



AVP Gold Series // Manhattan Beach Open Presented by Acer August 16-19, 2018

Storylines

Overall Manhattan Beach Open Highlights

- **History / Significance of location:** The granddaddy of all beach volleyball tournaments celebrates 59 years of tradition in 2018. Sometimes referred to as the ‘Super Bowl of Beach Volleyball’, the Manhattan Beach Open Presented by Acer features big awards, prize money, the title, and a chance to be enshrined on Manhattan Pier’s famous Volleyball Walk of Fame. Manhattan Beach Open champions from the past and present have been honored with a plaque for all to see since 1960. A ceremony will be held on Thursday, Aug. 16 on Manhattan Beach Pier at 3:30 p.m. to honor the 2017 men’s and women’s AVP Manhattan Beach Open champions - **Phil Dalhausser** and **Nick Lucena** and **Brittany Hochevar** and **Emily Day**. The four-day competition will feature the world’s top professional beach volleyball athletes.
- **Gold Series** - Manhattan Beach Open Presented by Acer marks the second stop of the three stop AVP Gold Series where athletes have the chance to win even bigger prize money and a bid to the AVP Hawaii Invitational, Presented by the Hawaiian Tourism Association in September. A \$250,000 prize purse is up for the taking (\$125,000 for the men and \$125,000 for the women.) This is the last stop of the California tournaments for the 2018 AVP Season. Bids to the AVP Hawaii Invitational are based on teams’ top two finishes in the Gold Series. The third Gold Series stop will be the AVP Chicago Championships Aug. 30-Sept. 2.
- **Field of 32 teams per gender in the Main Draw** - The Manhattan Beach Open features the biggest field of the season - a field of 32 teams per gender to reflect the demand in the sport of beach volleyball. 14 teams receive automatic entries, eight of 10 Wild Card teams are from AVPNext where beach volleyball players have been competing for the past year to come out on top in their Zones across the United States and receive entries into the Main Draw at Manhattan Beach Open. Eight teams from the Qualification Rounds will also have the opportunity to advance to Friday’s Main Draw.
- **New Partnership with Amazon Prime Video in 2018 and Live on NBC** - 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 Manhattan Beach Open. Fans in the U.S. will be able to watch one final on Sunday, Aug. 19 and then catch the other final live on NBC Sunday, Aug. 19 1:30-3 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.
- **AVPFirst** - In addition to the Pro Tour, **AVPFirst** is the organization’s 501(c)3 non-profit organization 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.

Throughout the 2018 season, AVPFirst invited youth for free clinics with AVP pros and AVPFirst coaches and host top local teams in an invitational match play style event that concluded with AVPFirst National Championship finals being played on Stadium Court in front of a packed house in Hermosa Beach last month. Up from 210

teams last year, this year boasted the largest number of teams participating with 270 teams across the US and Puerto Rico, and international representation from Canada, Mexico and Australia. **At the Manhattan Beach Open, AVPFirst will host a Community Corner Clinic with more than 50 kids from the Torrance YMCA where AVP professional athletes and AVPFirst coaches will help introduce beach volleyball combined with positive messaging, experiences, and training.**

- **Festival Village and Activations** – The Manhattan Beach Open Festival Village is free to the public Thursday through Sunday and is filled with activations, giveaways, experiences, food, a beer & wine garden and more. The 2nd annual **Sunset Beach Party** on the AVP Skydeck is presented by the Business Owners of Downtown Manhattan Beach and takes place on Thursday, Aug. 16 night from 5 to 8 p.m. overlooking the iconic Manhattan Beach Pier. Tickets are available for purchase [here](#) or tickets can be found at www.downtownmanhattanbeach.com. **Sunrise Yoga** takes place Friday, Aug. 17 from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. on the AVP Skydeck by Manhattan Beach Pier. Yoga is free - [RSVP](#) and mats are required. **Movie on the Beach** is free on Friday Night at Stadium Court playing Penguins of Madagascar beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Manhattan Beach Natives

- **Alix Klineman (Manhattan Beach, Calif.)** - At six feet five inches tall, 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. After playing indoor volleyball internationally in Italy and Brazil for many years, 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.

Additional Notable Athletes

- **The Return of Tri Bourne** - After being forced to withdraw from beach volleyball competition in 2017, Tri Bourne turned to being part of the AVP webcast team to stay close to the action and remain relevant to the sport. Bourne was partners with John Hyden where the duo was finding great success overseas and on the AVP Tour. However, a mysterious autoimmune disease which resulted to stinging and throbbing in his hands from a pinched nerve caused swelling to the point where he had to wear mitts during practice. Blood tests revealed that his liver enzymes were 10 times higher than normal and was diagnosed with dermatomyositis, similar to Venus Williams's diagnosis of Sjogren's Syndrome. Bourne makes his return to beach volleyball at the granddaddy of beach volleyball tournaments, the Manhattan Beach Open, alongside one of his childhood friends, Trevor Crabb.
- **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 Manhattan Beach Open. For the 2018 AVP tour, Ross and Klineman won the 2018 AVP Austin Open, placed third at the 2018 AVP New York City Open, third at the 2018 AVP San Francisco Open, and just recently second at Hermosa Beach 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.
- **Phil Dalhausser (Redondo Beach, Calif.)** - Nicknamed "The Thin Beast" and standing tall at six feet nine inches tall, 38-year-old Phil Dalhausser is a 54-time AVP champion, 38-time FIVB champion and three-time Olympian. Born in Switzerland, Dalhausser made his AVP debut in 2003 at Ft. Lauderdale with first and current partner Nick Lucena. Since his debut, he has become one of the most decorated and successful players in beach volleyball

history. So far on the 2018 AVP Tour, Phil has won the 2018 Austin Open and 2018 New York City Open. On the AVP Tour, Dalhausser has also been awarded the Best Blocker in 2008, 2009, and 2015-2017, Best Offensive Player from 2005-2009, 2016, and 2017, Best Server in 2017, Most Improved Player in 2006, Most Valuable Player from 2007-2009, and 2017, won Team of the Year with Todd Rogers from 2007-2009, and Team of the Year with Nick Lucena in 2017. The University of Central Florida alumni is a father to son Sebastian.

- **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 and Taylor Crabb this season have so far come in second at the 2018 AVP New York City Open this season, first at the 2018 AVP Seattle Open, and placed third at Hermosa Beach Open. 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 is a two-time Olympian and has survived cancer twice. 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.

Former NBA Player Turns Volleyball

- **Chase Budinger (Encinitas, Calif.)** - Former NBA star turned pro beach volleyball player Chase Budinger makes his debut this year on the AVP. The 30-year-old stands at 6' 7" and is partnering with two-time Olympian Sean Rosenthal. While in the NBA for seven seasons, Budinger played for the Rockets, Pacers, Timberwolves and Suns. He played with All-Star Kevin Love in Minnesota, almost won the Slam Dunk contest in 2006 and took a charge from LeBron James that he says felt for the next week. During his basketball career, Budinger loved to play volleyball during the offseason in Hermosa Beach as a way to work on his lower body strength and improve his athleticism. He often played with the likes of current Los Angeles Lakers head coach Luke Walton and NBA champion Richard Jefferson, both graduates of Budinger's alma mater the University of Arizona. The McKibbin brothers who also play on the AVP posted a [video](#) of them playing together.

Overall Event Info

- This year marks **AVP's 35th 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.

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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