

New York City – June 9, 2019 – Women’s Championship Notes

4:30 pm – #1 Alix Klineman / April Ross vs. #5 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil

Klineman / A. Ross are playing for 9th time on AVP Tour (won 5 times) and 22nd time overall

| Tour | Date | Tournament | Seed | Finish | Points | Money |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------------|
| AVP | 5/2-5/2019 | Huntington Beach Open | 1 | 1 | 1050 | \$20,000.00 |
| AVP | 9/15-16/2018 | Hawaii Invitational | 3 | 1 | 0 | \$20,000.00 |
| AVP | 8/30-9/2/2018 | AVP Gold Series The Championships | 3 | 1 | 1350 | \$25,000.00 |
| AVP | 8/16-19/2018 | AVP Gold Series Manhattan Beach | 3 | 1 | 1350 | \$24,000.00 |
| AVP | 7/26-29/2018 | AVP Hermosa Beach | 3 | 2 | 640 | \$10,000.00 |
| AVP | 7/5-8/2018 | AVP San Francisco | 2 | 3 | 540 | \$7,000.00 |
| AVP | 6/7-10/2018 | AVP Gold Series NYC | 3 | 3 | 756 | \$9,500.00 |
| AVP | 5/17-20/2018 | AVP Austin | 1 | 1 | 750 | \$15,000.00 |

Klineman / A. Ross New York City Matches:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------|------|
| Fri, 6/7/2019 | Winner 1 | Annika Rowland / Teegan Van Gunst (16, Q15) | Won 22-20, 21-18 | 0:41 |
| Fri, 6/7/2019 | Winner 2 | Terese Cannon / Irene Pollock (8) | Won 21-10, 21-16 | |
| Sat, 6/8/2019 | Winner 3 | Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil (5) | Won 21-15, 21-12 | |
| Sun, 6/9/2019 | Semi-Finals | Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman (3) | Won 20-22, 21-17, 15-13 | |

- Have won each of their last 4 AVP tournaments and 5 of the 8 they have played before New York City
- Enter the finals having won their last 24 AVP matches (17 by sweeps) and are 39-3 all time in their partnership on the AVP
- Their last AVP loss came on July 29, 2018 in Hermosa Beach when they lost a three-set match in the championship against Sara Hughes and Summer Ross

Alix Klineman – age 29 – 6’5” – hometown Manhattan Beach, Calif. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif. – Stanford

- Klineman is playing in her 21st AVP Tournament, with 5 wins (Austin, Manhattan Beach, Chicago and Honolulu all in 2018, Huntington Beach in 2019), 2 seconds, and 3 thirds
- Klineman is 5-2 in AVP championship matches (5-1 with April Ross, 0-1 with Lane Carico)
- Playing at New York for the 3rd straight year (did not make main draw in 2017 with Jace Pardon and finished 3rd with Ross last year).

April Ross – age 36 – 6’1” – hometown Newport Beach, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- Ross is playing in her 100th AVP tournament... she has won 34 times with 6 different partners... she also has 15 seconds and 21 thirds
- Ross is 34-15 in AVP championship matches (12-0 with Kerri Walsh Jennings, 12-13 with Jennifer Kessy, 5-1 with Alix Klineman, 2-0 with Lauren Fendrick, 2-0 with Jennifer Fopma, 1-0 with Whitney Pavlik, 0-1 with Caitlin Ledoux)... she had won 27 consecutive AVP title matches before losing in Seattle last year
- Ross has recorded at least two AVP titles in each of the last seven years and needs one victory to extend that streak to eight years... Won seven times in 2014... Has claimed 24 FIVB titles.
- Ross will be playing New York for the 5th time and won in 2016 with Kerri Walsh Jennings and again in 2017 with Lauren Fendrick.

