

## Manhattan Beach – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, August 21, 2022 – Women’s Championship Match

### 1:30 pm – #2 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske vs #3 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint

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

#### Head to Head

- Cheng / Flint have won all 3 prior meetings, and all have come in the last 6 weeks

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/20/22	AVP	Manhattan Beach Open	Winner 4	<b>Cheng/Flint</b>	3	Hughes/Kolinske	2	21-16, 21-13	0:45
7/30/22	AVP	Fort Lauderdale Open	Winner 3	<b>Cheng/Flint</b>	2	Hughes/Kolinske	3	22-20, 24-26, 15-11	1:07
7/9/22	AVP	Hermosa Beach Open	Winner 3	<b>Cheng/Flint</b>	2	Hughes/Kolinske	3	21-12, 21-19	0:37

- Flint and Kolinske were teammates for 19 AVP events (2 wins, 3 2nds) and 10 international tournaments (2 golds)
- In addition to the 5 AVP finals in which Flint and Kolinske were teammates, they faced each other in the finals in Seattle 2019, with Kolinske and Emily Stockman defeating Flint and Emily Day
- Cheng and Hughes were teammates for 9 AVP tournaments (1 win, 1 2nd, 2 3rds) and 11 international tournaments (best of 5th twice)

#### Title Tidbits

- There have been 17 previous AVP tournaments in Manhattan Beach in which seedings were known... in all 17 of those the winning team has been seeded 3rd or better (and that will continue this year)... in that span the #1 seed won 10 times, #2 seed won 4 times and the #3 seed won 3 times
- 14 of the last 18 AVP title matches have been sweeps... there were 16 consecutive AVP championship matches in which the team winning the first set won the match but that ended in Fort Lauderdale
- In Manhattan Beach finals, the women’s team winning the first set has won each of the last 6 title matches
- 7 of the last 11 AVP winning teams were seeded #1 (the three exceptions in that span were in Atlanta 2021 and Austin 2022 when Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss won both times, in Fort Lauderdale 2022 when Tina Graudina / Hailey Harward won and in Atlanta 2022 with Julia Scoles / Geena Urango won)

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#### **Hughes / Kolinske** are playing together for the 5th time on the AVP Tour and 11th time overall

- They played in 6 FIVB events this year, improving from 9th to 5th to winning a gold medal in the Itapema (Brazil) Challenge on April 17... the duo also placed 5th in the World Championships in Rome in June
- In capturing the FIVB title in April, the duo beat 5 Olympians, including 2016 Silver Medalist Barbara Seixas
- On the AVP they have placed 5th in Austin and then 3rd in 3 straight events (New Orleans, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta)
- 5 of their 8 match losses this season have come to teams seeded either first, second or third... 6 of their 8 losses have come to teams with at least one beach Olympian
- On the AVP Tour they are 16-8 in matches, including 13-0 when winning the first set and 1-8 when losing the first set... they are 1-0 in one-set matches and 3-2 in three-set matches

#### **Sara Hughes** – age 27 – 6’2” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Hughes’ 32nd AVP event with 8 different partners... she has 3 wins, 4 seconds and 11 thirds... her last win was Hermosa Beach 2018
- Hughes has now been in the semifinals in 19 of her 32 AVP events (59%), and in the championship match 8 times (25%)
- Hughes got all 3 of her AVP wins consecutively (2017 season-ender, first two events of 2018) during a span in which she advanced to the semifinals in 8 straight AVP tournaments and 5 straight finals
- This marks the 8th time Hughes has played in Manhattan Beach, and she has now advanced to the semis 3 times (3rd with Kelly Cheng in 2017, 3rd with Brandie Wilkerson in 2019)

- Hughes is 3-4 in AVP title matches... all of the previous ones included either April Ross or Summer Ross (as either a teammate or opponent)... all 4 of her losses came against April Ross

**Kelley Kolinske – age 30 – 6’2” – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently Jamul, Calif. – Pepperdine**

- Kolinske is playing in her 37th AVP Tournament with 4 different partners... she has 3 wins, 3 seconds, 7 thirds... her victories came in 2015 (Mason), 2017 (San Francisco) and 2019 (Seattle)
- Kolinske played just once in 2014 (9th place), but since then has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of the last 8 seasons, including to a championship match in 4 different years
- This marks Kolinske’s first Manhattan Beach Open since 2018, when she was 3rd with Emily Stockman... this is the 4th time she has played in Manhattan Beach
- Kolinske has now been in the semifinals in 6 of her last 7 AVP tournaments (exception was Austin 2022)
- Kolinske is 3-3 in AVP title matches... she has played a different team in all 7 (including today) of her championship matches

**Cheng / Flint** are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour and 10th time overall

- The duo placed 4th in Rosarito in March (where they had 3 match wins against players who combined for 7 Summer Olympics), then finished 3rd in Austin, won in New Orleans, 2nd in Hermosa Beach, 3rd in Fort Lauderdale and 7th in Atlanta... last week they won the Hamburg Elite 16 event
- Together they have a 22-5 match record on the AVP... they are 18-0 when winning the first set and 4-4 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in one-set matches and 8-1 in three-set matches
- They are the only team to have been in the semifinals in each of the 4 AVP Pro Series events (but were 7th in the first Gold Series event in Atlanta)

**Kelly Cheng – age 26 – 6’2” – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – Southern Cal**

- This is Cheng’s 32nd AVP event with her 5th different partner
- Cheng has won 2 times (Chicago 2017 and New Orleans 2022), placed 2nd 6 times, and placed 3rd 15 times... she has now advanced to the semifinals in 24 of her 32 AVP events (75% of the tournaments completed)
- Cheng has played in at least 1 AVP championship match in each of the past 7 seasons (2016-2022)
- This marks the 4th straight time for Cheng reaching the semifinals in Manhattan Beach (out of her 6 times playing here)... she was 3rd in 2017 with Sara Hughes, 2nd with Brittany Hochevar in 2018, 3rd in 2021 with Sarah Sponcil... each of her previous 3 trips to the semis in Manhattan Beach were with an Olympian (beach or indoors) before this year
- Cheng is 2-6 in AVP finals... this will be the first one in which she hasn’t played against a Nuss or Ross... she is 0-4 against April Ross, 1-0 against Summer Ross, and 1-1 against Kristen Nuss

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

- This is Flint’s 42nd AVP event with her 4th different partner
- Flint has won 6 AVP titles, 7 seconds and 5 thirds... her wins came in 2015, 2017, 2018 (twice), 2019 and 2022
- She has now advanced to the semifinals in 19 of her 45 AVP events (44% of the events)
- Flint finished in 17th place in New Orleans 2015 with Kelley Kolinske... that is the only AVP tournament in her career that she did not play in the main draw
- Flint just turned 30 on August 13
- Flint is playing in Manhattan Beach for the 7th time, and this is 3rd time in her last 4 tournaments here reaching the semifinals... she was 3rd with Emily Day in 2018 and 2nd with Day in 2021
- Flint is 6-7 in AVP title matches... this will be her 14th AVP championship match and her 13th different opponent (only team she faced twice was Alix Klineman / April Ross)