

Chicago – Stadium Court Notes – Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021 – Women’s Championship Match

1:45 pm – #1 Alix Klineman / April Ross vs. #12 (Q5) Larissa Franca Maestrini / Liliane Maestrini

Head to Head

- These two teams have net met before
- April and Larissa have played against each other 33 times previously, but not since July 2017... Larissa leads 26-7 overall... when playing for a gold medal, Larissa holds an 8-3 edge... when the match goes to a third set, Larissa is 8-4

Klineman / Ross are playing together for the 17th time on the AVP Tour and 42nd time overall

- The duo has won 11 times on the AVP Tour, to go with 3 second-place finishes and 2 third-place finishes... they are now 15-2 in semifinal matches and have won the last 14
- They have also won 6 FIVB titles including the Tokyo Olympics
- In 4 seasons as partners on the AVP, they are 75-5 (93.8%) in matches, 64-2 (97%) when winning the first set, 10-3 (76.9%) when losing the first set, and 19-3 (86.4%) in three-set matches... they have won the last 53 times matches when winning the first set (last loss was in the 2018 Hermosa Beach finals against Sara Hughes / Summer Ross)
- The duo enters this match having won the last 21 AVP matches (last lost in the finals in Honolulu 2019 to Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan 21-19, 21-17) and their last 4 AVP tournaments
- In Chicago all time, the duo is 14-0 in matches, with the last 13 being sweeps
- With a win today, they would join Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh as the only teams to win 3+ times in Chicago (May-Treanor / Walsh Jennings won 5 times here)

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

- This is Klineman’s 29th AVP event... she has won 11 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)... in 2021 entering Chicago she is 2nd in aces (1.09 per set)
- Klineman has had 3+ blocks in all 4 matches in Chicago... in Manhattan Beach she had 3+ blocks in just 1 of her 5 matches

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

- Ross is playing in her 108th AVP Tournament... she has 40 wins with 6 different partners
- She has now advanced to the semifinals in 79 of her 108 AVP tournaments (73.1% 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
- Ross has won 36 of her last 51 AVP tournaments entered (and one of those the final was never played)
- In 2021 entering Chicago she is 4th in digs (6.09 per set)
- Ross had at least 20 kills in each of her first 3 matches in Chicago, and had just 1 hitting error in each of those matches... in the semifinals she had 15 kills and 3 hitting errors
- Ross has had 3+ aces in each of her last 3 matches

Larissa / Lili are playing together for the 3rd time on the AVP Tour... they finished 21st in Atlanta and then 3rd in Manhattan Beach

- The married couple has played most of its matches in a win or go home situation... in their AVP partnership entering this match, they have played 18 matches (14-4)... they are 13-2 in must-win matches
- They are 9-0 when winning the first set and 5-4 when losing the first set... they are 6-1 in three-set matches (have won the last 6 straight)
- In their careers (outside of Brazilian National Tour play), they faced each other 3 times, with Larissa winning each time (in 2012, 2014 and 2017)

- Larissa / Lili had to win 3 qualifier matches on Thursday in order to get into the main draw... they are striving to become just the 3rd women's team ever to play in the qualifier and then win the championship, joining Emily Day / Summer Ross in Cincinnati 2013 and Taryn Kloth / Kristen Nuss in Atlanta 2021
- A victory by Larissa / Lili would be unusual in that they came through the contender's bracket to reach the title match... each of the last 11 AVP championships have been won by teams with an undefeated record (and 22 of the last 24)

Larissa Franca Maestrini – age 39 – 5'9" – hometown Cachoeiro de Itapemirim-Es, Brazil – currently Celebration, Fla.

- This is Larissa's 4th AVP event... she has 1 win (Glendale 2009 with Juliana Felisberta) and 1 third place
- Larissa is the career wins leader on the FIVB Tour (62) and the Brazilian National Tour (84)... her last FIVB win was in July 2017 (beat Melissa Humana-Paredes / Sarah Pavan in Poland)
- Larissa is a three-time Olympian (won bronze in 2012) and a 2011 World Champion (won five World Championship medals in her career)

Liliane Maestrini – age 33 – 6'0" – hometown Vitoria, Brazil. – currently Celebration, Fla.

- This is Lili's 3rd AVP event in her career
- She has 2 FIVB wins, and they came in consecutive weeks in June 2018
- Lili is one of the few players with more service aces (6) than service errors (4)