



2018 AVP PRO BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR – Event #3 Seattle, Wash. • June 21 – 24, 2018

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT – For the fourth straight year, the AVP Tour makes a stop in Seattle. This stop has gained a reputation for players collecting their first win, as in the past three years four different players have won their first AVP title here. The eight events on the slate this year will be held in six different states (three events in California, Texas, New York, Washington, Illinois and Hawai'i). The locations include the three most populous cities in the U.S. (New York, Los Angeles and Chicago) and four of the five most populous states. The schedule mirrors last season's with the exception of Huntington Beach (which this year was an FIVB event put on by the AVP) and now the addition of Honolulu. The dates are the same weekends as last year's except for Hermosa Beach, which this season is one week later. This marks the 34th consecutive season the AVP has held competitions. Total prize money for this tournament will be \$200,000, with equal payouts for men and women, and the season payout totals \$1,308,000 plus Hawai'i (prize money TBD).

- The main draw will be a 16-team, double elimination format. Eleven teams from each gender are granted entry directly into the main draw from having sufficient points (from the best four events points totals from their last five AVP and AVPNext tournaments). Another team in each gender was given a wildcard for winning last year's AVP First Under 18 National Championships which were held in Hermosa Beach. Rowdy Lennon / John Schwengel won the men's title while Megan Muret / Alexis Filippone won the women's. The remaining four teams in each gender must earn a spot via the qualifier tournament, a single elimination event held at two sites. The women will play at Bottega Park in Snohomish, while the men will play at Lake Sammamish on Thursday, June 21. There are a total of 60 men's teams and 49 women's teams in the field. The qualifier will consist of 44 matches for the men and 33 for the women, while the main draw features 29 matches for each gender. Due to the immense interest by players but constrained by number of courts, there were four men's teams which were put on a reserve list. The main draw begins on Friday, June 22 and concludes on Sunday, June 24, and will be played on four courts at Lake Sammamish. General admission is free throughout and premium ticket packages are available at avp.com or onsite. The championship matches will be around 1:30 pm PT and 3:00 pm PT.

- NBC Sports Network will broadcast a championship match on a tape-delayed basis Sunday (4:00-5:30 pm PT). Chris Marlowe (play by play) and Kevin Wong (color commentary) will handle the announcing duties, with Dain Blanton contributing sideline reports. Live streaming via Amazon Prime takes place Friday through Sunday with the exception of the finals. Kevin Barnett, Camryn Irwin and Kelli Tennant will combine to handle the announcing duties for Prime.

GOLD SERIES – The Gold Series is a segment of the year consisting of three events – New York City, Manhattan Beach and Chicago. These three events carry more importance than the other tournaments in as much as the prize money and points are both elevated. What that means is that a second place finish in New York City is worth more in seeding points than a win in Seattle.

2018 AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Schedule

<u>Event Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tournament Format</u>	<u>Prize \$ - TV</u>
May 18 - 21	Austin, Texas	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Top seeds Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena and Alix Klineman / April Ross win season opener</i>			
June 7 - 10	New York City, New York	16-team double elimination	\$200,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena remain perfect while Sara Hughes / Summer Ross win in their first outing</i>			
June 21 - 24	Seattle, Washington	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>In Seattle three straight years a men's player has collected his first ever AVP win</i>			
July 5 - 8	San Francisco, California	16-team double elimination	\$150,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>The midpoint event of the season is the last one with a small draw and cap on number of teams</i>			
July 26 - 29	Hermosa Beach, California	24-team double elimination	\$158,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>First of Southern Cal events offers bigger draw for first time during 2017 season</i>			
August 16 - 19	Manhattan Beach, California	32-team double elimination	\$250,000 – NBC (live)
<i>Second Gold Series event and second live NBC show features the biggest field on the Tour this season</i>			
Aug 30 – Sep 2	Chicago, Illinois	24-team double elimination	\$250,000 – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Championships ties for biggest purse in most frequent beach volleyball locale outside of California</i>			
Sep 14 – 16	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Invitational	\$TBD – NBCSN (delayed)
<i>Just-announced event with format still to be determined, but likely based on performance in Gold Series</i>			

