



2019 AVP PRO BEACH

VOLLEYBALL TOUR – Event #3

New York City, New York • June 6 – 9, 2019

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – This marks the fifth straight year that New York City has served as host of an AVP event, and is the only event on this year's schedule to be televised live on NBC. This event will also be the first of the three-event Gold Series. This marks the 35th consecutive season the AVP has held competitions. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$150,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals \$1,800,000.

- The main draw will be a 16-team, double elimination format. Twelve 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). The remaining four teams in each gender must earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event held in three different locations (each with three courts) on Thursday, June 6. The men's qualifier will take place at Gansevoort Peninsula and Pier 25, while the women's qualifier will be held at Gansevoort Peninsula and Brooklyn Pier 6. Due to space limitations, both qualifiers had to be capped at 48 teams, meaning there are a total of 60 men's teams and 60 women's teams in the field. With the 23 men's teams and one women's team which were turned away due to space restrictions, the total number of teams entered was 83 men and 61 women. The qualifier will consist of 44 matches for each gender, while the main draw features 29 matches for each gender. The main draw begins on Friday, June 7 and concludes on Sunday, June 9, and will be played on three courts at Gansevoort Peninsula. General admission is free throughout and premium ticket packages are available at avp.com or onsite. The championship matches will be around 2:30 pm ET and 4:30 pm ET.

- NBC will broadcast a championship match live on Sunday at 4:30 pm. Chris Marlowe (play by play) and Kevin Wong (color commentary) will handle the announcing duties, with Dain Blanton contributing sideline reports. Live streaming via Amazon Prime takes place Friday through Sunday. Kevin Barnett, Camryn Irwin and Dain Blanton will combine to handle the announcing duties for Amazon Prime.

NEW YORK'S FINEST– The top-seeded men's team, Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb, enter New York City having won the last three open events on the AVP Tour (as Hawai'i was an invitational). The pair won in Chicago in September 2018, in Huntington Beach to begin the 2019 season, then last event in Austin. All three times they had to come through the contender's bracket to reach the semifinals. The duo is attempting to win its third straight AVP event, which only one other team has been able to accomplish since August 2015, when Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena won three straight to end 2016 and begin 2017.

- For the women, Alix Klineman / April Ross enter this week having won each of the last four AVP tournaments they have played, and bring in a 20-match winning streak. They also have built up their frequent flier miles, as their tournaments from the last week in April have included China, Huntington Beach, Brazil, Czech Republic, and now New York City.

2019 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$ - TV
May 2 - 5	Huntington Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Top seeds in both genders win season opener, Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			
May 16 - 19	Austin, Texas	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb lose in first round but claim title while Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon get first career win</i>			
June 6 - 10	New York City, New York	16-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBC (live)
<i>2018 winners were Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Sara Hughes / Summer Ross</i>			
June 20 - 23	Seattle, Washington	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>2018 winners were Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Emily Day / Betsi Flint</i>			
July 25 - 28	Hermosa Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>2018 winners were Theo Brunner / John Hyden and Sara Hughes / Summer Ross</i>			
August 15 - 18	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBCSN (live)
<i>2018 winners were Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			
Aug 27 – Sep 1	Chicago, Illinois	24-team double elimination	\$300,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>2018 winners were Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			
Sep 20 – 22	Honolulu, Hawai'i	16-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>2018 winners were Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Alix Klineman / April Ross</i>			

NEW YORK HISTORY – Beach volleyball has been played in many different cities in New York, and this year marks the fifth straight year that the AVP has had an event in New York City. In 2017 Taylor Crabb garnered his first career AVP victory. In the last four years here all but four of the winning players in both genders have been beach Olympians. On the women's side 2015 winner Emily Day was the lone exception until last year's duo of Sara Hughes and Summer Ross won (both of whom have yet to play in an Olympics). Taylor Crabb, the 2017 winner, was the lone exception on the men's side. The AVP men played four straight years in New York in indoor events from 1993-96, while on the women's side the WPVA had an event in Central Park in 1996. Other locations to host a pro beach event include East Quogue, Hamptons and Long Beach, but here are New York City results:

MEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2015	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Trevor Crabb / Ty Tramble	Avery Drost / Billy Kolinske
2016	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Jeremy Casebeer / Sean Rosenthal	Avery Drost / Billy Kolinske	Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb
2017	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Billy Allen / Stafford Slick	Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal	Ricardo Santos / Chaim Schalk
2018	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	Billy Allen / Ryan Doherty	Theo Brunner / John Hyden

WOMEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2015	Emily Day / Jennifer Kessy	Nicole Branagh / Jenny Kropp	Kim DiCello / Kendra VanZwieten	Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes
2016	April Ross / Kerri Walsh Jennings	Lane Carico / Summer Ross	Jennifer Fopma / Brittany Hochevar	Kelly Claes / Sara Hughes
2017	Lauren Fendrick / April Ross	Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat	Emily Day / Brittany Hochevar	Kim DiCello / Emily Stockman
2018	Sara Hughes / Summer Ross	Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson	Alix Klineman / April Ross	Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar

2018 NEW YORK RECAP – With the recent announcement of the new event in Hawai'i and its dependence on performance in the three-event Gold Series, the New York City tournament carried even more prestige. And in the brightest spotlight the top teams shined the brightest. Both the men's and women's teams seeded first in the tournament were undefeated in winning the first of the three Gold Series tournaments.

- Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena continued their dominant performance in the young season. Although dropping their first two sets of the year, the duo improved its match record to 10-0 in 2018. Across the net was one familiar foe – Taylor Crabb. This marked the second straight event that Crabb had played in the championship match, having done so in the season opener with his substitute partner Tim Bomgren. But in New York City Jake Gibb had returned from a broken pinky toe and the 2017 New York City champs were back together. Dalhausser / Lucena proved to be too much though, and ended Gibb's impressive 14-match winning streak in New York (as he had also won the 2015 title with Casey Patterson).

- For the second straight event, one of the teams in the women's championship match was playing together for the first time on the AVP Tour. This tournament, though, the inaugural partnership resulted in a title. Sara Hughes and Summer Ross joined forces and in five matches never so much as faced a set point. Seeded No. 1, Hughes and Ross defeated three teams seeded fifth or better, including defeating Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson twice. Ross, who had finished second in New York each of the past two years, was able to win the title in her third attempt.

#1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena def. #3 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 21-16, 21-17 (:48)

#1 Sara Hughes / Summer Ross def. #5 Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson 21-14, 21-19 (:52)

ROSS GETS 100 – The New York City event will be the 100th AVP tournament in April Ross' career. She has advanced to 70 semifinals in her career and 49 times she has played for the title (34-15 in championship matches). Ross first played on the AVP Tour in 2006, and earned the AVP Rookie of the Year award. Ross lost her first nine AVP title matches before claiming her inaugural victory in 2009. Later that year she began an impressive streak which saw her win 27 consecutive AVP championship matches before losing in Seattle in June 2018. Ross has won her 34 titles alongside six different partners, including five with her current partner Alix Klineman. Klineman and Ross enter new York City with an impressive streak of their own, having won the last four AVP tournaments they have played, and their last 20 AVP matches. Their last 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.

TWICE AS NICE – There are four sets of twins competing in New York City. The youngest are a pair of 18-year old twins from Lenexa, Kansas, Lauren and Lindsey Hattaway, along with 18-year olds Audrey and Nicole Nourse. The Hattaways will be playing beach volleyball at Florida International while the Nourse twins, who are from Newport Beach, Calif., will both be attending Stanford. The third set of twins who will be competing for a spot in the main draw are Closter, N.J. residents Veronica and Victoria Corcoran, who are 21 years old and play beach volleyball at the University of New Orleans. The fourth set is Annika Van Gunst Rowland and Teagan Van Gunst. The 24-year old twins are from Georgia, played four seasons of indoor volleyball at Georgia Tech, and then one season of beach volleyball at Georgia Tech.

NEW YORK CITY SAND BITS – Of the 120 men’s players competing this weekend, there are six teenagers competing, with the two youngest being 17-year old Miles Partain and 18-year old Joshua Bigford, while 11 players are 40 or older, led by 46-year old John Hyden and three who are 44 years old; Chris Luers, Adam Niemczynowicz and Ricardo Santos. Of the heights known, the shortest are David Vander Meer (5’9”) and Kyle O’Neill (5’11”) while at the other end of the spectrum is 7’1” Ryan Doherty, 6’11” Kristopher Johnson and two 6’9” players (Andy Benesh and Phil Dalhausser). Seven players have played in at least 200 events. Jake Gibb is playing in his 295th pro beach tournament, followed by Sean Rosenthal (275th), Phil Dalhausser (256th), Nick Lucena (253rd), Ricardo Santos (251st), John Hyden (235th) and Adam Roberts (205th), while only two are playing in their first ever pro beach event (David Arnold and Daniel Raffol). Out of 60 partnerships, 17 are competing together for the very first time and only three have played together 20 or more times before New York City (led by Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena 84 previous events, Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb 32 events, Maddison and Riley McKibbin 22 events). There are four teams competing here which have previously won an AVP title (Dalhausser / Lucena 11 AVP titles, Taylor Crabb / Gibb six, Billy Allen / Stafford Slick and Ed Ratledge / Roberto Rodriguez).

