

## Manhattan Beach – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021 – Match 3

### 11:10 am – #1 Alix Klineman / April Ross vs #2 Kelly Claes / Sarah Sponcil

#### Head to Head

- Klineman / Ross lead the all-time series 8-1, but Claes / Sponcil won the last meeting (in Sochi in May 2021, 21-18, 19-21, 15-7)... prior to that meeting, just once did a match go three sets

**Klineman / Ross** are playing together for the 16th time on the AVP Tour and 41st time overall

- The duo has won 10 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
- On the AVP Tour, they are 69-5 (93.2%) in matches, 58-2 (96.6%) when winning the first set, including winning the last 47 times that has happened (last loss was in the 2018 Hermosa Beach finals against Sara Hughes / Summer Ross), 10-3 (76.9%) when losing the first set, 19-3 (86.4%) in three-set matches

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

- This is Klineman’s 28th AVP event... she has won 10 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)

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

- Ross is playing in her 107th AVP Tournament... she has 39 wins with 6 different partners
- She has now 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

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**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 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)
- Claes / Sponcil won 39-37 in the first set of their match to get into the semifinals... that set the AVP record for the highest scoring women’s set ever (previously 35-33 on four occasions)... the international record (for men or women) is 42-40 by Kerri Walsh Jennings / Misty May-Treanor against Larissa Franca / Juliana Felisberta in Acapulco on October 30, 2005
- As partners on the AVP Tour, the duo has a 27-16 (62.8%) match record, is 26-4 (86.7%) when winning the first set, 1-12 (7.7%) 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 now been in the semifinals in 19 of her 25 AVP events (76% 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)