



2022 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Season Event #5 • Tour Series Event #3

Oshkosh, Wisconsin • July 7 – 9, 2022

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – For the first time since July 1988, the AVP Tour is holding concurrent events, as this Tour Series Event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin overlaps with the Pro Series Event in Hermosa Beach, California. Waupaca is the fifth tournament of 2022 and the third Tour Series event on the 2022 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour calendar. While this tournament offers players a chance at both prize money and points, it also serves as a qualifier for a Gold Series event in Manhattan Beach, California, from August 18-21. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$50,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals \$1,975,000 for the AVP, which is in its 39th season.

- The main draw will be a 24-team, double elimination format. The top 16 teams from the men are granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four domestic or international results in a window defined by the six most recent consecutive Pro Series and Gold Series events offered). The remaining eight teams in each gender can earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event on Thursday, July 7. For the women, the top 21 teams are in via points. A total of 47 men's teams and six women's teams will be in the qualifier. The main draw begins on Friday, July 8 and concludes on Saturday, July 9, and will be played on six courts at Brighton Acres. General admission is free throughout the tournament. The championship matches will be around 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm CT. Live streaming of stadium court takes place Saturday and Sunday on the AVP's YouTube channel (@avpbeach). David Shaw will handle the announcing duties with Victoria Dennis joining him for the semifinals and championship matches.

OSHKOSH'S OUSTANDING – The winners of the first Tour Series event in Muskegon, Michigan, Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez, have earned the top seeds in Oshkosh. Palm had begun the season with the intention of playing with Mark Burik, but a last minute injury to Burik before the season opener in Austin Palm replacing him with Rodriguez. The duo again qualified for the next event in New Orleans and then won in Muskegon. Even when Burik was able to return to play, Palm and Rodriguez stayed together, and this will be the fifth event for them this season. As a pair they lost their first two matches, then won eight in a row, but then lost two consecutive matches to end their bid for the title in Denver. These two players are the only ones here who have previously won an AVP title.

- Karly Kan and Kaitlyn Leary are the top women's seeds in Oshkosh despite this being just their third AVP tournament as partners ever. Last week in Denver the duo advanced all the way to the championship match but fell to Larissa and Lili Maestrini in the finals. As the top seeds, the duo has history on its side both of the first two women's Tour Series events have been won by the team seeded first in the tournament. These two women both live in Honolulu, while both the men's players on the number one-seeded team live in Florida, and both teams are going to the Midwest to try and capture a title.

HOMETOWN HEROES –

- There are three men's players who list Wisconsin as their current residence:

Max Martin (New Berlin), Tomas Goldsmith (Milwaukee), Clint Smith (River Falls)

- There are two men's players who currently live in a different state but lists their hometowns in Wisconsin:

Jordan Hoppe (Greenfield), Spencer Loch (Madison)

- Of the colleges known, there are four men's player who attended a college in Wisconsin:

Adam Baltz (Wisconsin-La Crosse), Tomas Goldsmith (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Adam Homan (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Spencer Loch (Wisconsin-La Crosse)

- There is one women's player who lists Wisconsin as her current residence:

Mariah Whalen (Wausau)

- There is one women's player who currently lives in a different state but lists her hometown in Wisconsin:

Jade Race (Milwaukee)

- Of the colleges known, there is one women's player who attended a college in Wisconsin:

Jade Race (Wisconsin)

SCHEDULE SNAPSHOT – The 2022 AVP schedule looks vastly different than years past in several regards. This season's slate has 16 tour stops, the most the AVP has had since 2009 (also 16 that year), and more than the past 3 years combined. While there have been several years with more men's events, the 16 women's tournaments has been surpassed just twice (18 in both 2007 and 2008). The 12 different states that the Tour is visiting is the most since the 2008 season (also 12 different states). Two tournaments will be held in November, which marks a first for the AVP Tour, as previously October was the latest that an event has ever been held up to this point. Three locations are slated to have night sessions (New Orleans, Atlanta, and Phoenix). The combined total of \$1,975,000 in prize money also features the most the Tour has distributed since 2009. This season the AVP has stopped using freeze scoring on match points.

