

Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021 – Match 1

9:00 am – #4 Sara Hughes / Brandie Wilkerson vs #12 (Q5) Larissa Franca Maestrini / Lililane Maestrini

Head to Head

- These two teams played twice before, both times in Manhattan Beach last event... both went to a third set and the two teams split the meetings

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 20-15 (57.1%) in matches, 16-2 (88.9%) when winning the first set, 4-13 (23.5%) when losing the first set, and 7-3 (70%) in three-set matches... 8 of their 15 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 25 main draw matches, 14 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)

Larissa / Lili are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour... they finished 21st in Atlanta and then 3rd in Manhattan Beach

- The married couple has played most of its matches in a win or go home situation... in their AVP partnership entering this match, they have played 17 matches (13-4)... this will be their 15th must-win match in what will be their 18th match
- They are 8-0 when winning the first set and 5-4 when losing the first set... they are 5-1 in three-set matches (have won the last 5 straight)
- In their careers (outside of Brazilian National Tour play), they faced each other 3 times, with Larissa winning each time (in 2012, 2014 and 2017)

Larissa Franca Maestrini – age 39 – 5’9” – hometown Cachoeiro de Itapemirim-Es, Brazil – currently Celebration, Fla.

- This is Larissa’s 4th AVP event... she has 1 win (Glendale 2009 with Juliana Felisberta) and 1 third place
- Larissa is the career wins leader on the FIVB Tour (62) and the Brazilian National Tour (84)... her last FIVB win was in July 2017 (beat Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan in Poland)
- Larissa is a three-time Olympian (won bronze in 2012) and a 2011 World Champion (won five World Championship medals in her career)

Liliane Maestrini – age 33 – 6’0” – hometown Vitoria, Brazil. – currently Celebration, Fla.

- This is Lili’s 3rd AVP event in her career
- She has 2 FIVB wins, and they came in consecutive weeks in June 2018