



2023 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Season Event #2 • Pro Series #2

New Orleans, Louisiana • April 13 – 16, 2023

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – The AVP's second event of the year features the first one under the lights, as both Friday and Saturday there will be matches at night. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$125,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals \$1,600,000 before the Championships.

- The main draw will be a 16-team, double elimination format. Ten teams from each gender are granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four events points totals from their last five AVP and AVPNext tournaments) plus up to two wild cards. The remaining four teams in each gender will earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event on Thursday, April 13. There are 27 women's teams and 32 men's teams in the qualifiers, which will have 23 women's matches and 28 men's matches to determine the final four spots in the main draw. The main draw begins on Friday, April 14 and concludes on Sunday, April 16, and will be played on three courts at Coconut Beach. Both main draws feature 29 matches in a double-elimination format. General admission is \$25 while premium seats are available for purchase at avp.com. The championship matches will be around 2:30 pm CT for the men and 3:30 pm CT for the women.

- Live streaming of stadium court matches takes place Friday through Sunday on ESPN+. Live streaming on Courts 1 and 2 will take place on the Bally Live app. Dain Blanton, Camryn Irwin, Rich Lambourne, Matt Prosser and Mark Schuermann will combine to handle the announcing duties on stadium court, while Megan Burgdorf, Emily Capers and Victoria Dennis among others will call the action on the outer courts. The championship matches will be shown on ESPNU on Monday, April 17 from 8-10 pm ET.

NOLA'S NUMBER ONES – The top seeded men's team is a duo making its AVP debut, Tri Bourne and Chaim Schalk, although this duo has played three times internationally over the past month. The two players, who both competed in the Olympics in beach volleyball but for different countries in different years, come from opposite places, as Bourne was raised and still lives in Honolulu while Schalk is from Alberta, Canada, better known for snow sports than beach volleyball. Bourne was a top seed twice in 2014 and three times in 2022 but has never advanced to the title match when being the number one seed despite making the semifinals four of those five times. Schalk was a top seed five times in 2022, three times placing second.

- Unlike the men, the number one seeds on the women's side, Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes, have a long history as partners. The duo competed together in the 2013 FIVB U-19 World Championships, on the AVP Tour from 2014-2017, on the sand at Southern Cal for three seasons, then reunited late last year. Cheng is no stranger to being the top seed (twice in 2018, once in 2019, and twice in 2022). She won titles both times being seeded number one last season, in New Orleans with Betsi Flint and in Huntington Beach on the Tour Series with Hughes. Hughes won titles the first two times she was the top seed (in 2018 with Summer Ross), and was a number one seed a total of three times in 2018. In her last three events she played in 2022, Hughes was the top seed each time, culminating in the win in Huntington Beach on the Tour Series.

HOMETOWN HEROES –

- There are three men's players who list Louisiana as their current residence:
Ian Bicko (New Orleans), Evan Cory (Metairie), Jordan Merceron (Baton Rouge)
- There are no men's players who currently live in a different state but list their hometown in Louisiana
- Of the colleges known, there are no men's player who attended a college in Louisiana
- There are two women's player who lists Louisiana as their current residence:
Kristen Nuss (Metairie), Devanne Sours (New Orleans)
- There are two women's player who currently live in a different state but list their hometowns in Louisiana:
Katie Dickens (Covington), Toni Rodriguez (St. Amant)
- Of the colleges known, there are eight women's players who attended a college in Louisiana:
Veronica Corcoran (New Orleans), Victoria Corcoran (New Orleans), Katie Dickens, LSU), Taryn Kloth (LSU), Katie Lindstrom (Louisiana-Monroe), Kristen Nuss (LSU), Toni Rodriguez (LSU), Kahlee York (LSU)

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 \$1,600,000 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 an AVPNext tournament. 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>Both men's and women's top-seeded teams won in 2015, 2016 and 2022, the last 3 times the AVP played here</i>			
May 18 - 21	Huntington Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
<i>Huntington Beach is fourth most frequented stop in AVP history; first of four California stops on 2023 Tour</i>			
June 9 – 11	Virginia Beach, Virginia	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
<i>Just the third time since 2002 that the AVP has a tournament in Virginia (along with 2010 and 2022)</i>			
June 30 – July 2	Denver, Colorado	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
<i>Only two previous AVP events in Denver were in 1987 and 2022; this will be second time in Colorado since 2008</i>			
July 6 - 7	Waupaca, Wisconsin	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
<i>All previous AVP events in Wisconsin before 2022 had been in Milwaukee; this was 1st new AVP city since 2013</i>			
July 7 - 9	Hermosa Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000
<i>Just the fifth time since 2011 that the AVP is playing in Hermosa Beach</i>			
Aug 4 – 6	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$300,000
<i>First Gold Series event of 2023; one of three 2023 locations to have night sessions</i>			
Aug 18 – 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	24-team double elimination	\$50,000
<i>First time the AVP has played in Laguna Beach since 1988; fourth California stop on 2023 Tour</i>			

