

Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, September 3, 2022 – Match 5

12:25 pm – #1 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske vs #4 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint

Head to Head

- Cheng / Flint won the first 3 prior meetings but Hughes / Kolinske won in the finals of Manhattan Beach... all have come in the last 2 months
- Flint and Kolinske were teammates for 19 AVP events (2 wins, 3 2nds) and 10 international tournaments (2 golds)
- Cheng and Hughes were teammates for 9 AVP tournaments (1 win, 1 2nd, 2 3rds) and 11 international tournaments (best of 5th twice)

Hughes / Kolinske are playing together for the 6th time on the AVP Tour and 12th time overall

- They played in 6 FIVB events this year, improving from 9th to 5th to winning a gold medal in the Itapema (Brazil) Challenge on April 17... the duo also placed 5th in the World Championships in Rome in June
- In capturing the FIVB title in April, the duo beat 5 Olympians, including 2016 Silver Medalist Barbara Seixas
- On the AVP they placed 5th in Austin and then 3rd in 3 straight events (New Orleans, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta) before winning in Manhattan Beach
- 5 of their 8 match losses this season have come to teams seeded either first, second or third... 6 of their 8 losses have come to teams with at least one beach Olympian
- On the AVP Tour they are 19-8 in matches, including 17-0 when winning the first set and 1-8 when losing the first set... they are 1-0 in one-set matches and 4-2 in three-set matches
- Currently have the top spot in the qualifying for the AVP Championships in Phoenix

Sara Hughes – age 27 – 6’2” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Hughes’ 33rd AVP event with 8 different partners... she has 4 wins, 4 seconds and 11 thirds... her very first win came in Chicago 2017 (Hughes and Kelly Cheng became the youngest team to ever win an AVP title... Hughes was 22 1/2 years old while Cheng was two weeks shy of turning 22)
- Hughes has been in the semifinals in 19 of her 32 AVP events (59%), and in the championship match 7 times (25%)
- Hughes got her first 3 AVP wins consecutively (2017 season-ender, first two events of 2018) during a span in which she advanced to the semifinals in 8 straight AVP tournaments and 5 straight finals
- Hughes has a 17-5 career record in Chicago... she has finished worse each time however (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th)

Kelley Kolinske – age 30 – 6’2” – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently Jamul, Calif. – Pepperdine

- Kolinske is playing in her 38th AVP Tournament with 4 different partners... she has 4 wins, 3 seconds, 7 thirds... her victories came in 2015 (Mason), 2017 (San Francisco), 2019 (Seattle) and 2022 (Manhattan Beach)
- Kolinske played just once in 2014 (9th place), but since then has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of the last 8 seasons, including to a championship match in 5 different years
- Billy Kolinske proposed to Kelley Larsen on stadium court in Chicago in August 2019... they were then married in 2020
- Kolinske has reached the semifinals in Chicago twice with two different partners
- Kolinske has been in the semifinals in 6 of her last 7 AVP tournaments (exception was Austin 2022)

Cheng / Flint are playing together for the 7th time on the AVP Tour and 11th time overall

- The duo placed 7th in Atlanta (losing in a one-set match), which was their only AVP event in which they did not advance to the semifinals
- Together they have a 24-6 match record on the AVP... they are 19-0 when winning the first set and 5-5 when losing the first set... they are 0-1 in one-set matches and 9-2 in three-set matches

- They have been in the semifinals in 5 AVP tournaments this year, tied with Julia Scoles / Geena Urango for the most
- Currently have the 4th spot for the AVP Championships in Phoenix

Kelly Cheng – age 26 – 6’2” – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Cheng’s 33rd AVP event with her 5th different partner
- Cheng has won 2 times (Chicago 2017 and New Orleans 2022), placed 2nd 7 times, and placed 3rd 15 times... she has advanced to the semifinals in 24 of her 32 AVP events (75% of the tournaments completed)
- Cheng has played in 9 different states on the AVP Tour, and has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of them
- Cheng has played in at least 1 AVP championship match in each of the past 7 seasons (2016-2022)... the only partner she did not play in a title match with was Brandie Wilkerson (played one event, finished 7th)

Betsi Flint – age 30 – 5’10” – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Los Angeles, Calif. – Loyola Marymount

- This is Flint’s 43rd AVP event with her 4th different partner
- Flint has won 6 AVP titles, 8 seconds and 5 thirds... her wins came in 2015, 2017, 2018 (twice), 2019 and 2022... she has won with each of her partners except Jane Chafeh (played once, finished 13th)
- She has advanced to the semifinals in 19 of her 42 completed AVP events (45% of the events completed)
- Flint finished in 17th place in New Orleans 2015 with Kelley Kolinske... that is the only AVP tournament in her career that she did not play in the main draw
- Last year in Chicago Emily Day and Betsi Flint had to pull out due to a family emergency