

AVP League – Week #3 Notes (Sun) – Sep. 28-29 at Viejas Center, San Diego, Calif.

Alix Klineman / April Ross (Miami Mayhem) vs. Toni Rodriguez / Geena Urango (San Diego Smash)

- Rodriguez / Urango won the only meeting between these teams, winning 15-13 in the third set in Manhattan Beach 2024... that loss in the 9th place match marked the worst AVP finish for Klineman / Ross in their partnership

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/17/24	AVP	Manhattan Beach Heritage Series	Contender 4	Rodriguez/Urango	8	Klineman/Ross	5	18-21, 21-10, 15-13	0:58

- Klineman and Urango played one event together, the 2006 Manhattan Beach Open (they lost their only qualifier match and finished in 57th place)... that event was Urango's pro beach volleyball debut

Klineman / Ross have played 19 AVP events together from 2018-2021 and in 2024

- Before their pregnancy break the duo had 14 consecutive AVP tournaments reaching the title match, winning the last 5
- Before this year they had never lost an AVP match prior to the semifinals but all 4 match losses this season came before the semifinals
- The duo has won 12 times on the AVP Tour, to go with 3 second-place finishes and 2 third-place finishes... they are 15-2 in semifinal matches and have won the last 14
- They have also won 6 FIVB titles including the Tokyo Olympics
- In 5 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 81-9 (90%) in matches, 68-3 (95.8%) when winning the first set, 12-6 (66.7%) when losing the first set, and 22-5 (81.5%) in three-set matches... until their last match in Manhattan Beach, they had won the last 58 times matches when winning the first set (previously the last loss was in the 2018 Hermosa Beach finals against Sara Hughes / Summer Ross)
- Klineman has won 12 AVP titles, all with Ross
- Prior to her partnership with Ross, Klineman had reached 2 AVP semifinals in 12 AVP outings... both came with Lane Carico, including a 2nd place and a 3rd place finish (both in 2017)
- Ross has 41 AVP wins with 6 different partners... she has had 12 AVP wins with 3 different partners (Jennifer Kessy, Kerri Walsh Jennings and Alix Klineman)
- Since getting her first AVP win in 2009, she then won an AVP title in 11 straight years (excluding 2011, 2022 and 2023 when she did not play on the AVP)... she led or tied for the most AVP victories in 9 of those seasons
- Ross has won 37 of her last 54 AVP tournaments entered (and one of those the final was never played)
- Klineman is not only averaging 1.0 aces / set, she has gotten 1 aces in every set she has played thus far in the League... in her two Heritage Series events she had 24 aces in 23 sets
- Ross did not commit a hitting error in her last match last week (14 attacks, 7 kills, 0 errors, .500) against the Aces

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 Urango 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
- The duo lost their League opener in 3 sets despite scoring more points than Betsi Flint / Julia Scoles (44-43)
- Rodriguez has 8 blocks (behind only Theo Brunner's 9) and her 7 aces are more than any other player (men or women) in the League... she has yet to have a service error
- Urango leads all players in both genders in 3 categories in totals; her 65 attacks, 35 kills and 28 digs are unsurpassed

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Theo Brunner / Trevor Crabb (Miami Mayhem) vs Chase Budinger / Miles Evans (San Diego Smash)

- Brunner / Crabb won the first 3 meetings in the series, all by sweeps... Budinger / Evans won the last 2 meetings, including a sweep in the gold medal of an international Challenge event in November 2023... the last meeting between these two teams was in Chicago 2024 and the match went to a third set

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/31/24	AVP	Chicago Heritage Series	Winner 3	Budinger/Evans	4	Brunner/Crabb	1	19-21, 22-20, 15-12	1:08
11/5/23	FIVB	Challenge Haikou	Gold Medal	Budinger/Evans	5	Brunner/Crabb	1	21-14, 23-21	0:35
10/7/23	FIVB	Beach Volleyball World Championships	Pool D	Brunner/Crabb	21	Budinger/Evans	45	21-18, 21-18	0:36
9/3/23	AVP	Gold Series Chicago Open	Semi-Finals	Brunner/Crabb	2	Budinger/Evans	4	27-25, 21-18	0:51
7/15/23	FIVB	Challenge Portugal	Winner 1	Brunner/Crabb	12, Q3	Budinger/Evans	16	21-17, 21-10	0:34

- Brunner and Evans played one international event together, in Doha, Qatar in March 2020 (the last big FIVB event before the COVID pandemic)... they lost in the country quota match by a 21-14, 21-13 score to (wait for it...) Chase Budinger and Chaim Schalk.