250 AT 5280 – When the AVP takes the tour to new heights (5,280 feet to be exact) in Denver in early July, it will mark the 250th women's tournament in the history of the AVP. The women have played in 23 different states over the years. All AVP events since August 2001 have been dual gender, a streak of 196 events coming into the 2023 season. There were 10 seasons, all between 1987 and 1998, in which the women had no AVP tournaments (during that span there was a women's only tour, the WPVA). Entering this season there have been 64 different women win an AVP title (including Tour Series), with Kerri Walsh Jennings (77) and Misty May-Treanor (66) leading the pack. A total of 10 different women have won at least 10 AVP titles.

NEW ORLEANS HISTORY – The AVP held four men’s events here between 1989 and 1999, while 2015 marked the first ever AVP women’s event in New Orleans. This year marks the second straight year playing in NOLA since the 2016 season opener. While seedings weren’t available for the first four times the AVP was here, the winners of both the men’s and women’s events in the last three times here were all seeded number one.

- The two winningest tandems in U.S. men’s history won the first two events here (Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos and Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes), with Kiraly winning again here in 1999. The 1992 event was won by Brent Frohoff and Mike Whitmarsh. Frohoff was celebrating his 29th birthday on the day of the finals while Whitmarsh earned his first career victory en route to a career which saw him win 25 titles. The 2022 event saw Phil Dalhausser get his 61st AVP win while playing with a partner for the first time, Casey Patterson.

- Women played in New Orleans three straight years on the WPVA Tour from 1993-95. On May 23, 1993, Karolyn Kirby and Liz Masakayan won in New Orleans, the start of 13 consecutive team events they would win on the WPVA, the last of which also came in New Orleans (on May 15, 1994). The 13 straight domestic wins is tied for the longest in women’s pro beach volleyball history. In 2015 April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings won their eighth consecutive AVP event in New Orleans, which would be their last in the streak. Both winning players in 2016, Kim DiCello and Kendra VanZwieten, recorded their only career AVP victories with their win in New Orleans, and VanSwieten tied for the shortest player (5’6”) to win an AVP event, along with Barbra Fontana. A look at the tournaments in New Orleans:

MEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	[3rd] / 4th
1989	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Jon Stevenson	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly
1990	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	John Hanley / Dan Vrebalovich	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	Wally Goodrick / Ricci Luyties
1992	Brent Frohoff / Mike Whitmarsh	Karch Kiraly / Kent Steffes	Mike Dodd / Jon Stevenson	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos
1999	Adam Johnson / Karch Kiraly	Dain Blanton / Eric Fonoimoana	Jose Loiola / Emanuel Rego	Bill Boullianne / Ian Clark
2015	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Phil Dalhausser / Sean Rosenthal	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	[3rd] Brian Bomgren / Tim Bomgren
2016	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb	[3rd] Mark Burik / Russ Marchewka
2022	Phil Dalhausser / Casey Patterson	Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander	Paul Lotman / Miles Partain	[3rd] Chase Budinger / Troy Field

WOMEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2015	April Ross/Kerri Walsh Jennings	Emily Day/Jennifer Kessy	Kendra VanZwieten/Megan Wallin-Brockway	Angela Bensed / Geena Urango
2016	Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten	Angela Bensed / Geena Urango	Amanda Lawson / Emily Stockman	Jenny Kropp / Misty May-Treanor
2022	Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint	Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss	Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman	Emily Capers / Hailey Harward

WOMEN – non-AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1993	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsythe	Janice Harrer / Deb Richardson	Alison Johnson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1994	Karolyn Kirby / Liz Masakayan	Barbra Fontana / Lori Forsythe	Gail Castro Kehl / Elaine Roque	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop
1995	Holly McPeak / Nancy Reno	Linda Hanley / Angela Rock	Gail Castro Kehl / Elaine Roque	Deb Richardson / Dennie Shupryt Knoop

CONTENDER CHAMPIONS – A big change has happened recently on the women’s side, as teams from the contender’s bracket have been winning tournaments. In the last five AVP tournaments (excluding Tour Series and the AVP Championships in Phoenix which didn’t have a contender’s bracket), four times the winner was a team which had suffered a loss prior to the semifinals. To put that into perspective, prior to this latest stretch 26 of the 29 tournament winners went undefeated in the event (only three times did a team lose prior to the semifinals but came back to win the title).