- The Tour is divided into four different classifications. One level is the Tour Series, which comprises seven different events in seven different states from June to November. These events will all have on-site qualifiers the day before the main draw begins. The Pro Series has five events from May through September, including the Tour's first two tournament of the year. Unlike in years past, these tournaments will not have an on-site qualifier. Instead, the first two events will use AVPNext tournaments to round out the field, while the last three will rely on specific Tour Series tournaments to determine the final teams. Once again the Gold Series, with three events, will be held towards the end of the season, as the three this year will be in August and September. Each of the three will have a different manner of qualifying. Atlanta will use a Tour Series event, Manhattan Beach will have an on-site qualifier the day before, and Chicago will use an AVPNext tournament. The last type of event is the AVP championships, which will be held in Phoenix in September. Entry for the six-team draws will be based on the best two out of the three results in Gold Series events.

2022 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

Event Dates	Location	Tournament Format	Prize \$ - TV
May 6 - 8	Austin, Texas	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>Andy Benesh gets first career win (with Phil Dalhausser); Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss collect 2nd career win</i>
May 27 - 29	New Orleans, Louisiana	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>Phil Dalhausser / Casey Patterson win in their first event together; Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint win in hostile territory</i>
June 10 - 12	Muskegon, Michigan	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez win; Larissa Maestrini (with Lili Maestrini) gets first AVP win since 2009</i>
July 1 - 3	Denver, Colorado	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>Andy Benesh wins again (with Miles Evans) while Larissa and Lili Maestrini get second consecutive title</i>
July 7 - 9	Oshkosh, Wisconsin	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>All previous AVP tournaments in Wisconsin have been in Milwaukee; this is first new AVP city since 2013</i>
July 8 - 10	Hermosa Beach, California	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>Just the fourth time since 2011 that the AVP is playing in Hermosa Beach</i>
July 22 - 24	Atlantic City, New Jersey	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>AVP last played in Atlantic City in 2014; New Jersey is fifth in terms of total AVP tournaments hosted</i>
July 29 - 31	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	16-team double elimination	\$125,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>Three of the first six AVP tournaments ever were held in the state of Florida</i>
Aug 5 - 7	Atlanta, Georgia	16-team double elimination	\$300,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>First Gold Series event of 2022; one of three 2022 locations to have night sessions</i>
Aug 18 - 21	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$300,000–FS1, Bally's, Tennis Ch. <i>Biggest event on the schedule in terms of both main draw and qualifier sizes; Gold Series event #2</i>
Aug 26 - 28	Virginia Beach, Virginia	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>Just the second time since 2002 that the AVP has a tournament in Virginia (along with 2010 in Virginia Beach)</i>
Sep 2 - 4	Chicago, Illinois	16-team double elimination	\$300,000–FS1, Bally's, Tennis Ch. <i>Chicago trails only Manhattan Beach on list of most frequented stops in AVP history; Gold Series event #3</i>
Sep 16 - 18	Atlantic City, New Jersey	16-team double elimination	\$125,000–FS1, Bally's, Tennis Ch. <i>Only city on the 2022 schedule to host two events; first time in AVP history a city outside of California hosts twice</i>
Sep 23 - 24	Phoenix, Arizona	6-team double elimination	\$100,000 – FS1 and Bally's RSN <i>Only invitational on schedule; AVP last played in Arizona in 2009; inaugural AVP event in 1984 was in Arizona</i>
Nov 11 - 13	Huntington Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>Huntington Beach is fourth most frequented stop in AVP history; third California stop on 2022 Tour</i>
Nov 18 - 20	Clearwater, Florida	24-team double elimination	\$50,000 <i>Latest date an AVP tournament has ever been held; Florida held second most AVP events behind California</i>

OSHKOSH HISTORY – This marks the first time ever that the AVP has played in Oshkosh, and it will be the second city in Wisconsin to host an AVP tournament. Milwaukee was a regular stop, hosting events for 12 straight years from 1987-98. The men played all 12 of those years while the women were only in the 1993 and 1994 editions. Since then, a dual-gender even in 2014 has been the only other time the AVP has played in Wisconsin.

