors in 2012 (fifth place) and was an alternate for the 2016 team

Dave McKenzie played indoors in 2012 (fifth place) and was an alternate for the 2004 team

Taylor Sander played indoors in 2016 (won bronze) and 2020 (10th place)

Chaim Schalk played beach for Canada in 2016 (ninth place)

• Women with Olympic experience:

Carli Lloyd played indoors in 2016 (won bronze)

Larissa Maestrini played beach for Brazil in 2008 (fifth place), 2012 (won bronze) and 2016 (fourth place)

Sarah Pavan played beach for Canada in 2016 (fifth place) and 2020 (fifth place)

Also, Carly Wopat was an alternate for the indoor team in 2016

GPS TO THE MAIN DRAW – Here's a look at teams can qualify for each tournament's main draw:

Miami (Pro Series) – on-site qualifier

New Orleans (Pro Series) – on-site qualifier

Huntington Beach (Pro Series) – on-site qualifier

Virginia Beach (Tour Series) – on-site qualifier

Denver (Tour Series) – on-site qualifier

Waupaca (Tour Series) – on-site qualifier

Hermosa Beach (Pro Series) – top 4 teams from Virginia Beach

Atlanta (Gold Series) – top 4 teams from Denver

Manhattan Beach (Gold Series) – on-site qualifier plus top 4 teams from Waupaca

Chicago (Gold Series) – top 4 teams from a single day qualifier in Southern California on August 11

Laguna Beach (Tour Series) – on-site qualifier

SEEDINGS SCHMEEDINGS – On the men's side, the seedings do not seem to be a good indicator of who will win the tournament. Excluding Tour Series events, in the last 18 events just five times did the number one seed emerge victorious. Going back further, at the end of 2014 and start of 2015 top seeded Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson won four consecutive tournaments. However since then, the top seeds have won just 17 times in the 56 tournaments (again, excluding Tour Series).

SEEDINGS SUPREME – In New Orleans a rarity happened on the women's side; the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals and the top two seeds played for the title. The last time both of those things happened in the same tournament was in Santa Barbara in 2012, an event that featured pool play as opposed to the traditional double-elimination bracket. The last time that happened in a double-elimination bracket tournament was in Chicago 2009.

THE SUM OF THE SEEDS – The two finalists in Hermosa Beach were seeded 6th and 13th, and the total of 19 ties for the highest ever in AVP women's history. The other tournament that happened was in Ft. Lauderdale 2022 when seed #8 defeated #11. The semifinals in Hermosa Beach had the 3rd highest sum of seeds in the final four in AVP women's history:

- In Hermosa Beach 2019 the total was 64 (seeds 1, 18, 21, 24) in a 24-team draw
- In Manhattan Beach 2017 the total was 41 (seeds 1, 2, 15, 23) in a 32-team draw
- In Hermosa Beach 2023 the total was 40 (seeds 6, 7, 13, 14) in a 16-team main draw

ALISON'S ACHIEVEMENTS – Three-time Brazilian Olympian Alison Cerutti is returning to the AVP this season, as he played in Glendale, Ariz. in 2009 with Harley Marques, finishing in second place. This will mark his fourth AVP event, but he has accomplished quite a bit since his last appearance. He has won a gold and bronze in his three Olympic appearances. On the Brazilian Tour, he has won 40 golds, 21 silvers and 19 bronzes. In early July he and Billy Allen won in Denver on the AVP Tour Series. His Brazilian Tour awards:

- Three-time Brazilian champion (2009, 2011, 2016)
- Four-time Super Praia champion (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
- Six-time Best Attacker (2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019)
- Six-time Best Blocker (2009, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018)

FIRST TIME VICTORS – This season there have been eight AVP tournaments and 14 different individuals have won, including seven who have won for the first time on the AVP (including Tour Series). The first time winners are Alaina Chacon, Kylie Deberg, Macy Jerger, Corinne Quiggle, Megan Rice, Sarah Schermerhorn, and Brandie Wilkerson.

- On the men's side, the eight tournaments have also yielded 14 different individuals winning a title.

MIAMI'S MEMORIES – The AVP began its season in mid-March, the earliest the Tour has begun its season since 1998. For the fourth time in the last eight AVP events (excluding Tour Series), both the men's and women's champions were number one seeds. Florida extended its lead of hosting season openers, with its 16th in the 40-year history of the AVP despite the fact this was the first time since 2014 that Florida has hosted an inaugural event.