THE CRABBS’ CROWNS – In each of the last five AVP events held (including the Tour Series), one of the Crabb brothers has won the title. Taylor Crabb has won the last four, while his older brother Trevor won the event previous to that. With both of the brothers competing overseas this weekend, that streak will end. In the last 26 AVP events (excluding Tour Series), one of the Crabb brothers has won 14 times. Furthermore, of the 12 tournaments not won by a Crabb, featured one of the Crabbs in the title match (finishing second).

ELEVEN ON THE PODIUM – Last year in the 15 AVP events, 11 different men’s teams won a title. Phil Dalhausser won three times, each time while playing with a partner for the first time ever. Five of the 15 titles went to one of the Crabb brothers. In the 15 championship matches, there were 14 unique matchups, as only Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb vs Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk was featured twice.

- Not to be outdone, the women also had 11 different teams claim a title last season. Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini (three wins each) were the only teams to win multiple times, but individually Julia Scoles won twice. A total of 45 different women advanced to the semifinals in the 15 tournaments. Perhaps the most challenging title match for play-by-play announcers was in Waupaca, where Carly (Kan) and Kaitlyn (Malaney) defeated Katie (Dickens) and (Jennifer) Keddy. At least third place finishers Kylie (Deberg) and Kahlee (York) didn’t advance to the championship match.

NEW ORLEANS SAND BITS – Of the 88 men's players competing this weekend (and of the information known), there are five teenagers competing with the youngest being 15-year old Tomasz Wisniakowski, and 17-year olds Caleb Blanchette and Riley Wisniakowski, and five players in their 40's, led by 47-year old Adam Roberts and 43-year old Phil Dalhausser. Of the heights known, the shortest are Tomasz Wisniakowski (5'9") and Jon Justice (5'11") while at the other end of the spectrum are two 6'9" players (Phil Dalhausser and Charlie Siragusa). The players with the most experience are Phil Dalhausser, Adam Roberts and Billy Allen, while four players are making their pro beach volleyball debut (Richard Diedrich, Ansgar Grunseid, Riley Wisniakowski and Tomasz Wisniakowski). Phil Dalhausser, with 62 AVP titles, has the most of any player here, and is more than the total number of tournaments (on all tours) played for all but 11 players. Following Dalhausser is Tri Bourne (eight AVP wins). Out of 44 partnerships, 19 are competing together for the very first time and only two have played together 10 or more times before New Orleans (Timothy Brewster / Kyle Friend 16 previous events and Marty Lorenz / Adam Roberts 14). No teams competing here have previously won a Pro Series AVP title but on the Tour Series Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez won twice in 2022.

- There are 78 women playing this weekend, and of the information known the youngest is 21-year old Skyler Germann. On the flip side, Larissa Maestrini (turns 41 on Friday) is the oldest, followed by a pair of 36-year olds (Sarah Pavan and Agnieszka PREGOWSKA). Katie Lindstrom (5'4") and Jade Race (5'4") are the shortest competitors, while at the other end of the spectrum are 6'5" Sarah Pavan and a pair of 6'4" players, Taryn Kloth and Jennifer Keddy. Six women are making the pro beach volleyball debuts (Alexandra Biver, Kathilia Colon, Elena Eckhardt, Meera Gandhi, Autumn Lockley and Megan Rice). Eight players have played in more than 100 tournaments, and five of them were born outside of the U.S. (Larissa Maestrini, Melissa Humana-Paredes, Sarah Pavan, Lili Maestrini and Brandie Wilkerson). 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 victories. Of the 39 women's tandems, 15 are playing alongside each other for the first time while the most experienced are Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes, Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil, Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini. There are five teams competing here which have previously won the on the AVP Tour as partners: Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss (four AVP wins), Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes (two AVP wins), Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil (one AVP win) and Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson (one AVP win), and Larissa / Lili (three Tour Series titles).