General AVP Championship Notes

- Klineman / Ross lead the all-time series 2-0, and this will mark the 3rd meeting this month:

| Date | Tour | Tournament | Round | Winning Team | Seed | Losing Team | Seed | Score | Time |
|--------|------|----------------------|----------|---------------|------|---------------|------|--------------|------|
| 6/8/19 | AVP | Gold Series NYC Open | Winner 3 | Klineman/Ross | 1 | Claes/Sponcil | 5 | 21-15, 21-12 | |
| 6/1/19 | FIVB | Ostrava Four Star | Winner 2 | Klineman/Ross | 4 | Claes/Sponcil | 14 | 21-15, 21-18 | 0:36 |

New York City – June 9, 2019 – Women’s Championship Notes

4:30 pm – #1 Alix Klineman / April Ross vs. #5 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil

Claes / Sponcil are playing for 1st time on AVP Tour and 7th time overall

| Tour | Date | Tournament | Seed | Finish | Points | Money |
|------|----------------|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------------|
| FIVB | 5/29-6/2/2019 | Ostrava Four Star | 14 | 9 | 400 | US\$4,000.00 |
| FIVB | 5/22-26/2019 | Jinjiang Four Star | 9 | 5 | 480 | US\$6,000.00 |
| FIVB | 5/14-19/2019 | Itapema Four Star | | CQ | | US\$0.00 |
| FIVB | 1/2-6/2019 | The Hague Four Star | 7 | 2 | 720 | US\$16,000.00 |
| FIVB | 10/16-21/2018 | Las Vegas Four Star | 9, Q2 | 9 | 400 | US\$4,000.00 |
| FIVB | 9/30-10/4/2018 | Qinzhou Three Star | 2 | 3 | 480 | US\$5,000.00 |

Claes / Sponcil New York City Matches:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|
| Fri, 6/7/2019 | Winner 1 | Brittany Hochevar / Carly Wopat (12) | Won 21-11, 21-13 | 0:36 |
| Fri, 6/7/2019 | Winner 2 | Emily Day / Betsi Flint (4) | Won 21-15, 12-21, 15-13 | |
| Sat, 6/8/2019 | Winner 3 | Alix Klineman / April Ross (1) | Lost 15-21, 12-21 | |
| Sun, 6/9/2019 | Contender 4 | Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon (6) | Won 21-19, 21-18 | |
| Sun, 6/9/2019 | Semi-Finals | Sara Hughes / Summer Ross (2) | Won 21-12, 21-13 | |

Kelly Claes – age 23 – 6-2” – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – USC

- Playing in her 17th career AVP tournament and her 5th New York event.
- Has 3 3rd-place finishes in New York (2015, 16 and 18) as well as a 7th (2017).
- This year she played at Huntington Beach with Brandie Wilkerson and recorded a 7th-place finish.
- Has reached three AVP championship matches, winning Chicago with Sara Hughes in 2017 and finishing second at San Francisco with Hughes in 2016 and second at Manhattan Beach with Brittany Hochevar in 2018.

Sarah Sponcil – age 22 – 5’10” – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Phoenix, Ariz. – Loyola Marymount / UCLA

- Playing in her 1st AVP event of 2019, her 7th career AVP tournament and 1st New York event.
- Played 5 AVP events last season, posting a 2nd at Austin with Lauren Fendrick and a 3rd at Chicago with Terese Cannon.

General AVP Championship Notes

- Only once in the past 19 AVP tournaments has a team seeded lower than 4th won a title (#12 Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes won in Chicago)
- While it did not happen at all in 2016 or 2017, last year there were two teams which won an AVP title in their first AVP event together... in Austin 2018 Alix Klineman / April Ross won in their AVP debut, then in New York City Summer Ross / Sara Hughes won when playing for the first time... this year Claes and Sponcil have a chance to replicate that feat
- In the previous 4 years in New York City, the women’s champion has been seeded either #1 (twice) or #2 (twice)
- Starting with the 2016 season opener in New Orleans, just 2 of the 20 title matches on the women’s side was an upset (the lower seeded team won), but now 3 of the last 5 AVP women’s championships have been upsets
- In the last 7 AVP championships, 5 have required a third set to determine the winner... In 4 of those, the team losing the first set came back to win the title