

AVP League – Week #1 Notes (Sat) – Sep. 14-15 at UCLA Tennis Center, Los Angeles, Calif.

Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes (New York Nitro) vs Terese Cannon / Megan Kraft (Brooklyn Blaze)

- These two teams have played 2 times previously, both this season... Cheng / Hughes won both, in a sweep in Huntington Beach and then in a come-from-behind three-set match in Manhattan Beach

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/17/24	AVP	Manhattan Beach Heritage Series	Contender 6	Cheng/Hughes	2	Cannon/Kraft	4	19-21, 21-18, 15-9	0:53
5/17/24	AVP	Huntington Beach Heritage Series	Winner 2	Cheng/Hughes	3	Cannon/Kraft	6	21-19, 21-13	0:47

Cheng / Hughes have played 17 AVP events together since 2014 (partners from 2014-2017 and 2022-2024)

- The duo has won 4 times on the AVP Tour (Chicago 2017, Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series, New Orleans 2023 and Huntington Beach 2023)... they also have 1 second place finish and 8 thirds together
- The two began playing together in 2013 at the FIVB U-19 World Championships in Portugal (won bronze medal)... in 2014 they lost in an AVP qualifier, and won a bronze medal in the FIVB U-21 World Championships in Cyprus... in 2015 they formed a partnership at Southern Cal as sophomores... they competed together on the AVP through the end of the 2017 season before reuniting in Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series
- Cheng and Hughes became the youngest team to ever win an AVP title in Chicago 2017... Hughes was 22 1/2 years old while Cheng was two weeks shy of turning 22
- In 7 seasons as partners on the AVP (including qualifiers), they are 69-22 (75.8%) in matches, 62-6 (91.2%) when winning the first set, 7-16 (30.4%) when losing the first set, and 15-12 (55.6%) in three-set matches
- Cheng has won 4 times (Chicago 2017, New Orleans 2022, New Orleans 2023 and Huntington Beach 2023) plus a win in Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series
- Cheng was the AVP Best Offensive Player in both 2022 and 2023 and the Most Valuable Player in 2022
- Cheng has played in 10 different states on the AVP Tour and has advanced to the semifinals at least once in each of them, and to the championship match in 6 different states
- This season ended an 8-year streak for Cheng for playing in at least 1 AVP championship match a year (last season without a finals appearance was in 2015)
- Hughes has 6 wins (Chicago 2017, New York 2018, Hermosa Beach 2018, Manhattan Beach 2022, New Orleans 2023 and Huntington Beach 2023) plus 1 Tour Series win (Huntington Beach 2022)
- Hughes got her first 3 AVP wins consecutively (2017 season-ender, first two events of 2018) during a span in which she advanced to the semifinals in 8 straight AVP tournaments and 5 straight finals

Cannon / Kraft have played 3 AVP events together since 2024

- The duo finished 5th in all three Heritage Series events this year
- The two players were raised and live in cities about as far apart as possible in the continental U.S. (Cannon in Pittsford, N.Y. and Kraft in San Diego)... although they didn't overlap they do have playing at Southern Cal as a common denominator... Cannon played 2016-2019 at USC while Kraft played 2021-2023
- Both players are twins... Cannon has a twin sister (Maryn) while Kraft has a twin brother (Brian)
- In 1 season as partners on the AVP, they are 6-6 (50%) in matches, 3-2 (60%) when winning the first set, 3-4 (42.9%) when losing the first set, and 4-4 (50%) in three-set matches
- Cannon has 1 win (Hermosa Beach in 2022 with Sarah Sponcil), 1 second (Atlanta 2022 with Sponcil) and 9 thirds
- Cannon was the 2022 AVP Most Improved Player
- Kraft's best finishes have been a pair of 3rd-places, both with Emily Stockman (in the 2022 season opener in New Orleans and in Manhattan Beach 2023)
- In Huntington Beach 2019 Kraft and Delaynie Maple became the youngest team to ever advance from the qualifier on the AVP Tour... the high school teammates (and later college teammates) were both 16 years old... the duo beat three tandems of sisters, including two sets of twins, and placed 13th

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Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (New York Nitro) vs Cody Caldwell / Seain Cook (Brooklyn Blaze)

- These two teams have played 4 times previously, with Crabb / Sander winning all 4... 3 of the 4 meetings were sweeps, with Caldwell / Cook winning a set only in the second meeting last year in Chicago... the last meeting came in the championship match of the 2024 season opener in Huntington Beach, which marked the first ever AVP title match outside of the Tour and Contender Series for Caldwell / Cook

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
5/19/24	AVP	Huntington Beach Heritage Series	Finals	Crabb/Sander	1	Caldwell/Cook	5	21-15, 21-15	0:43
5/18/24	AVP	Huntington Beach Heritage Series	Winner 3	Crabb/Sander	1	Caldwell/Cook	5	21-18, 21-14	0:38
9/2/23	AVP	Gold Series Chicago Open	Contender 2	Crabb/Sander	3	Caldwell/Cook	8	15-21, 22-20, 15-12	1:06
8/19/23	AVP	Gold Series Manhattan Beach Open	Winner 3	Crabb/Sander	4	Caldwell/Cook	12	21-17, 21-18	0:41