SEATTLE HISTORY – The AVP men came to Seattle three straight years (1988-90) but 2015 marked the first time ever that Seattle has played host to a professional beach volleyball tournament on the women's side. The three AVP tournaments marked the only time that pro beach volleyball events have been held in the state (not counting the Hot Winter Nights exhibitions that happened in Everett and Spokane in 2008) before 2015. In the first four years that the AVP has played in Seattle, the tournaments were held in August. Ironically, the 2016 Seattle event marked the only one on the schedule in which it did not rain at some point during an AVP event. In 1989 Tim Hovland collected his 50th career victory here in Seattle, and in 1990 Kiraly claimed his 40th title. It has been a different storyline the past three years though, as in 2015 Ryan Doherty got his first career AVP, in 2016 Billy Allen won for his first time ever, then in 2017 Stafford Slick collected his first AVP title. In 2016 Lane Carico got her first AVP win as well. The results from the previous tournaments held in Seattle:

MEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	[3rd] / 4th
1988	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	John Hanley / Dan Vrebalovich	Jay Hanseth / Leif Hanson	Pat Powers / Jon Stevenson
1989	Mike Dodd / Tim Hovland	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	John Hanley / Dan Vrebalovich	Kent Steffes / Jon Stevenson
1990	Brent Frohoff / Karch Kiraly	Tim Hovland / Kent Steffes	Sinjin Smith / Randy Stoklos	John Eddo / Sean Fallowfield
2015	Ryan Doherty / John Mayer	Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Tri Bourne / John Hyden	[3rd] Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson
2016	Billy Allen / Theo Brunner	Taylor Crabb / Trevor Crabb	Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson	[3rd] Avery Drost / Gregg Weaver
2017	Billy Allen / Stafford Slick	Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal	Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb	[3rd] Jeremy Casebeer / John Mayer

WOMEN – AVP events

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd
2015	Jennifer Fopma / April Ross	Lane Carico / Summer Ross	Kim DiCello / Kendra Van Zwieten	Brittany Hochevar / Misty May-Treanor
2016	Lane Carico / Summer Ross	Jennifer Fopma / Brittan Hochevar	Kim DiCello / Kendra Van Zwieten	Angela Bensed / Geena Urango
2017	Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat	Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen	Jennifer Fopma / Kelly Reeves	Skylar Caputo / Sarah Pavan

2017 SEATTLE RECAP – Seattle experienced record heats, with the thermometer hitting 95* in Lake Sammamish. Both the men's and women's winners had been runner-ups in the previous event in New York City.

- Seattle is where champions are made... for the first time. In 2015 Ryan Doherty collected his first AVP title, then in 2016 Billy Allen won his first ever AVP title, defeating the Crabb bothers in the process. This year, Allen was again a winner, this time helping Stafford Slick to his first ever victory, denying Trevor Crabb in his opportunity for his first win. Allen and Slick defeated each of the top four seeds en route to winning the championship.

- On the women's side, Summer Ross began her collegiate volleyball career at the University of Washington (playing indoors), and she has looked right at home in Seattle. In three AVP events in Seattle she has a 16-3 match record, including two straight victories. This year, Ross and Brooke Sweat swept all five opponents as Sweat won her third AVP title with a third different partner.