WUAPACA SAND BITS – There are 126 men's players competing this weekend, and of the ages known, three are teenagers (18-year old Gage Basey and 19-year olds Adam Hartmann and Caleb Kwekel). Four players are at least 40 years old, Robert Lorch (49), Chris Luers (47), Kristopher Fraser (40) and David Lee (40). Of the heights known, the shortest are 5'9" David Vander Meer and 5'10" Martin Radomski, while at the other end of the spectrum are two 6'9" players (Kyle Radde and Michael Sack) and five players who measure 6'8". Two players have played in at least 100 events, Avery Drost and Roberto Rodriguez, while 21 players are making their pro beach volleyball debut. There are two players here have previously won an AVP title, Roberto Rodriguez (won in Muskegon 2022 and with Ed Ratledge in San Francisco 2018) and Dave Palm (won in Muskegon 2022 with Roberto Rodriguez) and they just happen to be playing together as the number one seeds. Out of 63 partnerships, 38 are competing together for the very first time and just one tandem has previously played more than four times (Ray Birtcher / Dillon Cox six times before Wuapaca).

- There are 54 women playing this weekend, and of the ages known there is one teenager (19-year old Ainsley Patrick) and 40 of the women are in their 20's. On the flip side there are 13 women who are at least 30 years old with the three oldest being Lena Sokolowski (35), Lauren De Turk (34) and Amy Reichel (34). Katie Lindstrom and Jade Race (both 5'4"), Inanna Eshoo (5'5") and Katie Spieler (5'5") are the shortest competitors among the heights known, while at the other end of the spectrum are four players who measure 6'4" (Kylie Deberg, Kathryn Hogan, Jennifer Keddy and Lena Sokolowski). There are nine women's players who are making their pro beach volleyball debuts, while the three most experienced players are Katie Spieler (40th event), Aleksandra Wachowicz (37th) and Katie Lindstrom (30th). No women's player here has ever won on the AVP Tour so we are guaranteed the joy of a first time winner. Of the 27 women's tandems, 18 are playing alongside each other for the first time and just two have played together at least four times previously (Katie Dickens / Jennifer Keddy and Lauren De Turk / Katie Lindstrom are both playing for the fifth time).

IRONMAN AWARDS – Prior to this weekend there have been four AVP tournaments, and just two men's teams have played in all four as partners. Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez, who won in Muskegon and are the top seeds in Wuapaca, and Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske, who have finished second each of the last two events and are seeded ninth in Hermosa Beach.

- On the women's side there are also two teams which have played all four previous tournaments. Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the winners in Muskegon and Denver, are seeded fourth in Hermosa Beach, while Karolina Marciniak / Megan Rice are seeded 11th in Hermosa Beach.

LIVING UP TO THE SEED – Main draw teams seeded first have done quite well lately. Last week in Denver both the men's and women's top-seeded teams won the title, repeating the feat that was also done in New Orleans. Last year one of the three events saw both number one seeds emerge victorious (Chicago), and in the three Long Beach events in 2020 that feat was done twice. That means that in five of the last 10 AVP tournaments, the winners for both genders were the number one seeds. Prior to that stretch, it had happened just five times in a span of 30 events, including just once in 2019 (Huntington Beach).

THE STATE OF THE STATES – Of the 126 male players, 32 currently live in California, 22 in Florida and 10 in Illinois. A total of 22 different states are represented (Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin). Of the 63 men's teams, 37 of them live in the same state as their partner, while 26 teams live in different states. The 16 teams seeded directly into the main draw are equally split, with eight teams residing in the same state and eight in different states.