Brunner / Trevor Crabb have played 7 AVP events together since 2023

- The duo has 2 wins (in Chicago 2023 and in Manhattan Beach 2024)
- They have been in the finals in 4 of their 7 AVP events and in the semifinals 6 times
- In each of their 7 AVP tournaments they were seeded either 1st or 2nd
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 29-6 (82.9%) in matches, 26-3 (89.7%) when winning the first set, 3-3 (50%) when losing the first set, and 8-4 (66.7%) in three-set matches
- Brunner has 7 wins with 5 different partners... in Huntington Beach 2013 he won with Nick Lucena... in Seattle 2016 he won with Billy Allen... in Hermosa Beach 2018 he won with John Hyden... in Hermosa Beach 2022 he won with Chaim Schalk... in Hermosa Beach 2023, Chicago 2023 and Manhattan Beach 2024 he won with Trevor Crabb
- After winning 4 times in his first 65 AVP tournaments, Brunner has now won 3 times in his last 6 events
- Brunner is a 3-time Best Blocker on the AVP Tour (2013, 2014 and 2022)
- 7 of Brunner's partners have been Olympians (either beach or indoors)... of his 31 AVP semifinals, 24 of them came when partnering with an Olympian (only exceptions were a win and a 3rd place alongside Billy Allen, and his 6 semifinals with Trevor Crabb)
- Crabb has won 9 AVP titles... he won in Manhattan Beach 2019 with Reid Priddy, then won 5 times with Tri Bourne (in Long Beach 2020, Manhattan Beach 2021, Fort Lauderdale 2021, Manhattan Beach 2022 and Chicago 2022) before winning 3 times with Theo Brunner (in Hermosa Beach 2023, Chicago 2023 and Manhattan Beach 2024)
- Crabb was the AVP's 2014 Newcomer of the Year and a part of the Team of the Year in 2022 (with Tri Bourne)
- Crabb has advanced to 36 AVP semifinals in his career, doing so with 7 different partners... he has been in the semifinals in 9 of his last 10 AVP tournaments (excluding the Contender Series)
- Brunner has had at least 2 blocks in every League set thus far... while he has 4 sets of 2+ blocks, the rest of the men have combined for just 5 sets with 2+ blocks... he also is 3rd among all players (and 2nd among men) with his .680 hitting percentage
- Crabb is hitting .633, which ranks 5th among both men and women (4th among men)

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)
- In their first League match against Tim Bomgren / Troy Field, the duo had 4 runs of at least 3-0 while giving up just one 3-0 run
- Budinger has yet to have a hitting error in the League: 38 attacks, 26 kills, 0 hitting errors for a .684 hitting percentage
- Evans hit .431 in his 12 matches in the Heritage Series, but is hitting just .289 to start out League play

AVP League – Week #3 Notes (Sun) – Sep. 28-29 at Viejas Center, San Diego, Calif.

Andy Benesh / Miles Partain (Dallas Dream) vs Taylor Crabb / Taylor Sander (New York Nitro)

- Benesh / Partain lead the series 2-0, winning both times in sweeps... 3 of the 4 sets were won by 5+ points with one set an extended 27-25 score... the duo last met in the finals in Chicago

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
9/1/24	AVP	Chicago Heritage Series	Finals	Benesh/Partain	2	Crabb/Sander	3	21-15, 21-15	0:43
8/17/24	AVP	Manhattan Beach Heritage Series	Winner 4	Benesh/Partain	3	Crabb/Sander	2	21-16, 27-25	0:46

Benesh / Partain have played 5 AVP events together since 2023

- The duo is just the 2nd one in history to reach the championship match in each of its first 5 AVP tournaments as partners... Mike Dodd / Karch Kiraly played for the title in their first 7 AVP tournaments together in 1985 and 1987
- They finished 5th in the Paris Olympics... the duo won gold in Gstaad 2023 after twice defeating Norway's Anders Mol / Christian Sorum, becoming just the 2nd team to ever defeat the defending Olympic, World Championship and World Tour Finals champions twice in the same event (Netherlands' Alexander Brouwer / Robert Meeuwssen in Rosarito, Mexico in March 2022)
- In 2 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 24-3 (88.9%) in matches, 21-1 (95.5%) when winning the first set, 3-2 (60%) when losing the first set, and 5-1 (83.3%) in three-set matches
- Benesh has won 5 times on the AVP Tour (in the 2022 season opener in Austin with Phil Dalhausser, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Miles Partain, in Atlanta 2023 with Partain and in Chicago 2024 with Partain) as well as once on the Tour Series (in Denver 2022 with Miles Evans)
- Benesh has never played more than 7 AVP events with any single partner... his 11 semifinals (including Tour Series) have come alongside 5 different partners
- Benesh collected 3 AVP awards in 2023; Best Blocker, Most Improved, and part of the Team of the Year (with Miles Partain)
- In 2022 Benesh played 10 AVP events with 5 different partners... 4 of those partners have now been Olympians (Phil Dalhausser, Nick Lucena, Miles Evans and Casey Patterson)
- Partain has won 4 times on the AVP Tour (in Atlanta 2022 with Paul Lotman, in Huntington Beach 2023 with Andy Benesh, in Atlanta 2023 with Benesh and in Chicago 2024 with Partain)
- Partain was the 2019 AVP Rookie of the Year, and the both the Most Improved Player as well as Best Offensive Player in 2022, then repeated as the Best Offensive Player in 2023 while also being named the Most Valuable Player and part of the Team of the Year (with Andy Benesh)
- In his first 19 AVP tournaments, Partain had a best of 5th place once... in his last 14 events, he has finished no lower than 5th place and has been in the semifinals 12 times (including Tour Series)
- In Atlanta 2022 Partain became just the second male to win an AVP title before turning 21 years old (Scott Ayakutubby did it twice in 1984)
- Benesh has just 1 hitting error in the League so far and his .636 hitting percentage ranks 3rd among men
- Partain has an impressive streak of 73 consecutive matches on the AVP Tour (since the start of 2021 season) with at least 10 kills in every match (excluding Tour Series)... despite the League matches being shorter, he has been able to have 10+ kills in both League matches so far

