

Manhattan Beach – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021 – Match 6

2:25 pm – #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil vs #3 Emily Day / Betsi Flint

Head to Head

- Claes / Sponcil lead the series 5-1... 4 of the 6 meetings have required a third set... Day / Flint's victory came in the semifinals in Chicago in 2019

Claes / Sponcil are playing together for the 9th time on the AVP Tour and 33rd time overall

- The team has a best of 2nd three times on the AVP Tour (including in Atlanta), but has 2 FIVB wins
- In 2020 the duo had a 6-5 match record, with 3 losses to Alix Klineman / April Ross and 2 losses to Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson
- In their partnership Claes / Sponcil have only had one AVP tournament in which they have not advanced to the semifinals (placed 5th in the second Long Beach event last year after losing a pair of three-set matches to the event's top two seeded teams)
- As partners on the AVP Tour, the duo has a 26-15 (63.4%) match record, is 25-4 (86.2%) when winning the first set, 1-11 (8.3%) when losing the first set, and is 5-7 (41.7%) in three-set matches

Kelly Claes – age 25 – 6'2" – hometown Placentia, Calif. – currently Fullerton, Calif. – Southern California

- This is Claes' 25th AVP event... she has 1 win, 5 seconds and 12 thirds
- Claes has been in the semifinals in 18 of her 24 AVP events (75% of the tournaments entered)
- Claes won her AVP title in Chicago 2017 when she was 21 years old... she has since played 15 AVP tournaments (before Manhattan Beach) without being able to secure her second AVP victory
- In 2020 Claes led the Tour in kills (9.0 per set), was 3rd in hitting percentage (.444) and 5th in blocks (0.9)

Sarah Sponcil – age 24 – 5'10" – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Phoenix, Ariz. – Loyola Marymount / UCLA

- Sponcil is playing in her 15th AVP Tournament, with 4 second-place finishes and 4 third-place finishes
- Sponcil reached the championship match in her 2nd ever AVP tournament (Austin 2018)
- In 2020 Sponcil was tied for 5th on the Tour in digs (6.7 per set)

Day / Flint are playing together for the 15th time on the AVP Tour and for the 34th time overall... The pair has won 3 AVP titles and 1 FIVB title

- Day and Flint are back together after Flint did not compete in the 2020 AVP season (Day played the 3 events with Lauren Fendrick)
- In their careers the duo is 49-22 (69.0%) in AVP matches, 41-6 (87.2%) when winning the first set, 7-16 (30.4%) when losing the first set, and 14-11 (56.0%) in three-set matches
- The pair finished the 2019 season by playing in the finals in 3 of the last 5 AVP events
- Atlanta marked the 4th time in their partnership that the duo was seeded #1 in an AVP tournament... in the others they won, finished seventh, won, then placed 5th in Atlanta

Emily Day – age 34 – 6'1" – hometown Torrance, Calif. – currently Hermosa Beach, Calif. – Loyola Marymount

- Day is playing in her 64th career AVP tournament with 9 AVP wins and has played with 14 different partners
- In 2020 Day ranked 2nd on the Tour in kills per set (8.50) and 4th in hitting percentage (.436)
- Day has won at least one AVP title in 6 of the last 8 seasons

Betsi Flint – age 29 – 5'10" – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Los Angeles, Calif. – Loyola Marymount

- Playing in her 35th career AVP tournament with 5 AVP wins
- Since giving birth to her daughter Cora in 2020, Flint has played one tournament, finishing 9th in an FIVB event with Day in Chetumal, Mexico in November 2020