#5 Billy Allen / Stafford Slick def. #3 Trevor Crabb / Sean Rosenthal 21-13, 13-21, 15-11 (1:07)

#2 Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat def. #4 Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen 21-17, 24-22 (:48)

THE YOUNG AND THE OLD – A likely first-round matchup on the men's side will pit number one seeds Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena against the team which earned a wildcard, Rowdy Lennon and John Schwengel. Lennon is 19 years old while Schwengel is 18. By comparison, Dalhausser and Lucena, both of whom are 38 years old, are each older than the combined age of the wildcards (37). Dalhausser and Lucena had their first AVP victory in 2005, when both Lennon and Schwengel were just five years old. The irony of the two players getting an automatic entry in the qualifier is that they were coached on a club team by brothers Maddison and Riley McKibbin, who are the top seeds in the qualifier and would have been directly in the main draw had it not been for the wildcards.

- Of the men's teams seeded directly into the main draw, eight players are at least 37 years old, including one member of six of the top seven seeds. Four of those players are over 40 (John Hyden 45, Jake Gibb 42, Ed Ratledge 41, and Reid Priddy 40). There are only four main draw players (those seeded directly in) who are in their 20s.

RARE REPEATS – The men rarely see a team repeat as tournament champions from one event to the next. From the start of the 2013 season there have been 38 AVP tournaments, and just three men's teams have been able to win consecutive events in that span. Jake Gibb / Casey Patterson accomplished it three times, with streaks of four, five, and two straight wins. Tri Bourne and John Hyden won the last two events of 2015 on consecutive weekends. Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena won three in a row, beginning with the 2016 season finale in Chicago and then the first two events of 2017. And now Dalhausser and Lucena have again won back-to-back events, having claimed the first two titles of the 2018 campaign. Throughout the period of 38 events from 2013 to this year, 14 unique teams have stood atop the podium.

BIRTHDAY WISHES – Players celebrating birthdays during the event include April Ross (turns 36 on Thursday), Eric Brelia (turns 23 on Friday), Molly Turner (turns 22 on Saturday) and Ryan Meehan (turns 29 on Sunday).

SEEDINGS SUMMARY – The top four seeds this week were the four semifinalists in New York City. Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena have again earned the top seed. The duo has won eight AVP titles since reuniting in 2015, including the first two events of this season. This marks their 15th AVP event together since reuniting, and they have now been seeded first six different times (including this weekend), winning three times when being the top seeds. Theo Brunner and John Hyden hold the second seed, and enter Seattle on the heels of a third-place finish in New York City. Brunner won in Seattle in 2016, which was his last appearance in an AVP championship match, while Hyden is looking to become the first person to win an AVP event after turning 45 (he already owns the record as oldest at 44 years, 11 months). The third seeds, Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb, reached the finals in New York City. Winners of two events last year together, they form the only team besides Dalhausser and Lucena in the competition which has previously won an AVP title. Billy Allen and Ryan Doherty are seeded fourth, and between them have stood atop the podium in Seattle each of the last three years the AVP has played here. Doherty won his first AVP title in 2015 (with John Mayer), then Allen claimed his first ever victory in 2016 with Theo Brunner. Allen again won last season, this time helping Stafford Slick capture his first title. Allen and Doherty finished third in New York City.

- The top four seeded women's teams in Seattle have played a combined total of three AVP events as partners prior to this week. Kelly Claes and Brittany Hochevar have the top billing, finishing third in New York after being eliminated by the eventual champs. Claes was a couple weeks shy of turning nine years old when Hochevar played her first AVP event in 2004. Hochevar played in 86 AVP tournaments before winning, and now she has won four of her past nine competitions. The second seeds, Emily Day and Betsi Flint, look to improve on their seventh-place finish in New York City in their AVP debut. Day has six AVP titles to her credit, the second most of any women's player in the competition. Flint has played 19 of her previous 21 AVP events with Kelley Larsen, and finished second in Seattle last year. The third seeds, Caitlin Ledoux and April Ross, are playing together for the first time ever, which bodes well for them since in each of the first two AVP tournaments this season a team making its AVP debut reached the championship match. Ledoux is the only player in the top four seeds who has yet to play in an AVP final, and has played in nearly as many AVP events (34 before Seattle) as her partner has wins. Ross, who leads the pack here with 30 AVP victories, won in her only previous appearance in Seattle, in 2015 with Jennifer Fopma. Kelley Larsen and Emily Stockman are seeded fourth, after finishing fifth in their inaugural AVP event in New York City. Larsen, who was second here last season with Flint, is playing in just her second AVP event with a partner other than Flint. Stockman is the only player besides Ledoux in the top four seeds who has yet to have won an AVP championship.