- You aren't given a top seed, you have to earn it. And Taylor Crabb and Taylor Sander wanted to make sure people knew they earned their top billing. That is not to say they weren't tested however. In the third round they dropped a 21-14 first set to Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend, but rebounded to win 23-21 in the third set after fending off five match points. In the semis, they again lost the first set but pulled out a 21-19 third-set win over Cody Caldwell / Chase Frishman, this time withstanding three match points. Chase Budinger and Miles Evans lost in the second round but then swept four straight opponents to reach the title match. In the first set the Taylors never trailed in winning 21-14. Budinger and Evans jumped out to early leads in the second set, 9-1 and 12-3, but the Taylors took control and won 21-19, extending their AVP match winning streak to 13 straight. Crabb had 15 kills with just one hitting error plus nine digs, while Sander had six blocks to go with nine kills and seven digs. Both players had two aces in the match. Budinger had 13 kills and one block, while Evans had 13 digs and three aces.

- Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson were playing together for just the second time on the AVP, but for the second straight time they advanced to the championship match. After losing to fifth-seeded Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini in the third round, the duo responded with three straight sweeps including the championship match. Humana-Paredes entered Miami having won twice on the AVP Tour but both were in 2019, while Wilkerson had finished in second place four times but in Miami they were able to claim a victory. The stats bore out how they did it, as Wilkerson had 19 blocks and Humana-Paredes led all players with 92 digs and an average of 7.08 per set. In the title match they faced a first time partnership, Betsi Flint and Julia Scoles. Flint and Scoles followed nearly the same path, losing in the third round to the same team that Humana-Paredes / Wilkerson defeated in the semis, second seeded Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil. They then defeated Larissa / Lili in the semis. In the title match Humana-Paredes had 12 kills and 18 digs, while Wilkerson recorded 18 kills, 10 digs, two blocks and three aces. On the other side of the net Flint was limited to seven kills but had 19 digs, while Scoles had 21 kills.

#1 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander def. #3 Chase Budinger / Miles Evans 21-14, 21-19 (:44)

#1 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson def. #3 Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles 21-16, 24-22 (:53)

NEW ORLEANS NOTABLES – Contrary to rumors, Wilson did not pull its sponsorship of the AVP on Saturday afternoon in New Orleans when the giant Wilson ball went floating away from the site. Instead, it was due to the sudden and intense rain and wind storm that blew in, causing play to be halted at 12:40 pm and about 16 minutes later the ball was seen flying off. Play was resumed that evening at 6:00 pm with an extended night session and an earlier start on Sunday ensured the tournament was finished on time. This was the fourth time that New Orleans hosted an AVP tournament in which seeds were known (2015, 2016, 2022 and 2023), and all eight winning teams (men and women) were top seeds.

- Top seeds Tri Bourne and Chaim Schalk lost just one set en route to the championship match in what was their first AVP event as partners (they had played three international events together). The AVP was guaranteed to have a first-time team as the winner as the opponents were the newly-formed duo of Billy Allen and Troy Field. The third-seeded team also lost just one set in reaching the title match. In the first set, Allen and Field won 27-25 in what was the highest scoring set of a men's championship match since the 2019 season opener. In the next two sets the No. 1 seeds were nearly perfect, with just two hitting errors and three Bourne blocks in winning 21-12 and 15-10. For the match Bourne had 17 kills, two hitting errors and four blocks, while Schalk had 24 kills and 17 digs. Allen had 22 kills and 11 digs while Field added 16 kills, four blocks and 11 digs.

- The top four women's seeds advanced to the semifinals and the top two seeds played for the title. The last time both of those things happened in the same tournament was in Santa Barbara in 2012, an event that featured pool play as opposed to the traditional double-elimination bracket. The last time that happened in a double-elimination bracket tournament was in Chicago 2009. Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes, the top seeds in the event, seemed to like blowouts in the first set, as their first set scores in the tournament were 21-8, 21-16, 10-21, 8-21 and 21-9. Despite trailing big twice they managed to go undefeated into the title match, where their opponents were a team that brought in a seven-match winning streak, Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson. That duo was playing for the title for the third time in as many AVP events as partners. Clearly the day belonged to Cheng and Hughes, who combined for just two hitting errors in the match. Cheng had 17 kills, two blocks and three aces, while Hughes had 13 kills and 14 digs. Humana-Paredes finished with six kills and 10 digs, and Wilkerson had seven kills and one block.

