

## Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021 – Match 5

### 12:25 pm – #1 Alix Klineman / April Ross vs. #4 Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson

#### Head to Head

- Klineman / Ross lead the series 5-0, with the last 4 meetings being sweeps... the two teams met for the title in the first Long Beach event of 2020

**Klineman / Ross** are playing together for the 17th time on the AVP Tour and 42nd time overall

- The duo has won 11 times on the AVP Tour, to go with 3 second-place finishes and 2 third-place finishes
- They have also won 6 FIVB titles including the Tokyo Olympics
- In 4 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 73-5 (93.6%) in matches, 62-2 (96.9%) when winning the first set, 10-3 (76.9%) when losing the first set, and 19-3 (86.4%) in three-set matches... they have won the last 51 times matches when winning the first set (last loss was in the 2018 Hermosa Beach finals against Sara Hughes / Summer Ross)
- The duo enters this match having won the last 19 AVP matches (last lost in the finals in Honolulu 2019 to Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan 21-19, 21-17) and their last 4 AVP tournaments

**Alix Klineman** – age 31 – 6’5” – hometown Manhattan Beach, Calif. – currently Manhattan Beach, Calif. – Stanford

- This is Klineman’s 29th AVP event... she has won 11 times, all with Ross
- In 2020 Klineman led the Tour in hitting percentage (.465) and was tied for 3rd in blocks (1.1 per set)... in 2021 entering Chicago she is 2nd in aces (1.09 per set)

**April Ross** – age 39 – 6’1” – hometown Newport Beach, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- Ross is playing in her 108th AVP Tournament... she has 40 wins with 6 different partners
- She has advanced to the semifinals in 78 of her 107 AVP tournaments (72.9% of tournaments entered)
- Since getting her first AVP win in 2009, she has won an AVP title in 11 straight years (excluding 2011 when she did not play on the AVP)... she has led or tied for the most AVP victories in 9 of those seasons
- In 2021 entering Chicago she is 4th in digs (6.09 per set)

**Hughes / Wilkerson** are playing together for the 8th time on the AVP Tour with a best of 2nd in Long Beach 2020

- The team has advanced to the semifinals in 4 of their 7 previous AVP tournaments together
- In 3 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 20-14 (58.8%) in matches, 16-2 (88.9%) when winning the first set, 4-12 (25%) when losing the first set, and 7-3 (70%) in three-set matches... 7 of their 14 match losses have come against teams seeded either #1 or #2

**Sara Hughes** – age 26 – 5’10” – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern California

- This is Hughes’ 27th AVP event... she has 3 wins, 4 2nds and 8 3rds... last win was Hermosa Beach 2018
- Hughes has been in the semifinals in 15 of her 26 AVP events (58% of the tournaments entered), and in the championship match 7 times (27% of the time)
- Hughes’ AVP career began with 3 events losing in the qualifier, then advanced to the semis in 4 of her next 7 AVP tournaments, then won 3 consecutive times, then reached the semis in 8 of her past 13 AVP events
- In 2020 Hughes ranked 5th on the Tour in digs (6.73 per set) and entering Chicago she is 3rd in digs (6.33)

**Brandie Wilkerson** – age 29 – 5’10” – hometown Lausanne, Switzerland – currently Toronto, Canada

- Wilkerson is playing in her 15th AVP Tournament, with 3 second-place finishes and 3 third-place finishes
- Wilkerson did not advance from the qualifier in either of her first two AVP events, then placed second in Manhattan Beach 2017 with Nicole Branagh... in that tournament they had to win 5 contender’s bracket matches to reach the semifinals
- In her AVP career, she has lost 24 main draw matches, 13 of those were against teams seeded #1 or #2
- In 2020 Wilkerson led the Tour in blocks (1.69 per set) and aces (0.92 per set)... entering Chicago she is 2nd in blocks (1.67) and is 4th in hitting percentage (.481)