SEATTLE SAND BITS – Of the 120 men's players competing this weekend, nine call Washington home. A total of 20 different states plus Puerto Rico are represented. There are six teenagers competing, with the three youngest being 16-year old Miles Partain and 18-year olds Kacey Losik and John Schwengel. Meanwhile 15 players are 40 or older, led by Mika Hunkin at 48 years old, David Smith (46) and John Hyden and John Laidlaw (both 45). Of the heights known, Tal Shavit and David Vander Meer are tied as the shortest at 5'9" while at the other end of the spectrum are 7'1" Ryan Doherty, 6'9" Phil Dalhausser and nine players who are 6'8." Jake Gibb is playing in his 281st pro beach tournament, followed by Sean Rosenthal (266th), Phil Dalhausser (244th), Nick Lucena (242nd) and John Hyden (224th), while five players are playing their first ever pro beach event. There are six players competing in Seattle which have won at least 10 AVP titles entering this weekend. Phil Dalhausser leads the pack with 54, followed by Jake Gibb 28, Casey Patterson 14, John Hyden and Sean Rosenthal 12 each, and Nick Lucena 11. Out of 60 partnerships, 27 are competing together for the very first time and only three have played together 11 or more times before Seattle (Dalhausser / Lucena 73 events, Taylor Crabb and Jake Gibb 18 events, Maddison and Riley McKibbin 16 previous events). Dalhausser / Lucena and Taylor Crabb / Gibb are the only teams here which have previously won an AVP event or have even previously played in an AVP title match.

- There are 98 women playing this weekend, and eight currently live in Washington. The players come from 11 different states, including four which are unique from the men (meaning a total of 24 states plus Puerto Rico are represented). The field includes 13 teenagers with the four youngest being 15-year old Summer Bouquet and 17-year olds Charlie Ekstrom, Devon Newberry and Keara Rutz. On the flip side, Janelle Allen (37), Brittany Hochevar (37), Joohee Tse (37) and April Ross (36) are the four oldest. Of the heights known, Katie Lindstrom measures 5'4" and five others are 5'5". At the other end of the spectrum, Hayley Spelman is 6'6" while Falyn Fonoimoana and Jessica Sykora both are 6'4". There are 14 players making their pro beach volleyball debut while the most experienced is April Ross (229th tournament) followed by Brittany Hochevar (183rd) and Emily Day (136th). April Ross has tallied 30 AVP victories, the most of any player here, followed by Emily Day (six). The women feature 20 tandems (out of 49 total) playing alongside each other for the first time and just three having played together 10 or more times (Aurora Davis / Bree Scarbrough 19, Amanda Dowdy / Irene Pollock 18, and Karissa Cook / Katie Spieler 11). There are no teams competing here which have ever won an AVP title as partners.

WHAT'S UP NEXT – The AVP has one weekend off then has three consecutive tournaments in California. First up will be a 16-team event in San Francisco from July 5-8. Following that, a 24-team tournament will take place in Hermosa Beach July 26-29, then the 32-team Manhattan Beach Open from August 16-19.