Taylor Crabb / Sander have played 20 AVP events together since 2022

- The duo has won 4 times on the AVP Tour plus once on the Tour Series (Phoenix 2022, Huntington Beach 2022 on the Tour Series, Miami 2023, Manhattan Beach 2023 and Huntington Beach 2024), finished 2nd six times (including Contender Series) and 3rd four times
- They have been in the finals (11 times) more often than they have placed 3rd or lower (9 times) as partners on the AVP (including Tour and Contender Series)
- In 3 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 77-27 (74%) in matches, 61-6 (91%) when winning the first set, 16-20 (44.4%) when losing the first set, 0-1 in one-set matches and 24-16 (60%) in three-set matches
- Of their 27 match losses, 17 have come to teams seeded 1st or 2nd
- Crabb has 13 AVP wins plus 1 Tour Series win in his 63 AVP events... he has wins with 3 different partners and has appeared in an AVP final with 5 of his 8 partners
- Crabb was the 2015 AVP Newcomer of the Year, 2019 MVP, and a 5-time Best Defensive Player (2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023)
- Sander has played all but 1 tournament with Crabb (finished 9th with his brother Brenden Sander in Denver 2023 on the Tour Series)
- Sander was the 2022 AVP Rookie of the Year and a two-time Best Server (2022 and 2023)

Caldwell / Cook have played 10 AVP events together since 2023

- The duo won in Waupaca 2023 in their debut (on the Tour Series) and also closed the 2023 season with another victory in Laguna Beach (also on the Tour Series)... they have 2 second-place finishes (Huntington Beach 2024 and Virginia Beach 2024 on the Contender Series)
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 36-13 (73.5%) in matches, 32-2 (94.1%) when winning the first set, 4-11 (26.7%) when losing the first set, and 11-4 (73.3%) in three-set matches
- Caldwell / Cook are 1 of just 2 teams to play in all 6 AVP tournaments this season (along with Ryan Ierna / Diego Perez)
- Caldwell has 3 Tour Series wins in his career and his 2 second-place finishes both came this season
- Cook has 2 Tour Series wins in his career and his 2 second-place finishes both came this season... all 4 of those title match appearances came alongside Caldwell

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Tim Bomgren / Troy Field (L.A. Launch) vs Chase Budinger / Miles Evans (San Diego Smash)

- These two teams have never played each other... in Bomgren / Field's first ever tournament together (Huntington Beach 2019), they were eliminated by Chase Budinger (and Casey Patterson) in the semifinals
 - Budinger is 8-0 against Bomgren (the first meeting in San Francisco 2018 went to a third set but all other meetings were sweeps) and is 4-1 all time against Field (only Field win was in Austin 2018)
 - Evans is 6-1 against Bomgren, and all 7 meetings were sweeps... the only Bomgren win came in their first meeting, in a qualifier in Huntington Beach 2014 in what was Evans' first ever AVP tournament)... Evans leads 3-2 against Field, with the Field wins both coming 2022 with Budinger
- Evans and Field played 1 AVP event together, finishing 9th in Chicago 2021
- Budinger and Field played 8 AVP tournaments together during the 2022 season, with a 2nd place in Austin in the season opener and a pair of 3rds (New Orleans and Atlanta)
- On the FIVB Tour in 2021, Field played 1 event with Budinger, then 2 with Evans, then 1 with Budinger

Bomgren / Field have played 15 AVP events together since 2019 (played in 2019-2020, then not until 2024)

- They have a best finish of 2nd place, done twice... they placed 2nd in New York City 2019 despite losing their first match of the tournament (then winning 5 straight elimination matches in sweeps before dropping the title match) and then again in Waupaca 2024 on the Contender Series
- The duo reunited this season as they were partners in 2019 and 2020 before going their separate ways... their partnership began in Huntington Beach 2019 and in their first match together they defeated a pair of Olympians, Sean Rosenthal and Ricardo Santos
- In 3 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 43-26 (62.3%) in matches, 32-3 (91.4%) when winning the first set, 11-23 (32.4%) when losing the first set, and 16-7 (69.6%) in three-set matches
- Bomgren has 1 win (Virginia Beach 2022 on the Tour Series with Piotr Marciniak), 3 seconds and 4 thirds... after reaching the semifinals in New York in 2019, he then played in 17 tournaments with a best of 5th place 4 times before winning in Virginia Beach 2022 on the Tour Series
- Field has had a best of 2nd place 4 times on the AVP Tour with 3 different partners (in New York 2019 with Tim Bomgren, in Austin 2022 with Chase Budinger, in New Orleans 2023 with Billy Allen and in Waupaca 2024 on the Contender Series with Bomgren)