BAYOU'S BEST – This marks the fourth time ever that the AVP has had a women's event in New Orleans, and the people in the dimly lit back room doing the seedings have been perfect so far. All three women's events have been won by the tournament's top seeds. In 2015 April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings won as the number one seeds (not a big surprise as the duo won 12 of their 13 career AVP events together). In 2016 top seeds Kim DiCello and Kendra VanZwieten lost in the third round but came back to win, which was the only victory in both players' history. Last season Kelly Cheng and Betsi Flint were seeded first, but locals Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss had the homecourt advantage when the two teams met in the championship match. Still, Cheng and Flint were able to keep the top seeds' streak alive with a sweep in 37 minutes.

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 16th time with three Tour Series wins to their credit. Veronica and Victoria Corcoran are twin sisters that are playing in the qualifier, marking their fourth AVP event as partners. The Corcorans both played beach volleyball at the University of New Orleans. Riley (17 years old) and Tomasz (15 years old) Wisniakowski are brothers who are making their AVP debuts.

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 wild cards from Waupaca
- Chicago (Gold Series) – top 4 teams from Seaside (AVPNext event on August 10-12)
- 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 14 events just three 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 15 times in the 52 tournaments (again, excluding Tour Series).

OLYMPICALITY – This week's AVP event features 11 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)

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

David Lee played indoors in 2008 (won gold), 2012 (fifth place) and 2016 (won bronze)

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

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

• Women with Olympic experience:

Kelly Cheng played beach in 2020 (fifth place)

Melissa Humana-Paredes played beach in 2020 for Canada (fifth place)

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)

Sarah Sponcil played beach in 2020 (ninth place)

Brandie Wilkerson played beach in 2020 for Canada (fifth place)

COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS – The NCAA first sanctioned women's beach volleyball in 2016 and there have been six 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 two titles (2021 and 2022). Here is a look at the seven women who competing in New Orleans who have won a national championship, each of whom have won a pair of titles.

Terese Cannon (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017

Kelly Cheng (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017

Sara Hughes (Southern Cal) 2016, 2017

Zana Muno (UCLA) 2018, 2019

Julia Scoles (Southern Cal) 2021, 2022

Savvy Simo (UCLA), 2018, 2019

Sarah Sponcil (UCLA), 2018, 2019

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY – The women have been giving fans more for their money lately, as five of the last 7 championship matches (excluding Tour Series) have gone to a third set. In 2018-19 there was a stretch which saw six of seven title matches require a third set, but following that 14 of the next 16 finals were sweeps before this latest span. The men have had 10 of their last 20 championship matches go to a third set.

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 Teres 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)

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 saw more of the top seeds advance, which included a pair of teenagers. 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:

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

WILL THE REAL SLIM SHADY PLEASE STAND UP – Megan Rice (who played beach volleyball at Loyola Marymount and lives in Hermosa Beach, Calif.) will be making her pro beach volleyball debut in the qualifier, playing alongside former LSU beach volleyball player Kahlee York as the 14th-seeded team in the qualifier. Meanwhile on the other side of the bracket Megan Rice (who played beach volleyball at Florida Atlantic and lives in Highland Beach, Fla.) will be the fourth seed in the qualifier with Macy Jerger

BIRTHDAYS – Two players will celebrate their birthdays during this week’s AVP tournament. On Friday, Larissa Maestrini turns 41. On Sunday, Jordan Hoppe turns 26.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – So far this season, eight different teams (three men, five women) comprised of players who usually play on the AVP Tour have been to a semifinal on the World Pro Beach Volleyball Tour. This weekend there is a Challenge event in Saquarema, Brazil which has numerous teams competing who would otherwise be playing on the AVP Tour. On the men’s side, Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb is the only team in the main draw, while Andy Benesh / Miles Partain, Chase Budinger / Miles Evans, and Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander are in the qualifier. The women have Hailey Harward / Kelley Kolinske in the main draw and a pair of teams in the qualifier, Corrine Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn and Allie Wheeler / Carly Wopat.

• 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

WOMEN

Tina Graudina / Anastasija Samoilova – 4th Place – Doha, Qatar – February 5

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

UP NEXT – The AVP Tour has a one-month hiatus before event number three, a Pro Series event in Huntington Beach, Calif. That tournament will be one of four played in California, and will have an on-site qualifier on Thursday, May 18 before the three-day main draw from May 19-21. This will be the last Pro Series event until the AVP returns to the Golden State July 7-9 for a tournament in Hermosa Beach.