2018 QUALIFIER LIST – Here's a look at the teams who have qualified this season (qualification tournament seed) and how they finished in the main draw:

AUSTIN - Men

Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q1) – 13th place
 Travis Mewhirther / Raffe Paulis (Q10) – 13th place
 Troy Field / David Vander Meer (Q11) – 9th place
 Bruno Amorim / Chris Luers (Q12) – 13th place
Mewhirther advances to his first ever AVP main draw

NEW YORK CITY - Men

Ty Loomis / Piotr Marciniak (Q1) – 13th place
 Maddison McKibbin / Riley McKibbin (Q2) – 13th place
 Mark Burik / Iam Satterfield (Q4) – 13th place
 Kyle Friend / Myles Muagututia (Q6) – 9th place
McKibbin brothers advance for 2nd straight tournament

AUSTIN - Women

Sarah Day / Nicolette Martin (Q1) – 5th place
 Janelle Allen / Kerri Schuh (Q5) – 7th place
 Priscilla Piantadosi-Lima / Jessica Sykora (Q6) – 13th place
 Falyn Fonoimoana / Alexa Strange (Q15) – 13th place
Fonoimoana advances to her first ever AVP main draw

NEW YORK CITY - Women

Aurora Davis / Bree Scarbrough (Q2) – 9th place
 Lara Dykstra / Sheila Shaw (Q3) – 13th place
 Christina Matthews / Brittany Tiegs (Q5) – 13th place
 Delaney Knudsen / Jessica Sykora (Q9) – 13th place
Knudsen / Sykora eliminate Humana-Parades / Pavan

AUSTIN ANALYSIS – The Austin championship matches had some similarities. Both featured number one seeds against teams playing together for the first time. For the first time since San Francisco in 2016, both the men's and women's top-seeded teams won on the same weekend.

- In Austin in 2005 Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena won their first title together, then repeated as champs in 2017 and 2018 by sweeping all five opponents both years. As the number one seeds, this marked the first time a top-seeded men's team won an AVP title since Dalhausser and Lucena did it last year in Austin. Across the net was a partnership making their debut, Tim Bomgren and Taylor Crabb. Bomgren set a new career best by reaching the finals while Crabb was playing in his sixth AVP final.

- Top seeds Alix Klineman and April Ross were playing together for the first time on the AVP Tour, although they had competed in four FIVB events previously. Ross won in Austin in 2017 with Whitney Pavlik, and this year she won again to collect her 30th career AVP title as Klineman grabbed her first AVP victory. Their foes, Lauren Fendrick and Sara Sponcil, were not only playing together for the first time ever, but this was Sponcil's second AVP event (her first was in 2013 when she was just 16 years old). Fendrick was the oldest player in the main draw while Sponcil was the youngest. After the match point freeze, there were 31 serves, and the second set saw seven set points for Fendrick / Sponcil and seven match points for Klineman / Ross.

#1 Alix Klineman / April Ross def. #7 Lauren Fendrick / Sara Sponcil 24-22, 25-23 (1:10)

#1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena def. #6 Tim Bomgren / Taylor Crabb 21-14, 21-14 (:40)

NEW YORK CITY IN A NUTSHELL – With the recent announcement of the new event in Hawai'i and its dependence on performance in the three-event Gold Series, the New York City tournament carried even more prestige. And in the brightest spotlight the top teams shined the brightest. Both the men's and women's teams seeded first in the tournament were undefeated in winning the first of the three Gold Series tournaments.

- Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena continued their dominant performance in the young season. Although dropping their first two sets of the year, the duo improved its match record to 10-0 in 2018. Across the net was one familiar foe – Taylor Crabb. This marked the second straight event that Crabb had played in the championship match, having done so in the season opener with his substitute partner Tim Bomgren. But in New York City Jake Gibb had returned from a broken pinky toe and the 2017 New York City champs were back together. Dalhausser / Lucena proved to be too much though, and ended Gibb's impressive 14-match winning streak in New York (as he had also won the 2015 title with Casey Patterson).

- For the second straight event, one of the teams in the women's championship match was playing together for the first time on the AVP Tour. This tournament, though, the inaugural partnership resulted in a title. Sara Hughes and Summer Ross joined forces and in five matches never so much as faced a set point. Seeded No. 1, Hughes and Ross defeated three teams seeded fifth or better, including defeating Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson twice. Ross, who had finished second in New York each of the past two years, was able to win the title in her third attempt.

