

## Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021 – Match 4

### 11:20 am – #5 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk vs. #10 Eric Beranek / Avery Drost

#### Head to Head

- Beranek and Brunner have split their two career meetings, with Beranek winning the last one in Manhattan Beach 2019
- Beranek and Schalk have also split their two career meetings, with Beranek winning the last one in Manhattan Beach 2019
- Drost beat Brunner twice in 2014, but since then Brunner has won the last 3 meetings including in Atlanta 2021
- In the head to head between Drost and Schalk, Drost won the first 3 meetings, but Schalk has claimed the last 2 (including in Atlanta 2021)... 3 of the 5 meetings went three sets

**Brunner / Schalk** are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour and the 11th time overall

- In their first outing as partners, the duo won an FIVB two-star event in Rwanda (beat Americans Chase Budinger / Troy Field for the gold medal)
- They are 1 of 3 teams which have made the semifinals in both of the AVP events this season (along with Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson and Tri Bourne / Trevor Crabb)

**Theo Brunner** – age 36 – 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Conn. – currently Torrance, Calif. – Cal-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 56th AVP event... he has 3 wins, 5 2nd-place finishes and 11 3rd-place finishes
- His 3 wins came with 3 different partners... his last AVP win was in Hermosa Beach 2018 with John Hyden
- In 2020 Brunner was 2nd on the Tour in hitting percentage (.477) and 4th in blocks (1.46 per set)
- This is Brunner's 5th time playing in Chicago and its his 5th different partner

**Chaim Schalk** – age 35 – 6'5" – hometown Red Deer, Alberta, Canada – currently Gardena, Calif.

- Schalk is playing in his 26th AVP Tournament, with 1 win, 3 second-place finishes and 7 third-place finishes
- His win came in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer
- In Schalk's 2nd ever AVP event (and his first main draw), he and Ricardo Santos were the #35 seeds in the qualifier and advanced, becoming the 16th seeds in the main draw... they won both of their first two matches enroute to a third-place finish, becoming the lowest seeded qualifying team to ever reach the semifinals

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**Beranek / Drost** are playing together for the 1st time ever

- Both players have achieved a career best alongside Billy Kolinske

**Eric Beranek** – age 25 – 6'0" – hometown Redondo Beach, Calif. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Orange Coast College

- This is Beranek's 26th AVP event... he has played with 14 different partners
- His best finish was a 3rd place with Billy Kolinske in Manhattan Beach 2019... in that event, the duo not only had to win 3 qualifier matches to reach the main draw, they also lost their first round match and had to win 6 straight contender's bracket matches (including 4 that went three sets) to reach the semifinals

**Avery Drost** – age 34 – 6'5" – hometown Redlands, Calif. – currently Redondo Beach, Calif. – Westmont College

- Drost is playing in his 68th AVP Tournament... he has played with 25 different partners in his career... he played 12 times with Chase Frishman, and no more than 5 times with any other partner
- He has a best of 3rd, which he has done 4 times with 3 different partners (New York City 2015 with Billy Kolinske, Seattle 2016 with Gregg Weaver, New York City 2016 with Billy Kolinske, and Hermosa Beach 2017 with Chase Frishman)