- The 54 female players are nearly as diverse, with 20 different states represented, with California (12) and Florida (10) leading the pack. Also represented are Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawai'i, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. Between the men and women, a total of 27 states are represented here. There are 27 women's teams and just 12 of them live in the same state. Similar to the men, the top 16 teams are nearly split, as seven of the tandems reside in the same state and nine in different states.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING – The men's qualifiers features a set of brothers playing together (Clark and Jacob Steele). Brothers Gage and Lars Basey, who played together last week in Denver, are now on separate teams in Wuapaca.

2022 QUALIFIER LIST – A good omen for team's seeded first in on-site qualifiers is that for both the men and women, all top-seeded qualifier teams have advanced to the main draw. Here's a look at the teams who have qualified this season (placing in qualifier or qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw:

AUSTIN - Men (qualifier in Panama City, Fla.)

Caleb Kwekel / Marty Lorenz (2nd in QT) – 13th

Mark Burik / Dave Palm (3rd in QT) – 13th

Burik replaced by Roberto Rodriguez in MD

Raffe Paulis / Jeff Samuels (5th in QT) – 13th

Lev Priima / Silila Tucker (5th in QT) – 13th

NEW ORLEANS - Men (qualifier in San Antonio, Texas)

Noah Dyer / Chase Frishman (2nd in QT) – 7th

Skylar del Sol / Andrew Dentler (3rd in QT) – 5th

Lev Priima / Silila Tucker (3rd in QT) – 13th

Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez (5th in QT) – 13th

Cody Caldwell / Adam Roberts (5th in QT) – 13th

Caldwell / Roberts replaced a MD team

MUSKEGON - Men (on-site qualifier)

Kyle Friend / Brandon Joyner (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Christian Honer / David Vander Meer (#3) – 17th

TJ Jurko / Dylan Zacca (#4) – 9th

Nolan Albrecht / Tomas Goldsmith (#6) – 17th

Devon Bruki / John Schwengel (#7) – 17th

Bradley Connors / Brett Greiner (#8) – 13th

Mark Bucknam / Jake Fleming (#12) – 17th

Frank Field / Tyler Penberthy (#15) – 17th

Jurko / Zacca 2 MD losses were to #1, #3 seeds

DENVER - Men (on-site qualifier)

Travis Mewhirter / John-Michael Plummer (#1) – 5th

Caleb Kwekel / Max Martin (#2) – 17th

Brian Miller / Raffe Paulis (#4) – 17th

Angel Dache / Alex Diaz (#5) – 17th

TJ Jurko / Dylan Zacca (#7) – 17th

Gage Basey / Lars Basey (#14) – 17th

Jeffrey Houghton / Trenton Sellers (#22) – 17th

Jordan Hoppe / Diego Perez (#41) – 9th

2nd time since 2015 a seed 41st or lower advanced

AUSTIN - Women (qualifier in Panama City, Fla.)

Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary (2nd in QT) – 13th

Jessica Gaffney / Molly Turner (3rd in QT) – 9th

Toni Rodriguez / Savvy Simo (3rd in QT) – 7th

Aurora Davis / Teegan Van Gunst (5th in QT) – 9th

Carly Skjodt / Geena Urango (5th in QT) – 9th

Skjodt / Urango replaced a MD team

NEW ORLEANS - Women (qualifier in San Antonio)

Jessica Gaffney / Molly Turner (1st in QT) – 9th

Toni Rodriguez / Savvy Simo (3rd in QT) – 5th

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton (3rd in QT) – 9th

Mackenzie Ponnet / Chelsea Rice (5th in QT) – 9th

Macy Jerger / Abby Van Winkle (5th in QT) – 13th

Megan Gebhard / Kahlee York (5th in QT) – 13th

Last 2 teams replaced MD teams

MUSKEGON - Women (on-site qualifier)