#1 Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk def. #3 Billy Allen / Troy Field 25-27, 21-12, 15-10 (1:00)

#1 Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes def. #2 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson 21-9, 21-18 (:41)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HAPPENINGS – Neither gender saw many upsets in Huntington Beach, as there were just seven upsets out of the 29 matches each gender played. For the men, this was the second straight event won by a team that was making its debut as partners on the AVP. The win by Andy Benesh and Miles Partain also snapped a streak of 12 straight AVP tournaments (including Tour Series) held in California the men's winning team had at least one Olympian (beach or indoors) on the roster. The last time no Olympian was on the winning team was in San Francisco 2018. Both championship meetings this year were rematches from the winner's bracket as the teams had played each other just the day before.

- The men's final was shaping up to be the top two seeds, but fifth-seeded Andy Benesh and Miles Partain derailed that plan with a three-set semifinal victory. The duo faced top seeds Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk, who had already beat Benesh / Partain in a three-set match on Saturday. The finals did not disappoint, as the top seeds won a tight 22-20 first set. In the second set Bourne and Schalk had eight hitting errors compared to just one for Benesh / Partain, who rolled to a 21-11 win to force the tiebreaker. Again in the third set Bourne / Schalk had five hitting errors while Benesh / Partain had just one, with the fifth seeds claiming a 15-11 victory. In the match Benesh had nine blocks and just two hitting errors, while Partain had 12 kills and 13 digs. Bourne had three blocks and two aces (with two of the blocks and both aces coming in the first set) while Schalk added 15 kills and 13 digs.

- The women had just one upset in the winner's bracket, and the number one-seeded team, Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes, went through the event having lost just one set. Their opponents in the title match, fourth-seeded Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles, had an 8-7 set record en route to their second-place finish. The two teams had met the day before the finals, in the previous event in New Orleans, and in a gold medal match in an international event in December. And with their sweep in the finals Cheng and Hughes continued their perfect record at 4-0 against Flint and Scoles. Cheng had 16 kills and two blocks, while Hughes had 10 kills, no hitting errors, and nine digs. Flint had 15 kills and eight digs and Scoles added seven kills and four blocks.

#5 Andy Benesh / Miles Partain def. #1 Tri Bourne / Chaim Schalk 20-22, 21-11, 15-12 (1:09)

#1 Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes def. #4 Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles 21-18, 21-18 (:45)

HERMOSA BEACH HEROES – Variety was the theme of 2023 and Hermosa Beach helped maintain that. With this being the seventh AVP event of the year (including Tour Series), seven different men's teams and six different women's teams have won. The men saw all 12 matches on Friday end in two sets, but then in the next two days nine of the 17 matches went to a third set. The women had a first; two players named Megan Rice played against each other. And the two youngest competitors, 15-year old Sarah Wood and 17-year old Ashley Pater simultaneously played in the AVP Juniors National Championship (on different teams, with Wood defeating Pater in the championship match) as well as on the AVP Hermosa Beach event. In one match, their opponent, 35-year old Emily Stockman, was older than the two of them combined.

- The men's final was a bit of a rarity on the AVP Tour, with a pair of brothers facing off against each other. The pair had met the day before, with Trevor and Theo Brunner winning. But Taylor and Taylor Sander won a pair of three-set matches to reach the finals. Taylor and Sander won the first set 21-19, then Brunner and Trevor answered with a 21-13 win in the second set. Brunner and Trevor clinched the title with a 15-10 third-set victory. Brunner had 13 kills, just one hitting error, and eight blocks, while Trevor had 20 kills with only two hitting errors, and eight digs. Taylor had 25 kills and 10 digs, and Sander had 11 kills.

- Hermosa Beach belonged to the underdogs, as 16 of the 29 matches were upsets. That led to four teams in the semifinals whose seeds added up to 40, the third highest in AVP women's history. And the teams in the title match were seeded sixth and 13th, with the total of 19 tying for the highest ever on the AVP (along with Ft. Lauderdale 2022). Corinne Quiggle was playing in her first AVP finals, while teammate Sarah Schermerhorn was in her second one ever. The duo was playing for the 23rd time across all tours, while across the net were teammates who joined forces only due to an injury a few days before the event. Megan J. Rice, who is playing her first season of pro beach volleyball, and Savvy Simo, who was coming off her first career title match (in Denver on the Tour Series) were undefeated heading into the finals. Quiggle and Schermerhorn proved to be too much, winning 21-15, 21-16. Quiggle had 13 digs, Schermerhorn had 14 kills and six blocks, and both players had two aces. Rice had three blocks while Simo had 12 kills and 13 digs.