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)
- The duo ended their league opening set on a 9-2 run to defeat Cody Caldwell / Seain Cook
- Crabb in his League debut had 13 attacks, 9 kills, 0 hitting errors but then in his second match he had 27 attacks, 21 kills and 8 hitting errors
- Sander has had at least 1 block in all 5 sets in the League so far... in his second match Sander hit .846 (13 attacks, 11 kills, 0 hitting errors)

AVP League – Week #3 Notes (Sun) – Sep. 28-29 at Viejas Center, San Diego, Calif.

Kylie Deberg / Hailey Harward (Dallas Dream) vs Kelly Cheng / Sara Hughes (New York Nitro)

- Cheng / Hughes are 3-0 all time in the series, with all 3 meetings coming in 2024... the first 2 matchups went to a third set while the last meeting in Chicago ended in a sweep

Date	Tour	Tournament	Round	Winning Team	Seed	Losing Team	Seed	Score	Time
8/30/24	AVP	Chicago Heritage Series	Winner 2	Cheng/Hughes	2	Deberg/Harward	7	21-17, 21-19	0:35
8/17/24	AVP	Manhattan Beach Heritage Series	Contender 4	Cheng/Hughes	2	Deberg/Harward	6	21-15, 19-21, 15-13	0:55
5/18/24	AVP	Huntington Beach Heritage Series	Winner 3	Cheng/Hughes	3	Deberg/Harward	10	19-21, 21-17, 15-6	0:52

Deberg / Harward have played 3 AVP events together since 2024

- The duo placed 5th in the 2024 season opener in Huntington Beach and then 9th in Manhattan Beach 2024 and Chicago 2024
- In total they have played 3 AVP events and 9 international tournaments
- 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
- Deberg began the 2023 AVP season with a loss in her first main draw match against Harward and also ended with her last main draw match with a loss against Harward
- Deberg has one win on the Tour Series (Wauapaca 2023 with Alaina Chacon) and one 3rd place finish (in Wauapaca 2022 on the Tour Series with Kahlee York)
- In her short career Deberg has played in 5 different states and in 10 different countries (outside of the U.S.)
- Harward has 1 Pro Series win (with Tina Graudina in Fort Lauderdale 2022), 1 Tour Series win (with Kelley Kolinske in Denver 2023)... she also has 1 second (in Manhattan Beach 2023 with Kolinske) and 1 third (with Emily Capers in New Orleans 2022)
- In her 4 tournaments in which she reached the semifinals, she had a total of 21 main draw match wins... in her other 19 AVP events (including Tour Series) she has won 25 main draw matches
- Harward has played in 9 different states on the AVP Tour... internationally she has played in 16 different countries besides the U.S.
- The duo has a tough start to the League, as their first 4 matches (including the 2 this weekend) are all against teams which have competed in the Olympics... they then have 3 matches against non-Olympians before ending the League competition with another match against the Aces (Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss)
- Deberg began the League with an error-free match (16 attacks, 10 kills, 0 hitting errors) against the Aces... then in her second match she had 8 kills and 6 hitting errors... her 1.25 aces per set is tied for 3rd among all players (men and women) in the League and ranks 2nd among women
- Harward also began the League with an error-free match (24 attacks, 12 kills, 0 hitting errors) against the Aces...in her 4 sets this season she has 16 digs and 10 of them came in the second set against the Aces

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
- Cheng had more blocks (48) than any other player on the Heritage Series, but had just 2 in the League so far
- Hughes leads all players (men and women) in the League with 6.00 digs per set... her .571 hitting percentage is second only to Taryn Kloth (Aces) on the women's side