Ashley McGinn / Sarah Wood (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Makenzie Griffin / Eunyce Vercosa (#2) – 17th

Tambre Nobles / Melissa Powell (#3) – 17th

Jenna Johnson / Raelyn White (#5) – 13th

Kaeli Crews / Lexie Hamilton (#7) – 17th

Denise De Vine / Anna Dunbar (#9) – 17th

Kylie Bryan / Jessica Jendryk (#11) – 17th

Kylie Deberg / Kahlee York (#13) – 17th

14-year old Wood youngest to ever qualify

DENVER - Women (on-site qualifier)

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton (#1 QT seed) – 13th

Tiffany Creamer / Megan Gebhard (#2) – 17th

Josephine Kremer / Payton Rund (#5) – 17th

Iya Lindahl / Tessa Van Winkle (#6) – 17th

Olivia Beyer / Maria Kliefloth (#9) – 17th

Kaylie McHugh / Kristi Tekavec (#14) – 17th

Charlie Ekstrom / Amy Ozee (#20) – 17th

Taylor Nutterfield / Avery Poppinga (#23) – 13th

Two teams seeded 20th or lower advance for the first time since Manhattan Beach 2019

AUSTIN ANALYSIS – The first day of the AVP season opener in Austin was a bit of a surprise, as despite the numerous new pairings all 24 matches between the two genders were all won by the teams with the better seedings. There was quite the divergence in the two genders' winning teams though. On the women's side, Taryn Kloth and 5'6" Kristen Nuss won (who last year became the shortest women's player to win an AVP event since 5'6" Barbra Fontana won an AVP event in August 2001 in Manhattan Beach). On the men's side, the first domestic team ever to play in which both players were at least 6'9" tall paired up for the first time and won the title (Andy Benesh and Phil Dalhausser).

- Especially with the start to the tournament which saw no upsets on Friday, and with #1 seeds winning five of the prior six AVP events, it seemed quite likely that top-seeded Melisaa Humana-Paredes and Sarah Pavan were on course to winning in Austin. The pair lost just one set in reaching the title match, and would face Kloth and Nuss, who were playing their third match of the day in the Texas heat, which saw the heat index over 100 degrees. The youngsters took an 18-13 lead before the Canadian pair closed the gap to 20-18, but Kloth and Nuss prevailed 21-18. In the second set Kloth and Nuss scored five straight points early and cruised to a 21-13 win for their second career victory.

- The top four men's seeds advanced to the semifinals for the first time since Austin 2017 (since then the AVP had 29 tournaments without that happening). Benesh and Dalhausser lost just two sets en route to winning the title, the first ever for Benesh. Dalhausser won an AVP season opener for the ninth time in his career (most ever by any player) and got his 60th career AVP title. And his success in Texas continued, as he has won seven of the nine times he has played an AVP event in Texas, with a 42-4 match record (winning 38 of the last 39). Chase Budinger and Troy Field, also a team playing together for the first time, had swept all four opponents leading up to the championship match. In the first set of the title match, Budinger and Field held a 19-17 lead, but Benesh had one block and Dalhausser had a pair of blocks in closing out the set on a 4-0 run.

#6 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss def. #1 Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan 21-18, 21-13 (:42)

#1 Andy Benesh / Phil Dalhausser def. #4 Chase Budinger / Troy Field 21-19, 21-18 (:52)

NEW ORLEANS NOTATIONS – The big storyline about the AVP Tour returning to New Orleans for the first time since 2016 was the connections to the area, especially on the women's side. Four of the 32 women's players had competed in beach volleyball at LSU, including both players on the second-seeded tandem of Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss.

