



## Hermosa Beach Open Storylines - July 26-29, 2018

**History / Significance of location:** The AVP 2018 Tour makes its return to the Los Angeles beachfront with the Hermosa Beach Open taking place July 26-29. This beach town may border Manhattan Beach geographically, but there is no doubt that each city has its own identity and history. Every year from 1984 through 2010, Hermosa Beach was a cornerstone in the AVP schedule and always a player favorite. In the AVP's inaugural season in 1984, there was an event in Hermosa Beach but not Manhattan Beach. In 1990, NBC's first-ever telecast of beach volleyball took place at the Hermosa Beach event.

- **24 teams per gender in the Main Draw** - Until 2017, the Main Draw has been made up of 16 teams per gender. With the increase of registrations each event, the AVP expanded its field to 24 teams in 2017 to reflect the growth and demand in the sport of beach volleyball. Eight teams from the Qualification Round will have the opportunity to advance to Friday's Main Draw.
- **New Partnership with Amazon Prime Video**  
To enhance the AVP Pro Tour viewer experience, AVP has teamed up with Amazon Prime Video to livestream all of the Main Draw matches at each tour stop through the year 2020. Viewers in more than 200 countries and territories will be able to watch live and on-demand AVP content including all of the Main Draw matches from the Hermosa Beach Open. Fans in the U.S. will be able to watch one final on Sunday, July 29 and then catch the other final on NBCSN on Sunday, July 29 night at 9 p.m. PT. Viewers outside the U.S. will be able to watch both men's and women's finals live on Amazon Prime Video.
- The four-day competition will feature the world's top professional beach volleyball athletes who will compete for the title and prize money.
- **Partner Shake-ups for this weekend due to injury:**
  - Jeremy Casebeer picked up 2000 Olympic gold medalist Eric Fonoimoana after Reid Priddy was injured.
  - Nick Lucena injured. Phil Dalhausser playing with their coach Jason Lochheed, a 5'10 redhead from New Zealand but who in an amazing beach volleyball player who did extremely well on the FIVB tour.

### South Bay Natives

- **Alix Klineman (Manhattan Beach, Calif.)** - At 6' 5", Alix is an extremely talented volleyball athlete who quickly became a standout in a highly competitive volleyball environment at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach. She was a four-time All American at Stanford University, recognized as Player of the Year by Volleyball Magazine and the Pac-10 Conference, a Pan American Games gold medalist. Klineman moved back from to the U.S. in April 2017. Klineman finished first at the 2018 AVP Austin Open with partner and two-time Olympian, April Ross.
- **Lane Carico (Manhattan Beach, Calif.)** - Since becoming pro in 2013, Lane has quickly climbed the ranks on the AVP Tour. Carico's long list of accomplishments include top finishes on the AVP tour including a victory at the Seattle Open in 2016 and three NORCECA gold medals. At Mira Costa High School, she was a three-time State Champion, two-time CIF champion, and helped lead her team to a perfect (37-0) season. In 2008, Lane received an indoor volleyball scholarship to University of Miami where she was a two-time AVCA All-American. In 2012 she competed in beach volleyball for Georgia State University, where she finished her collegiate career as a Beach Volleyball All-American. She recently tied for third at the 2018 AVP Austin Open.

## Notable Athletes

- **April Ross (Costa Mesa, Calif.)** - Ross leads the female pack in titles with 30 AVP titles and will be playing with her recently new partner, Alix Klineman, at the 2018 Hermosa Beach Open. Ross won the Hermosa Beach Open title in 2010 with Jennifer Kessy (San Juan Capistrano, Calif.). For the 2018 AVP tour, Ross won the 2018 AVP Austin Open, placed third at the 2018 AVP New York City Open, second at the 2018 AVP Seattle Open, and third at the 2018 AVP San Francisco Open. As a two-time Olympian, Ross holds an Olympic Bronze medal from the 2016 Olympic Games and a Silver from the 2012 Olympic Games.
- **Jake Gibb (Bountiful, Utah)** - Jake Gibb established himself as one of the premier beach volleyball players in the world when he and partner Sean Rosenthal took home first place at the 2012 AVP Championships in Santa Barbara, Calif. Gibb was chosen as the AVP's Most Valuable Player in 2005. Gibb is one of the few players on the AVP Tour that did not play volleyball in college. Instead, the Bountiful, Utah native played golf and basketball. It was not until he turned 21 that he took up the sport of beach volleyball with his twin brother, Coleman. Gibb and Taylor Crabb came in second at the 2018 AVP New York City Open and took home first at the 2018 AVP Seattle Open, July 24. Gibb is the youngest of 11 children (six boys, five girls). He graduated from the University of Utah in 2002 with a degree in business.
- **Maddison and Riley McKibbin (Honolulu, Hawaii)** - The McKibbins, otherwise known as the Bearded Brothers, are a fun to watch duo who now play together as a team and fight their way to and through the Main Draw. Their how-to videos and vlog are great for volleyball fans and players looking to work on their skills.  
<http://www.mckibbinbrothers.com/>

## Overall Event Info

- **AVPFirst** – AVP's signature 501(c)3 nonprofit organization was founded to create a national pipeline for youth volleyball development designed specifically to create access for all children and their families, regardless of the neighborhood in which they reside or their economic status. Throughout the 2018 season, AVPFirst will invite youth for free clinics with AVP pros and AVPFirst coaches and host top local teams in an invitational match play style event that concludes with AVPFirst National Championship finals being played on Stadium Court in front of a packed house in Hermosa Beach. Up from 210 teams last year, this year boasts the largest number of teams participating with 270 teams across the US and Puerto Rico, and international representation from Canada, Mexico and Australia.
- This year marks **AVP's 35<sup>th</sup> season** with an eight-stop tour that started out in Austin, Texas (May 17-20) followed by stops in New York (June 7-10), Seattle (June 21-24), San Francisco (July 5-8), **Hermosa Beach (July 26-29)**, Manhattan Beach (August 16-19), Chicago (August 30-Sept. 2), and new to 2018, Hawaii (Sept. 14-16.) Full tour schedule [AVP.com/events](http://AVP.com/events).

## AVP Brand

- The Association of Volleyball Professionals is the United States' premier beach volleyball tour, headquartered in Newport Beach, Calif. under current Managing Partner, Donald Sun.
- AVP has a 35+ year legacy, and has become a household brand famous for their signature yellow and white Wilson volleyball. It is responsible for providing a stage and developing the careers for the biggest names in beach volleyball.
- In addition to the Pro Tour, AVP has several branches including a non-profit called [AVPFirst](#) dedicated to giving back to the community and providing scholarships and equal opportunities to underserved communities. It also has programs that are dedicated planting seeds early with the youth to invest in future beach volleyball stars and to increase chances for diversity in the sport. [AVPNext](#) is the official developmental program of the AVP Professional Beach Volleyball Tour and serves as the exclusive qualification circuit for elite amateur athletes to earn AVP points, a national ranking, and entry into the AVP Main Draws. [AVP Academy](#) offers a complete level

of support services that compliment the entire athlete. Academy strives to provide athletes with the highest level of development possible.

- AVP played a key role in getting beach volleyball recognized as an [NCAA sanctioned sport](#) as the organizer and producer of the very first college event in 2006.

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