• There are 120 women playing this weekend, and the field includes six teenagers with the four youngest being two pairs of 18-year old twins, Audrey and Nicole Nourse along with Lauren and Lindsey Hattaway. On the flip side, Priscilla Piantadosi-Lima (39), Janelle Allen (38), and Brittany Hochevar (38) are the three oldest. Of the heights known, Katie Lindstrom and Jade Race measure 5’4” and Katie Spieler is 5’5”. At the other end of the spectrum is Alix Klineman (6’5”) and three players who stand at 6’4” (Falyn Fonoimoana, Rachel Krabacaer and Jessica Sykora). There are 13 players making their pro beach volleyball debut while the most experienced is April Ross (243rd tournament), Brittany Hochevar (195th) and Maria Clara Salgado (175th). The individuals with the most career AVP victories are April Ross (34), Emily Day (eight), and Alix Klineman and Summer Ross (five each). The women feature 28 tandems (out of 60 total) playing alongside each other for the first time and three having played together 20 or more times (Sara Hughes / Summer Ross 22 previous events, Emily Day / Betsi Flint 21 previous events and Alix Klineman / April Ross 20 events). Like the men, there are four teams competing here which have previously won an AVP title as partners Alix Klineman / April Ross (five AVP wins), Emily Day / Betsi Flint (two), Sara Hughes / Summer Ross (two) and Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon (one).

2019 QUALIFIER LIST – Here’s a look at the teams who have qualified this season (qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw:

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Men

Marty Lorenz / Raffe Paulis (Q1) – 17th place
 Duncan Budinger / Kyle Friend (Q3) – 17th place
 Spencer Sauter / Ben Vaught (Q4) – 13th place
 Branden Clemens / Dylan Maarek (Q5) – 17th place
 Daniel Dalanhese / Andrew Dentler (Q9) – 17th place
 Christian Honer / Logan Webber (Q15) – 13th place
 Kacey Losik / Lev Priima (Q22) – 17th place
 Alex Diaz / Yamil Yanes Rodriguez (Q39) – 17th place
39th seeded team lowest to advance since Manhattan Beach 2016

AUSTIN - Men

Eric Beranek / Marty Lorenz (Q2) – 13th place
 Bruno Amorim / Skylar del Sol (Q3) – 7th place
 Daniel Dalanhese / Joe Hillman (Q12) – 13th place
 Paul Lotman / Gabriel Ospina (Q25) – 9th place
Top seeded team fails to advance for 7th time since start of 2015

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Women

Jessica Sykora / Brittany Tiegs (Q4) – 9th place
 Emily Hartong / Alexa Strange (Q5) – 17th place
 McKenna Thibodeau / Madison Witt (Q14) – 17th place
 Lauren DeTurk / Sasha Karellov (Q16) – 17th place
 Traci Callahan / Maria Clara Salgado (Q18) – 7th place
 Marija Milosevic / Megan Rice (Q22) – 17th place
 Audrey Norse / Nicole Nourse (Q24) – 17th place
 Megan Kraft / Delaynie Maple (Q26) – 13th place
Kraft / Maple youngest team to ever qualify

AUSTIN - Women

Mackenzie Ponnet / Sheila Shaw (Q3) – 13th place
 Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn (Q7) – 2nd place
 Meghan Mannari / Taylor Nyquist (Q8) – 5th place
 Lauren Dickson / Katie Lindelow (Q12) – 9th place
Hildreth / Schermerhorn 4th qualifier ever to play for title

GOLD SERIES – The Gold Series is a three-event series featuring the tournaments in New York City, Manhattan Beach, and Chicago. This series is used in part to determine the teams eligible to compete in the season-ender in Hawai’i. There will be 16 teams in each gender competing in Hawai’i, with the winners of any of the non-Gold Series events automatically gaining a berth. Then additional teams up to 10 entries will be selected based on the Gold Series Standings (best two of the three tournaments). The remaining six teams will come in the form of two wild cards and four teams from a qualifier taking place the day before the Hawai’i main draw. Here is a look at who has secured a berth in Hawai’i and how they achieved it:

MEN

Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb (won Huntington Beach)

WOMEN

Alix Klineman / April Ross (won Huntington Beach)
 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon (won Austin)

DOUBLE TAKE – The women's qualifier in the season opener in Huntington Beach was very notable. There were two sets of twins that advanced, and being seeded 14th and 24th this was certainly not a given. McKenna (Witt) Thibodeau and Madison Witt, who both played at Arizona and Cal Baptist, were competing in their fifth AVP tournament, while Audrey and Nicole Nourse, a pair of 18-year old twins, were playing together for the sixth time on the AVP Tour.