- None of the men's teams competing in New Orleans had ever won an AVP title together, so it came down to individual experience. And the team with the most experience (both in terms of age and AVP titles) was the tandem of Phil Dalhausser and Casey Patterson, who were seeded first and playing together for the first time as well. The duo was the sixth oldest to ever play in an AVP main draw, but they were the strongest on Sunday when it mattered the most. In the semifinals and championship match on Sunday, Dalhausser had 10 blocks and five aces, while Patterson had 55 kills and 26 digs. The duo outlasted third-seeded Taylor Crabb and Taylor Sander in three sets after the Taylors won the first set and led 17-15 in the second set.

- The partisan crowd got what it wanted with former LSU stars Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss advancing to the championship match. However the team across the net, Kelly Cheng and Betsi Flint, was seeded first for a reason. Cheng and Flint played a nearly flawless match, as Cheng hit an outstanding .720 (20 kills in 25 attempts with just 2 hitting errors) and Flint hit .533 with eight digs. Uncharacteristically, Kloth had just one block in the match and Nuss only six digs. Cheng / Flint took a 4-3 lead in the first set and didn't trail in the match after that point.

#1 Phil Dalhausser / Casey Patterson def. #3 Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander 17-21, 21-19, 15-13 (1:07)

#1 Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint def. #2 Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss 21-15, 21-15 (:37)

MUSKEGON'S MEMORIES – The AVP Tour was making history with its first ever Tour Series Event in Muskegon, Michigan. But on the first day that history was overshadowed by a 14-year old. Sarah Wood, at the age of 14 years, 1 month and 16 days old, became the youngest player (male or female) to advance from the qualifier into an AVP main draw, beating the previous mark by over two years.

- The men's championship match featured two teams that reached the title match undefeated, but not without some serious tests. Second seeded Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske won four matches, three of them in three sets, to reach the finals. Across the net was ninth-seeded Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez, who had teamed up this season only due to a late injury to Palm's partner before the season opener. Palm and Rodriguez won a pair of three-set matches, and in the title match were playing their fourth straight match against a team seeded fourth or better. Palm and Rodriguez won the first set handily, 21-14, then held off Cory and Kolinske 26-24 in the second to capture the title. In that second set neither team led by more than two points and there were 16 ties. Palm had seven blocks in the match.

- The women weren't done making history in the qualifier. Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the top seeds in the event, won the title and in doing so make Larissa the first woman at least 40 years old to win a domestic event since 2009. The couple achieved the mark by beating seventh-seeded Julia Scoles and Geena Urango as Lili had four blocks and Larissa added 13 kills and 14 digs. Urango, who had five aces in the semifinal match, was unable to register any in the finals.

#1 Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini def. #7 Julia Scoles / Geena Urango 21-17, 21-16 (:46)

#9 Dave Palm / Roberto Rodriguez def. #2 Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske 21-14, 26-24 (:48)

DENVER DOCUMENTED – The AVP Tour played at altitude for the first time since 2008 with a Tour Series event in Denver. And just like the towering Rocky Mountains in the backdrop, the top teams were able to peak with their performance as the number one seeds won in both genders. That was a bit of a surprise as early on the results indicated something very different. On Saturday, there were 36 main draw matches for each gender. The men had 11 upsets and 19 three-set matches, while the women had 12 upsets and 18 three-set matches. But in the end, the top teams prevailed.

- Andy Benesh was seeded number one and was the tallest (tied) player in the event at 6'9". He was also playing his fourth AVP tournament of the year with a fourth different partner. Joining him on the sand this event was Miles Evans, who had previously advanced to one AVP semifinal in his career (second in Hermosa Beach 2019 with Ryan Doherty). The duo suffered a loss in the first round, then had to win six straight elimination matches to reach the championship match, which they won. In that stretch of must-wins, they beat Phil Dalhausser, won in the rematch against the team which defeated them in the first round, and beat the number three and four seeds in the semis and finals. Across the net in the finals were Evan Cory and Billy Kolinske. Kolinske and Evans had been teammates for 30 international events. Benesh had four blocks and three aces in the title match, while Evans had 23 kills and 15 digs, while Cory had 13 kills and 12 digs and Kolinske had five blocks.