#2 Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb def. #3 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander 19-21, 21-13, 15-10 (1:04)

#6 Corinne Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn def. #13 Megan J. Rice / Savvy Simo 21-15, 21-16 (:46)

BROTHERLY BATTLES – On the AVP Tour there have been eight tournaments in which a pair of brothers faced off against each other in a championship match. From 1986 through June 1991, Sinjin Smith faced off against his younger brother Andrew Smith five times (Sinjin won four times, Andrew won once). The first time it happened was in Arizona on October 5, 1986 when Sinjin defeated Andrew. Following the fifth meeting between the Smiths, no brothers competed against each other 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. Then in Hermosa Beach 2023 Trevor again got the win against Taylor.

2023 QUALIFIER LIST – In the season opener in Miami the highest seeded men’s qualifier team to advance to the main draw was seventh-seeded Ian Satterfield / Jake Urrutia. That marked just the second time since the start of the 2003 season that no team in the top six in the qualifiers managed to advance to the main draw on the AVP Tour. The other instance was in Hermosa Beach 2019, when the seventh seeds were also the highest seeded team to advance. The women in Miami included a pair of teenagers. The women’s number one seed in the qualifier advanced in 11 consecutive tournaments (including Tour Series) before the top seeds failed to do so in Denver in last June. Here’s a look at the teams who have qualified this season (placing in qualifier or qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw in Pro Series events:

MIAMI - Men (Onsite Qualifier)

Ian Satterfield / Jake Urrutia (Q7) – 9th
Alex Diaz / Brandon Joyner (Q9) – 9th
Peter Connole / Steven Roschitz (Q13) – 13th
Jordan Hoppe / Charlie Siragusa (Q19) – 13th
No seed 6th or better qualified for 2nd time ever

MIAMI - Women (Onsite Qualifier)

Aurora Davis / Megan Gebhard (Q1) – 13th
Kennedy Coakley / Ashley Pater (Q4) – 13th
Katie Hogan / Katie Pyles (Q6) – 13th
Amy Ozee / Mariah Whalen (Q7) – 13th
17-year olds Coakley and Pater qualified

NEW ORLEANS - Men (Onsite Qualifier)

Andrew Dentler / Jacob Landel (Q2) – 9th
Ian Satterfield / Jake Urrutia (Q4) – 9th
Djordje Klasnic / Brian Miller (Q6) – 7th
Noah Dyer / Wyatt Harrison (Q8) – 13th
Satterfield / Urrutia qualify for 2nd straight time

NEW ORLEANS - Women (Onsite Qualifier)

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton (Q1) – 13th
Kimberly Hildreth / Teegan Van Gunst (Q2) – 7th
Jessica Gaffney / Kelly Reeves (Q3) – 9th
Aurora Davis / Lydia Smith (Q5) – 13th
4th seeds forfeited, all other top seeds advance

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Men (Onsite Qualifier)

Andrew Dentler / Jacob Landel (Q3) – 13th
Skylar del Sol / Lev Priima (Q5) – 9th
Djordje Klasnic / Brian Miller (Q7) – 9th
Raffe Paulis / Jeff Samuels (Q9) – 13th
Two teams qualify for 2nd straight time

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Women (Onsite Qualifier)

Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini (Q1) – 9th
Kimberly Hildreth / Teegan Van Gunst (Q2) – 13th
Jessica Gaffney / Carly Kan (Q5) – 13th
Madelyne Anderson / Molly Turner (Q6) – 13th
Hildreth, Van Gunst, Gaffney repeat qualifiers

600 WINS – The first match win by Phil Dalhausser in Manhattan Beach will mark his 600th in his AVP career (including Tour Series). Nearly half his wins (296) came in a four-year span from 2006-2009, when he had between 71 and 80 match wins in each of those seasons. This weekend will mark his 159th career AVP tournament, and entering the event he has a career record of 599-163 (.786). Dalhausser has had a losing match record in two years while playing on the AVP Tour, his first season in 2003 and a shortened 2021 season which saw him forfeit from one of the two tournaments he played. In 2010 he had a perfect season with Todd Rogers, compiling a 34-0 match record while losing just six sets. However he did not win each tournament, as he won five times in his six tournaments played. The outlier was the season opener in Ft. Lauderdale, when he reached the title match but weather prevented the finals from being played. So he and Rogers shared a second-place finish with Matt Fuerbringer / Nick Lucena.

FROM SPIKES TO MICS – Several of the announcers have gone from spikes to mics. Emily (Day) Capers won nine AVP championships in her time (more than any other woman competing here). Dain Blanton won eight times on the AVP Tour (which would rank fifth among players here) but also boasts an Olympic Gold medal. Matt Prosser won one AVP title (Huntington Beach 2011).

