

# Fort Lauderdale – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, July 31, 2022 – SEMIFINALS

## 11:15 am – #3 Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske vs #8 Tina Graudina / Hailey Harward

### Head to Head

- This is the first meeting between the teams
- Hughes' last season at USC was 2017, while Graudina began in 2018
- Harward has never played either of her two opponents today
- Hughes defeated Graudina in both earlier meetings (FIVB in 2018), winning 22-24, 27-25, 17-15 and then 21-16, 21-13
- Kolinske played twice against Graudina internationally (both in 2019), winning in sweeps both times (21-13, 21-18 and 21-14, 21-19)

**Hughes / Kolinske** are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour and 9th 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 Tour they have an 8-5 match record... they are 8-0 when winning the first set and 0-5 when losing the first set... they are 2-2 in three set matches

**Sara Hughes** – age 27 – 6'2" – hometown Costa Mesa, Calif. – currently Costa Mesa, Calif. – Southern Cal

- This is Hughes' 30th AVP event with 8 different partners... she has 3 wins, 4 seconds and 9 thirds... last win was Hermosa Beach 2018
- Hughes has now been in the semifinals in 17 of her 30 AVP events (57%), and in the championship match 7 times (24%)
- 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 next 10 AVP events... she then went 5 straight tournaments with a 5th place or lower (longest streak of her career) before her 3rd place finish last event in Hermosa Beach

**Kelley Kolinske** – age 30 – 6'2" – hometown San Diego, Calif. – currently Jamul, Calif. – Pepperdine

- Kolinske is playing in her 35th AVP Tournament with 4 different partners... she has 3 wins, 3 seconds, 5 thirds... her victories came in 2015, 2017 and 2019
- 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 4 different years... she is looking to return to an AVP finals for the first time since Long Beach 2020 event # 1

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**Graudina / Harward** are playing together for the 1st time ever

- The duo is trying to replicate the success Kloth and Nuss had last year in Atlanta, winning in their first event together... Kloth / Nuss were the 12th women's team since the start of the 2001 season to win in their first time as partners on the AVP Tour

**Tina Graudina** – age 24 – 6'0" – hometown Riga, Latvia – currently Los Angeles, Calif. – Southern Cal

- Graudina is playing in her 2nd AVP event ever (placed 9th in Manhattan Beach 2021 with Megan Kraft)

**Hailey Harward** – age 24 – 5'9" – hometown Phoenix, Ariz. – currently Phoenix, Ariz. – Long Beach State

- This is Harward's 10th AVP event with her 8th different partner
- New Orleans 2022 was her career best (3rd place with Emily Day)... the duo reached the semifinals despite losing their first round match, winning 4 straight contender's bracket matches (one by forfeit)