- In addition, a pair of 16-year olds advanced to the main draw, becoming the youngest team ever to qualify on the AVP. Megan Kraft, who was 16 years, 7 months and 5 days old when she qualified, was the fourth youngest individually to do so on the women's side, while Delaynie Maple (16 years, 10 months, 23 days) was the sixth youngest.

HUNTINGTON HAPPENINGS – Both the men's and women's top-seeded teams won on the same weekend in the season opener in Huntington Beach. Jake Gibb became just the third different player to win an AVP title after turning 43 years old (joining John Hyden and Karch Kiraly). Alix Klineman and April Ross continued their hot streak, as they won their 20th straight match and fourth consecutive AVP title.

- Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb looked anything but the top seeds at the start of the tournament, outlasting a team from the qualifier in three sets only to lose to the other Crabb (Trevor) in the next round. Facing elimination, the duo won four matches (three of them in a third set) to reach the championship match. On the other side of the net was a team making its AVP debut as partners, Chase Budinger and Casey Patterson. A close first set could not derail the team with more experience, as Crabb and Gibb won for the fifth time together on the AVP Tour.

- The top seeds in the women's field, Alix Klineman and April Ross, looked very much like an elite team. The pair swept their first three opponents then outlasted the number two seeds in the semifinals to reach the championship match. Their foes were also an elite team, but seeded 14th due to not having much experience on the AVP Tour. Melissa Humana-Parades / Sarah Pavan of Canada had a similar route to the finals, sweeping four teams before overcoming a challenging semifinal test. The Canadians had to play each of the events' top four seeds in the competition and in the end, Klineman and Ross won a thrilling three-set victory. Klineman / Ross had reached match point at 14-11, but Humana-Parades / Pavan fought back to take the lead at 15-14 with one match point try. However Ross and Klineman tied it up and then a bit later scored two straight points to win 17-15 on their sixth match point try.

#1 Alix Klineman / April Ross def. #14 Melissa Humana-Parades / Sarah Pavan 18-21, 21-12, 17-15 (1:14)

#1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb def. #6 Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson 27-25, 21-14 (:48)

AUSTIN ANALYSIS – While a number of teams were competing in an FIVB event in Brazil, there was plenty of intrigue and history being made in Austin. Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb rebounded from a first round loss to win the title, while Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn became just the fourth women's team to ever advance from the qualifier all the way to the championship match.

- Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb won their third straight AVP open event, but they made history doing it. By getting upset in the first round, they became just the third team seeded #1 to lose in the first round to a #16 seed (others were in Seattle 2016 and New York 2017). In order to win the title, Crabb and Gibb had to play seven matches, four of which required a third set to determine the winner. After beating fourth-seeded Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk, who hadn't even lost a set entering the finals, Crabb and Gibb also became just the second AVP team to ever lose its first match and come back to win the tournament (only other time was Mike Lambert / Stein Metzger in Huntington Beach 2007).

- The women's championship match pitted a team playing together for just the second time (#4 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon) against a team whose previous best finish was 13th (Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn). Both teams had to overcome quite a bit to reach the title match, as Cook and Pardon lost in the second round and had to win four straight elimination matches. Two of those went to a third set and three were against teams seeded seventh or better. On the other side of the net, Hildreth and Schermerhorn entered the finals undefeated, having won three qualifier matches and all four main draw matches, dropping just one set in that span. Cook and Pardon proved too much though, winning in a sweep.

#1 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb def. #4 Jeremy Casebeer / Chaim Schalk 21-16, 21-16 (:52)

#4 Karissa Cook / Jace Pardon def. #14 (Q7) Kimberly Hildreth / Sarah Schermerhorn 21-11, 21-11 (:38)

FABULOUS 40's – In the season opening tournament in Huntington Beach, Jake Gibb joined Karch Kiraly and John Hyden as the only players to ever win an AVP title at the age of 43 or older. He then added another title in the following event in Austin. From the Cincinnati event in September 2015 through Austin, there have been 27 AVP events and 14 of the men's titles have been won by a player age 40 or older. In those 27 championship matches, at least one player has been over the age of 40 a total of 19 times.

DON'T CALL IT THE LOSERS BRACKET – On the men's side five of the last six AVP champions have come from the contender's bracket, with only Manhattan Beach crowning an undefeated winner, providing confirmation that it is best to refer to it as contender's bracket as opposed to loser's bracket. The success of teams which had at least one loss is more of a recent phenomenon though, as in the 31 previous tournaments, just four times did a team suffer one loss but come back to win the tournament.