

Austin – Stadium Court Notes – Saturday, May 7, 2022 – Match 8

4:40 pm – #2 Andy Benesh / Phil Dalhausser vs. #3 Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk

Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams but the players have had previous meetings:
 - Brunner swept Benesh in both of their previous meetings (both last season)
 - Schalk swept Benesh in both of their previous meetings (both last season)
 - This will mark the 25th meeting ever between Dalhausser and Brunner... Dalhausser leads 19-5
 - Dalhausser leads the series with Schalk 16-5 all-time

Benesh / Dalhausser are playing together for the 1st time ever

- The duo becomes the first domestic team ever with both players at least 6'9" tall
- In terms of combined height, Benesh and Dalhausser are tied for 2nd all time amongst U.S. teams... Ryan Doherty (7'1") and Casey Patterson (6'6") were the tallest, while Ryan Doherty (7'1") / John Hyden (6'5") and Andrew Fuller (6'10") / Stafford Slick (6'8") are tied with Benesh and Dalhausser

Andy Benesh – age 27 – 6'9" – hometown Ranch Palos Verdes, Calif. – currently Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. – USC

- Benesh is playing in his 20th career AVP tournament
- Austin marks the 5th time in his career that he has been seeded directly into the main draw
- Benesh has placed 3rd in each of his last two tournaments, the first two semifinals of his career... in both of them, he (and Billy Allen) lost to the top-seeded duo Chase Budinger / Casey Patterson

Phil Dalhausser – age 42 – 6'9" – hometown Baden, Switzerland – currently Newbury Park, Calif. – Central Florida

- This is Dalhausser's 146th AVP event, winning 59 titles (plus 38 FIVB wins and 1 NVL victory)... he has 21 seconds, 21 thirds and 1 fourth... he has been in the finals in 80 of his 144 AVP tournaments (56%)
- Since winning in Austin in 2005, Dalhausser won at least one title (AVP or FIVB) in 16 straight seasons before last year
- Dalhausser has won 3 times in Austin, all with Nick Lucena (2005, 2017, 2018)

Brunner / Schalk are playing together for the 4th time on the AVP Tour and the 16th 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)

Theo Brunner – age 37 – 6'7" – hometown Ridgefield, Conn. – currently Torrance, Calif. – Cal-Santa Barbara

- This is Brunner's 57th AVP event and has played with 15 different partners... he has advanced to the semis with 6 different partners
- 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
- Brunner has led the tour in blocks in 3 of the last 4 years and in hitting percentage in both of the last 2 seasons

Chaim Schalk – age 36 – 6'5" – hometown Red Deer, Alberta, Canada – currently Gardena, Calif.

- Schalk is playing in his 27th AVP Tournament, and has played with 7 different partners (and advanced to the semis with 5 of them)
- Schalk has 1 win (in Seattle 2019 with Jeremy Casebeer), 3 second-place finishes and 7 third-place finishes
- 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