



**King of the Court Crown Series Powered by AVP //
Huntington Beach, Sept. 22-23, 2018**

Storylines

Overall Huntington Beach KOTC Highlights

- **History / Significance of location:** The 2018 King of the Court Crown series makes its fourth and final stop in "Surf City", USA. This international competition kicks off Saturday showcasing the very best professional beach volleyball athletes from around the globe. This brand new fast-paced format makes its US debut right along the iconic Huntington Beach Pier.
- Athletes local to Huntington Beach and competing in the Huntington Beach King of the Court event include two-time Olympians **Jake "Spiker" Gibb** and **April "The Boss" Ross**, **four-time Olympian Reid Priddy**, **Ed "The Eagle" Ratledge** and **Sara Hughes**.
- **King of the Court Tournament Format:** King of the Court has long been known as a training game but for the first time in the history of the sport, Sportworx has created a pro-level competition, sanctioned by the FIVB. Five teams will battle it out in rotational matches, with one team eliminated per match. There's a Challenger's side and a Winner's side. Challengers serve and points can only be scored at the Winner's side. If the Winners win a rally, they get one point and stay in their kingdom. If they lose, they're out and are sent to the back of the line of waiting teams. Challengers then move into the Winner's end to face the next team. The team with the least points on the buzzer is out.
- **Huntington Beach King of the Court consists of 20 men's and 20 women's teams** fighting it out to be crowned the Kings and Queens of the sand. *Teams are listed [here](#).*
- **Sponsor Village** – The Festival Village is free to the public Saturday and Sunday and is filled with activations and activities for fans to enjoy.

USA Athletes include:

- **April Ross** (Costa Mesa, Calif.) - 33-time AVP champion and two-time Olympic medalist / **Alix Klineman** (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) - Rising star and four-time AVP champion
- **Jake Gibb** (Huntington Beach, Calif.) - 30-time AVP champion and two-time Olympian / Four-time AVP champion **Taylor Crabb** (Honolulu, Hawaii). This duo took home the crown last weekend during the AVP Hawai'i Invitational Presented by HTA. The youngest and newest top

ranked team - **Sara Hughes** (Costa Mesa, Calif.) and **Summer Ross** (San Diego, Calif.) who have taken home two wins in their first season as partners.

- **Tri Bourne** (Honolulu, Hawaii) - three-time AVP champion who recently made his return back to competition after an autoimmune disease forced him to withdraw from the 2017 and most of the 2018 season / **Trevor Crabb** (Honolulu, Hawaii) - seven-time AVP runner-up champion
- **Jeremy Casebeer** (Santa Barbara, Calif.) - Known for his passionate and intense style on the court, Casebeer has achieved a third-place finish four times with Reid Priddy this season / **Reid Priddy** (Huntington Beach, Calif.) - Four-time Olympian with a gold and bronze medal who retired from indoor volleyball to shift his focus to the beach in 2017. Priddy has earned a spot in five career AVP semifinals and is a local to Huntington Beach.
- **Casey Patterson** (Van Nuys, Calif.) is an olympian and 14-time AVP champion who is known for his pop-and-lock dance moves and fiery energy on the court/ **Stafford Slick** - AVP Champion known for his signature goggles he's been rocking since detaching his retina during an accident in 2016 at AVP New Orleans.
- **Kelley Larsen** (San Diego, Calif.) / **Emily Stockman** (Colorado Springs, Colo.) - regular semifinalists on the AVP tour and first-ever "queens" at King of the Court in Waikiki last weekend.

International Athletes Include:

- **Agatha Bednarczuk** (Curitiba, Brazil) is a 2015 World Champion and a 2016 Rio Olympic silver medalist / **Eduarda "Duda" Lisboa** (Aracaju, Brazil) earned first place with Bednarczuk at the FIVB World Tour Finals, making them number one in the world.
- **Alexander Brouwer** (Leiden, Netherlands) / **Robert Meeuwssen** (Nieuwegein, Netherlands) - this Dutch duo took home a bronze medal in the 2016 Rio Olympics, clinched several FIVB podium finishes, and won King of the Court in Utrecht last year.
- **Pablo Herrera** (Castellón de la Plana, Spain) represented Spain four times at the Olympics, taking home a silver medal in 2004. / **Adrian Gavira** (Cadiz, Spain) is a two-time Olympian. This team has maintained their spot as the number one team in Spain and a top 10 team worldwide.
- **Anders Mol** (Stord, Hordaland, Norway) / **Christian Sorum** (Oslo, Norway) are currently ranked number one in the world - they are coming off three FIVB first place finishes in a row and won the European Championships and the FIVB World Tour Finals
- **Guto Carvalhaes** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) / **Saymon Barbosa** (Brazil) have each earned two FIVB World Tour firsts - one together. Guto was named FIVB's 2016 Top Rookie.
- **Sarah Pavan** (Kitchener, Ontario, Canada) competed in the 2016 Olympics for Canada / **Melissa Humana-Paredes** (Toronto, Canada) won FIVB's 2014 Top Rookie Award. Together, Pavan and Humana have earned three firsts in 2018.
- **Harley Marques** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) won the World Championship in 2008 and is a 2x FIVB MVP / and his partner, four-time Olympian **Ricardo Santos** (Salvador de Bahia, Brazil), have both been in the game for over a decade and are considered beach volleyball legends.

Overall Event Info

- This year marks **KOTC's first tour** with a four-stop series that launched in Utrecht (Sept. 7), followed by stops in Antwerp (Sept. 8), Waikiki (Sept. 14), and is making its mainland debut and final stop in Huntington Beach this weekend. Full tour schedule can be found at KingoftheCourt.com/events.

About Sportworx

Founded in 2017 and centrally based in Utrecht, Netherlands, SportworX works with leading international sports organizations to develop new and exciting formats to push the boundaries in performance and entertainment. Their aim is to build long-term relationships to establish real change and impact with the events organized on a global level. They work with and for federations, athletes and brands to inspire the worldwide sports audience and media. We are investing in our ideas to showcase what the future of sports can look like. SportworX are the stakeholder's right arm and support them in their endeavors to develop the sport and create unforgettable and innovative sports experiences for athletes and audiences alike and inspire future sports generations through passion, innovation and perfection. SportworX proudly presents the King of the Court Crown Series as the first innovative sports format in cooperation with the international beach volleyball federation FIVB.

###