#1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena def. #3 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb 21-16, 21-17 (:48)

#1 Sara Hughes / Summer Ross def. #5 Nicole Branagh / Brandie Wilkerson 21-14, 21-19 (:52)

BRITTANY IS BETTER – Since the start of the 2017 season, there have been 11 AVP tournaments (including Seattle). In that span, no women's team has been seeded first in consecutive events. With this week's top-seeded team of Kelly Claes and Brittany Hochevar, there have now been seven different teams with the top billing in those 11 events, as well as 11 different individuals. Now, one player stands above the rest in number of times holding the top seed, Brittany Hochevar, who is the number one seed for the fifth time since the start of 2017. Playing in her 96th AVP tournament, Hochevar had never held the top seed before 2017 (her first 88 AVP events), but has now done so in five of her last eight outings.

NUMBER ONES ARE FIRST – In the first two AVP events this season, both the men's and women's winners were seeded No. 1 entering the competition. Given the parity of the Tour, this has actually been a fairly rare occurrence. The top-seeded team in each gender has won the same event just two times in the 21 events prior to this year. In Seattle the top teams will try to make it three straight events winning, which would be the longest streak since the Tour saw it happen three times in a row from the end of 2014 (Atlantic City and Huntington Beach) to the start of 2015 (New Orleans). What would make tying it more impressive is the fact that this week a third different women's team has earned the top billing.

- The longest such streak in Tour history was at the beginning of 2008, when the number one-seeded teams won both the men's and women's titles for five consecutive tournaments (from Miami through Louisville). All five of the men's titles in that span were won by Phil Dalhausser / Todd Rogers, while Misty May-Treanor / Kerri Walsh Jennings claimed four wins, and Nicole Branagh / Elaine Youngs the other one.

IT'S ALL RELATIVE – There are four married couples who are competing this weekend. Piotr and Karolina Marciniak are both in the main draw. The other three couples each have one person in the main draw and the other one in the qualifier. Those couples are Billy (main draw) and Janelle Allen, Kevin and Ali (main draw) McColloch, and Steve and Kendra (main draw) Van Zwieten.

There are three sets of siblings playing in Seattle, and two sets are competing as teammates. Maddison and Riley McKibbin are teammates and seeded first in the qualifier. Twin sisters Madison Witt and McKenna (Witt) Thibodeau are also in the qualifier. Chase Budinger is in the main draw while his older brother Duncan is in the qualifier.

- In honor of Father's Day last weekend, Kevin Smallwood is playing in the qualifier with his son Seann Smallwood.

FREQUENT FLIERS – Amanda Dowdy and Irene Pollock won a bronze medal in Naging, China last Sunday on the FIVB World Tour. This week, they will be playing in unfamiliar territory; on American soil. The globe-trotting duo has been racking up some impressive miles since becoming a partnership in May 2017. From their inception through Labor Day 2017, the duo played in 10 tournaments over the course of 18 weeks. They began with the domestic leg, from Huntington Beach to Austin to New York City. Then a pair of events in China, in Tangshan and Nantong, and back to San Francisco before heading to South Korea for two events, in Daegu and Ulsan. They ended their swing with the Manhattan Beach Open and Chicago Championships. So far 2018 has offered more of the same, as they opened the year with a win in Australia (Shepparton) before traveling to Satun, Thailand. After dropping into the U.S. for the joint FIVB/AVP event in Huntington Beach and then Austin, they went back east for three straight tournaments, first in Jinjang, Malaysia, then to China for events in Nantong and Nanjing. The Seattle tournament will mark their 18th together (eight on AVP Tour and 10 on FIVB Tour). With the bronze medal, Dowdy and Pollock became just the third team which also competes on the AVP Tour to have won multiple medals on the FIVB Tour this year so far.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – Amanda Dowdy and Irene Pollock returned from China and brought back a bronze medal last weekend. This weekend there is a four-star event in Ostrava, Czech Republic. Trevor Crabb and John Mayer are putting their 12-match win streak on the FIVB at stake, while there are several women who usually play on the AVP Tour competing there as well. Brandie Wilkerson, who was in the finals in New York City, is playing for China, while her partner in New York, Nicole Branagh, is playing alongside Kerri Walsh Jennings. Two other U.S. tandems are in the main draw, Sara Hughes / Summer Ross, who won in New York, along with Lane Carico / Lauren Fendrick. Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman are in the qualifier, and will miss Seattle should they advance from the qualifier.