MANHATTAN MINUTIA –

- Each of the last 3 Manhattan Beach Open men’s title matches have been upsets, where the lower seeded team has upended the better seeded team
- In all of the 7 Manhattan Beach tournaments since 2015, the men’s finals have featured teams seeded fourth or better... the last time a team seeded fifth or worse had made it to the title match was in 2014, when the sixth seeds defeated the fifth seeds
- Seedings have been known in the 18 AVP Manhattan Beach events since the start of the 2001 season... the number one women’s seeds have won 10 times and finished second four times... the top seeds have advanced to the semifinals in all 18 of those tournaments
- Since 2017, four double-digit seeds on the women’s side have advanced to the semifinals in Manhattan Beach... #15 and #23 in 2017, #11 in 2019 (won the title) and #20 in 2021

BIRTHDAYS – Three players, all male, will celebrate birthdays during this weekend’s event. Art Barron will turn 49 on Thursday, August 17. Gage Basey will turn 20 on Friday, August 18. Spencer Sauter will turn 29 on Friday, August 18.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – So far this season, 18 different teams (nine men, nine women) comprised of players who usually play on the AVP Tour have been to a semifinal on the World Pro Beach Volleyball Tour or NORCECA. The men have won four golds, four silvers and three bronze medals, while the women have won six golds, six silvers and four bronze medals. Andy Benesh / Miles Partain have won one of each type of medal to go with a pair of fourth-place finishes. The duos of Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson lead the pack with three medals (two golds, one bronze for each team). This weekend there is an Elite 16 tournament in Hamburg that will pull some teams away. Atlanta champs Andy Benesh / Miles Partain will be competing in Hamburg. Three women's teams are striving to gain some important Olympic qualifying points, including Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson, Atlanta winners Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes

• Here is a look at players and teams who competed on the AVP Tour which have been in the semifinals of an international event this year.

MEN

Dave McKenzie / Ben Vaught – Bronze Medal – Mount Maunganui, New Zealand – March 19
Jordan Hoppe / Charlie Siragusa – Bronze Medal – Coolangatta, Australia – April 2
Ian Satterfield / Jake Urrutia – 4th Place – Tahiti, French Polynesia – April 8
Chase Budinger / Miles Evans – Silver Medal – Saquarema, Brazil – April 16
Andy Benesh / Miles Partain – 4th Place – Saquarema, Brazil – April 16
Cody Caldwell / Chase Frishman – Gold Medal – Aquascalientes, Mexico (NORCECA) – April 23
Troy Field / Silila Tucker – Silver Medal – Varadero, Cuba (NORCECA) – May 14
Ian Satterfield Jake Urrutia – Silver Medal – Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands (NORCECA) – May 21
Andy Benesh / Miles Partain – Bronze Medal – Ostrava, Czech Republic – June 4
Andy Benesh / Miles Partain – 4th Place – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (NORCECA) – June 8
Evan Cory / Troy Field – Gold Medal – Helsinki, Finland – July 2
Andy Benesh / Miles Partain – Gold Medal – Gstaad, Switzerland – July 9
Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb – Gold Medal – Espinho, Portugal – July 16
Andy Benesh / Miles Partain – Silver Medal – Montreal, Canada – July 30

WOMEN

Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – La Paz, Mexico – March 19
Toni Rodriguez / Savvy Simo – Silver Medal – La Paz, Mexico – March 19
Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes – Gold Medal – Tepic, Mexico – March 26
Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil – Bronze Medal – Itapema, Brazil – April 9
Carly Skjodt / Geena Urango – Silver Medal – Aquascalientes, Mexico (NORCECA) – April 23
Katie Lindstrom / Teegan Van Gunst – 4th Place – Aquascalientes, Mexico (NORCECA) – April 23
Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – Uberlandia, Brazil – April 30
Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes – 4th Place – Uberlandia, Brazil – April 30
Katie Lindstrom / Teegan Van Gunst – Gold Medal – Varadero, Cuba (NORCECA) – May 14
Carly Skjodt / Geena Urango – Bronze Medal – Varadero, Cuba (NORCECA) – May 14
Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil – Silver Medal – Ostrava, Czech Republic – June 4
Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson – Bronze Medal – Ostrava, Czech Republic – June 4
Hailey Harward / Kelley Kolinske – Silver Medal – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (NORCECA) – June 8
Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson – Gold Medal – Jurmala, Latvia – June 18
Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes – Silver Medal – Gstaad, Switzerland – July 9
Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Bronze Medal – Gstaad, Switzerland – July 9
Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson – Gold Medal – Montreal, Canada – July 30
Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles – Silver Medal – Montreal, Canada – July 30

UP NEXT – The third and final Gold Series event of the year takes place over Labor Day weekend in Chicago. The 16-team field in each gender will compete for \$300,000 in a three-day tournament, September 1-3.