- Larissa and Lili Maestrini, the top seeds in the event, continued to live up to their billing. Although they weren't immune to the upset bug, losing to the 13th-seeded team, they rebounded with consecutive wins over the teams seeded second and third to reach the championship match. The semifinal was a rematch of the Muskegon championship match against Julia Scoles and Geena Urango, and it did not disappoint, with Larissa and Lili winning 18-16 in the third set. In the finals they faced a team playing for just the second time on the AVP Tour, Carly Kan and Kaitlyn Leary. Larissa and Lili trailed just once in the match, at 1-0 in the second set, cruising to a second consecutive title. Larissa had eight digs and two aces while Lili was outstanding all round, hitting .600 (18 kills with just three hitting errors) and adding three blocks and two aces. Kan had 12 kills, six digs and one block while Leary had eight kills.

#1 Larissa Maestrini / Lili Maestrini def. #7 Carly Kan / Kaitlyn Leary 21-13, 21-13 (:33)

#1 Andy Benesh / Miles Evans def. #4 Evan Cory / Billy Kolinske 22-20, 21-17 (:47)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Of the birthdays known, no player here will have a birthday during the three-day event.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – The Beach Volleyball World Championships in Rome recently concluded and three AVP regulars reached the semifinals. Canada's Brandie Wilkerson, who played alongside Sophie Bukovec, won a silver medal while Theo Brunner and Chaim Schalk placed fourth. This weekend, in addition to there being two overlapping AVP tournaments, there is also an FIVB Elite 16 event in Gstaad, Switzerland which has pulled several teams (all on the women's side) that usually play on the AVP Tour. Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman are the 10th seeds in Gstaad, followed by 11th-seeded Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss. Brandie Wilkerson, who is representing Canada alongside partner Sophie Bukovec, is seeded 19th. Connie Quiggle / Sarah Schermerhorn are the 22nd seeds.

- Here is a look at AVP players / teams which have been in the semifinals of an FIVB event this year:

MEN

Andy Benesh / Miles Evans – Silver Medal – Songkhla, Thailand – April 17

Miles Evans / Logan Webber – Silver Medal – Rhodes, Greece – May 22

Theo Brunner / Chaim Schalk – 4th place – Rome, Italy (World Championships) – June 19

WOMEN

Kelly Cheng / Betsi Flint – 4th Place – Rosarito, Mexico – March 27

Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – Coolangatta, Australia – April 3

Zana Muno / Toni Rodriguez – Bronze Medal – Coolangatta, Australia – April 3

Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske – Gold Medal – Itapema, Brazil – April 17

Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss – Gold Medal – Kusadasi, Turkey – May 22

Terese Cannon / Sarah Sponcil – Bronze Medal – Kusadasi, Turkey – May 22

Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan – Gold Medal – Jurmala, Latvia – June 5

Sara Hughes / Kelley Kolinske – 4th Place – Jurmala, Latvia – June 5

Jessica Gafney / Molly Turner – Bronze Medal – Klaipeda, Lithuania – June 5

Sophie Bukovec / Brandie Wilkerson – Silver Medal – Rome, Italy (World Championships) – June 19

Megan Kraft / Savvy Simo – Gold Medal – Balikesir, Turkey – June 19

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton – Silver Medal – Balikesir, Turkey – June 19

Megan Kraft / Emily Stockman – Gold Medal – Bialystok, Poland – June 26

Brook Bauer / Katie Horton – 4th Place – Bialystok, Poland – June 26

NEXT UP – Following this week of concurrent events, the AVP will take a one-week respite before heading to Atlantic City for the fourth Tour Series event on July 22-24. Like this tournament, there will be an on-site qualifier on Friday, then the two-day main draw will feature 24 teams from both genders. Importantly, this event will also serve as the qualifier for the Gold Series event in Atlanta in August.