Budinger / Evans have played 8 AVP tournaments together since 2023

- The duo finished 2nd in the AVP debut in the 2023 season opener in Miami, and again in Atlanta 2023 to mark their best finishes
- They have finished 3rd in each of their last 3 AVP events as partners
- In their successful push to qualify for the Paris Olympics, following the 2023 AVP season finale in Chicago the duo played 18 international events in 13 different countries on 4 different continents from September 2023 to July 2024... they placed 9th in Paris after losing to the defending Olympic Gold Medalists Anders Mol / Christian Sorum of Norway
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 31-15 (67.4%) in matches, 26-4 (86.7%) when winning the first set, 5-11 (31.3%) when losing the first set, and 10-5 (66.7%) in three-set matches
- Budinger has 3 AVP wins, all with Casey Patterson (Hermosa Beach 2019, Atlanta 2021 and Chicago 2021)
- 5 of Budinger's 6 AVP partners have been Olympians (beach or indoors)... Troy Field is the only exception
- Budinger was the AVP 's 2019 Most Improved Player
- Evans has 1 win (Denver 2022 on the Tour Series with Andy Benesh) and 3 second place finishes (Hermosa Beach 2019 with Ryan Doherty, Miami 2023 and Atlanta 2023 with Chase Budinger)
- Evans has played 34 AVP tournaments with 14 different partners... he has only played more than 4 events with one partner in his career (Chase Budinger)

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Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles (L.A. Launch) vs Toni Rodriguez / Geena Urango (San Diego Smash)

- These two teams have never played each other
- Flint has never played against Rodriguez... Flint is 9-2 all time against Urango, including twice winning in AVP finals in three-set matches (in Mason 2015 and San Francisco 2018)... Urango has won 2 of the last 3 meetings... 6 of the meetings have gone to a third set
- Scoles has never played against Rodriguez... Scoles won in her only meeting against Urango (in Chicago 2023 in a three-set match)

Flint / Scoles have played 8 AVP events together since 2023

- They have 1 win (in Manhattan Beach 2023), three 2nds and three 3rds on the AVP... their 7th place finish in the 2024 season finale in Chicago was their only event not advancing to the semifinals
- In their AVP debut (2023 season opener in Miami), the pair advanced to the championship match with their only 2 match losses coming to the #1 and #2 seeds in the event
- In Manhattan Beach 2023 they became the first team to ever be seeded #1 and lose to a #32 seed, but then they fought back through the contender's bracket to win the title, winning 8 straight matches
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 34-13 (72.3%) in matches, 24-4 (85.7%) when winning the first set, 8-8 (50%) when losing the first set, and 15-7 (68.2%) in three-set matches
- Flint has 7 AVP wins with 4 different partners in 6 different seasons, and she has won with each of her partners that she has played more than 1 tournament with... her wins came in Mason 2015 (with Kelley Kolinske), San Francisco 2017 (with Kolinske), Seattle 2018 (with Emily Capers), San Francisco 2018 (with Capers), Hermosa Beach 2019 (with Capers), New Orleans 2022 (with Kelly Cheng) and Manhattan Beach 2023 (with Julia Scoles)
- Flint was the AVP Newcomer of the Year in 2015 and is a three-time Best Server (2019, 2022, 2023)
- Scoles has 2 wins (Atlanta 2022 with Geena Urango and Manhattan Beach 2023 with Betsi Flint) and 5 seconds
- Scoles was the 2022 AVP Rookie of the Year and the 2023 Most Improved Player of the Year
- Since the start of the 2022 season, she has been eliminated from 13 AVP events and 11 times the other team had an Olympian on it

Rodriguez / Urango have played 4 AVP tournaments together since 2024

- The duo teamed up in the season opener in Huntington Beach... they have improved their finish each time, going from 9th in Huntington Beach to 5th in Virginia Beach (Contender Series) to a 3rd in their last 2 events in Manhattan Beach and Chicago
- In 1 season as partners on the AVP, they are 13-7 (65%) in matches, 10-1 (90.9%) when winning the first set, 3-6 (33.3%) when losing the first set, and 6-3 (66.7%) in three-set matches... 5 of their 7 match losses have come against Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss and Melissa Humana-Paredes / Brandie Wilkerson
- Rodriguez' career best finish on the Tour Series is her 2nd place in Denver 2023 with Savvy Simo, while outside of the Tour and Contender Series her best finishes came in the last 2 events in Manhattan Beach and Chicago with Geena Urango
- In her AVP career Rodriguez played 36 matches (including qualifiers and forfeited matches) before finally losing to a team seeded worse than her
- Urango has 1 win (Atlanta 2022 with Julia Scoles), 9 seconds and 10 thirds... she has advanced to the championship match with 5 different partners... 5 of her title matches came between 2015 and 2018, then her other 5 came in 2022 and 2023
- In her career she has partnered with 4 beach Olympians (Alix Klineman, Lauren Fendrick, Sarah Pavan and Sara Hughes)... plus she played with the niece of a beach Olympian, Falyn Fonoimoana (whose uncle Eric won a gold medal in Sydney in 2000)... her AVP debut came alongside Klineman in Manhattan Beach 2006