

New Orleans – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, May 28, 2022 – Match 2

3:10 pm – #12 Lexy Denaburg / Delaney Mewhirter vs. #13 Mackenzie Ponnet / Chelsea Rice

Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- Rice made her pro beach volleyball debut in Manhattan Beach 2017, where she lost in her first qualifier match against Mewhirter
- Mewhirter and Ponnet have met 4 times previously, and they have split those meetings... Ponnet won in the 2017 Seattle qualifier, then Mewhirter won in the 2018 Seattle qualifier... in 2018 Mewhirter beat Ponnet in San Jose on the P1440 Tour, then in Chicago in 2019 Ponnet eliminated Mewhirter in three sets (22-20, 20-22, 15-12)

Denaburg / Mewhirter are playing together for the 1st time ever

- Denaburg was a late replacement for Maria Clara Salgado, who had played with Mewhirter in Austin (finished 9th)

Lexy Denaburg – age 20 – 6’0” – hometown Merritt Island, Fla. – currently Merritt Island, Fla. - UCLA

- Denaburg is playing in her 3rd career AVP tournament, finishing 9th both previous times (in Atlanta 2021 and Manhattan Beach 2021, both with Maria Clara Salgado)
- Denaburg’s only previous AVP partner (Maria Clara Salgado) is the person who she replaced in order to compete in this event
- While only playing 2 AVP tournaments prior to New Orleans, Denaburg received a lot of match experience... she played 5 matches (qualifier and main draw) in Atlanta and 8 matches in Manhattan Beach
- Entering this match she has an 8-6 match record on the AVP Tour, including 4-0 in three-set matches

Delaney Knudsen Mewhirter – age 26 – 5’10” – hometown Valencia, Calif. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Pepperdine

- Mewhirter is playing in her 37th career AVP tournament with her 15th different partner
- Her best finish came with Katie Spieler, a 7th-place finish in Manhattan Beach in 2019)... she also has 4 9th-place finishes
- Her first AVP main draw match ever was in Manhattan Beach 2014, where she (and Katie Spieler) had to face April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings

Ponnet / Rice are playing together for the 1st time ever

- Duo qualified for New Orleans after finishing 5th in the San Antonio qualifier

Mackenzie Ponnet – age 29 – 5’10” – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Grand Canyon University

- This is Ponnet’s 30th AVP event with her 9th different partner
- Her 4 best finishes all came alongside Sheila Shaw, including a 3rd place in Hermosa Beach 2019 and a 5th place in Long Beach event #3 in 2020
- Ponnet played 5 AVP tournaments with AVP staff writer Kimberly Smith (best of 13th)... the duo also won a NORCECA event in Aguascalientes in 2018

Chelsea Rice – age 27 – 5’10” – hometown Murfreesboro, Tenn. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Middle Tennessee State / Georgia State

- This is Rice’s 12th AVP event with her 9th different partner... she has played 2 events with 3 different partners, and the other 6 events with 6 different players
- Her best finish was a 9th place alongside Carly Kan in Chicago 2021 in her last outing