



New Team Matchups

The 2019 AVP season will feature the following new match-ups.

Men - New Teams

- Reid Priddy and Theo Brunner
- Jeremy Casebeer and Chaim Schalk
- John Hyden and Ryan Doherty
- Billy Allen and Stafford Slick
- Casey Patterson and Chase Budinger
- Tim Bomgren and Troy Field
- Avery Drost and Eric Zaun
- Sean Rosenthal and Ricardo Santos
- Trevor Crabb and Tri Bourne
- Piotr Marciniak and Chase Frishman

Women - New Teams

- Geena Urango and Caitlin Ledoux
- Britt Hochevar and Carly Wopat
- Kelly Claes and Sarah Sponcil (Kelly with Brandie Wilkerson for first Huntington stop)
- Irene Pollack and Kim DiCello
- Amanda Dowdy and Corinne Quiggle
- Nicolette Martin and Falyn Fonoimoana

AVP's Next Generation "Rising Stars"

- **Sara Hughes (Costa Mesa, Calif.) and Summer Ross (San Diego, Calif.)** - Hughes left an impressionable mark on the AVP in 2016 while still a student at USC. In 2017, she and then USC and AVP partner Kelly Claes made history as the youngest team to ever win an AVP event at the Championships in Chicago. In 2018, she and current partner Summer Ross became the top ranked team to beat as the youngest duo on the tour, adding two more wins to Hughes' resume with a total of three AVP championships. (Summer has five AVP Championships to her name as well.) Hughes was the recipient of the 2018 AVP Best Defender award.
- **Kelly Claes (Placentia, Calif.)** - Claes at 23 years old, has made a name for herself alongside Sara Hughes, as the most established collegiate pair. In 2015 at the AVP New York Open, Hughes and Claes became the lowest seeded team (No. 16) to ever reach the semifinals in an AVP tournament, finishing in third place. At the AVP San Francisco event, a match against April Ross and Kerri Walsh Jennings changed everything as they solidified their status beyond just the

collegiate level. In the third round of the winner's bracket, Hughes and Claes nearly knocked Ross and Walsh Jennings off the podium in a 54-minute match. To that point, the Ross and Walsh Jennings were en route to the Rio Olympics and barely pulled ahead with a 17-15 finish in the third set. Claes and Sarah Sponcil will be partnering entering the 2019 AVP season.

- **Sarah Sponcil (Phoenix, Ariz.)** - Currently at 22 years old, Sponcil placed second in the 2018 Austin Open and third at the 2018 Chicago Championships. At the Chicago Championships, Sponcil and Terese Cannon became the second lowest seeds (No. 18) to ever advance to an AVP women's semifinal. This marked Sponcil's second semi-final in her young career. Sarah is a current UCLA student and will be partnering with Kelly Claes entering the 2019 AVP Season.
- **Troy Field (Laguna Beach / San Clemente, Calif.)** - Troy grew up in San Clemente playing soccer and football, then moved to Lafayette, La. to finish high school at Acadiana High. He returned to California during the 2012 Olympics and that is where Troy found his love for volleyball. He decided to pursue a career in beach volleyball in 2017 and has been a one to watch since. This year, he is partnered with Tim Bomgren who is a Main Draw athlete, making this season the first time that he will be able to skip Qualifiers and automatically gain entry into the Main Draw.
- **Brittany Howard (Hermosa Beach / Los Altos, Calif.)** - Since joining the AVP Pro Tour in 2017, Howard has showed herself as a true competitor and athlete advancing from qualifiers in the 2017 Hermosa Beach Open and winning three elimination matches to finish in seventh. In 2018, Howard finished third at the San Francisco Open and fifth at the Chicago Championships. She is also the recipient of the 2018 AVP Rookie of the Year award for the women.

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