- Here is a look at medals collected this season on the FIVB Tour by AVP players:

Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat	Bronze	Quinzhou, China	three star	October 15
Betsi Flint / Kelley Larsen	Bronze	Aalsmeer, Netherlands	one star	October 29
Alix Klineman / April Ross	Gold	The Hague, Netherlands	four star	January 7
Avery Drost / Chase Frishman	Gold	Shepparton, Australia	one star	February 4
Amanda Dowdy / Irene Pollock	Gold	Shepparton, Australia	one star	February 4
Caitlin Ledoux / Jace Pardon	Silver	Shepparton, Australia	one star	February 4
Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena	Gold	Fort Lauderdale, U.S.	four star	March 4
Summer Ross / Brooke Sweat	Bronze	Fort Lauderdale, U.S.	four star	March 4
Caitlin Ledoux / Emily Stockman	Gold	Satun, Thailand	one star	April 11
Melissa Humana-Parades / Sarah Pavan	Gold	Xiamen, China	four star	April 22
Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar	Silver	Xiamen, China	four star	April 22
Trevor Crabb / John Mayer	Gold	Lucerne, Switzerland	three star	May 13
Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman	Bronze	Lucerne, Switzerland	three star	May 13
Aurora Davis / Bree Scarbrough	Gold	Bangkok, Thailand	one star	May 13
Brandie Wilkerson / (Heather Bansley)	Bronze	Itapema, Brazil	four star	May 20
Trevor Crabb / John Mayer	Gold	Jinjang, China	two star	June 3
Amanda Dowdy / Irene Pollock	Bronze	Nanjing, China	two star	June 17

SEEDINGS SNIPPETS – Here are snippets on the teams which are seeded directly into the main draw in Seattle:

MEN

- #1 Phil Dalhausser / Nick Lucena – won first two events of 2018 (10-0 in matches)... won 9 AVP tournaments as partners (and 19 overall)... since reuniting in 2015 has played in the AVP finals in 10 of their 14 AVP events (won 8)
- #2 Theo Brunner / John Hyden – 3rd AVP event as partners (9th in Austin then 3rd in NYC)... Brunner won in Seattle in 2016 (with Billy Allen)... Hyden became 23rd male to surpass \$1 million in career prize money
- #3 Taylor Crabb / Jake Gibb – 8th AVP event as partners (won twice, in NY and Hermosa Beach in 2017)... Crabb has played in title match in each of the first 2 events this year... Gibb has finished 3rd each of the last 3 years in Seattle
- #4 Billy Allen / Ryan Doherty – 3rd AVP event as partners (5th in Austin then 3rd in New York)... Allen has won last 2 titles in Seattle (with Theo Brunner in 2016 and Stafford Slick in 2017)... Doherty won here in 2015 with John Mayer
- #5 Casey Patterson / Stafford Slick – 3rd AVP event together (3rd in Austin then 7th in New York)... Patterson reached semifinals in Seattle in 2015 and 2016 (both with Jake Gibb)... won in Seattle in 2017 (with Billy Allen)
- #6 Jeremy Casebeer / Reid Priddy – 3rd AVP event together (3rd in Austin then 5th in New York)... Casebeer has been in semifinals in 4 of his last 9 AVP events... Priddy has been in semifinals in 3 of last 6 AVP events
- #7 Chase Budinger / Sean Rosenthal – 3rd AVP event together (13th in Austin then 5th in New York)... Budinger's 3rd AVP event ever, and his brother Duncan is in qualifier... Rosenthal was 2nd in Seattle in 2017 (with Trevor Crabb)
- #8 Avery Drost / Chase Frishman – 7th AVP event together (best of 3rd)... 1 of Drost's 4 career AVP semifinals came in Seattle in 2016 (with Gregg Weaver)... last year in Seattle Frishman was in qualifier (been in main draw ever since)
- #9 Tim Bomgren / Chaim Schalk – 1st event as partners (1 of 2 main draw teams making debut)... this is Bomgren's 4th AVP event with partner other than his brother Brian... this marks just the 8th AVP event for Schalk
- #10 Ed Ratledge / Roberto Rodriguez – 2nd event as partners (9th in New York)... Ratledge's 4th straight year in Seattle with a different partner... Rodriguez placed 5th in Seattle in 2016, his second best AVP finish ever
- #11 Piotr Marciniak / Eric Zaun – 1st event as partners (1 of 2 main draw teams making debut)... Marciniak has never lost an AVP main draw match to team with lower seed than him... Zaun's 3rd event this year with 3rd different partner
- #TBD John Schwengel / Rowdy Lennon – earned wildcard for winning AVP First 18s National Championship in Hermosa Beach last year... were high school teammates, coached by Schwengel's dad (Kurt)

WOMEN

- #1 Kelly Claes / Brittany Hochevar – 2nd AVP event together (played 3rd in New York)... first time for Claes being seeded No. 1... Hochevar has been in semis in 12 of last 14 AVP events (4 wins in that span)
- #2 Emily Day / Betsi Flint – 2nd AVP event together (7th in New York)... Day has won 4 of her last 9 AVP events... this is just 3rd AVP event Flint has ever played with a partner other than Kelley Larsen... Flint was 2nd last year in Seattle
- #3 Caitlin Ledoux / April Ross – 1st event together... including FIVB, this marks Ledoux's 7th event in 2018 with a 6th different partner... Ross won in Seattle in 2015 (with Jennifer Fopma) in her last time playing here
- #4 Kelley Larsen / Emily Stockman – 2nd AVP event together (5th in NYC)... Larsen's 2nd AVP event with a partner other than Betsi Flint (2nd here in 2017)... Stockman has 10 wins over teams seeded 4th or better since start of 2014
- #5 Allison McColloch / Geena Urango – 4th AVP event together (13th in Austin then 7th in New York)... McColloch missed 2017 season due to pregnancy... 5 of Urango's last 6 AVP match losses have been three-setters
- #6 Karissa Cook / Katie Spieler – 10th AVP event together (3rd in Austin, 13th in New York)... placed 3rd in Austin to set a career best for both players... this marks highest seed for either player
- #7 Brittany Howard / Kelly Reeves – 3rd AVP event together (9th in Austin, 9th in New York)... this is just 9th AVP tournament for Howard... 1 of Reeves' 2 AVP semifinals came in Seattle in 2017 (with Jennifer Fopma)
- #8 Karolina Marciniak / Kendra VanZwieten – 8th AVP event together (first this year though)... Marciniak had first AVP semifinal in season opener in Austin... VanZwieten finished 3rd in Seattle in both 2015 and 2016 (both Kim DiCello)
- #9 Amanda Dowdy / Irene Pollock – 8th AVP event together (13th in Austin)... Dowdy has now played more events with Pollock than any other partner... Pollock's 5th in Seattle in 2017 was 1 of best 4 AVP finishes in her career
- #10 Aurora Davis / Bree Scarbrough – 16th AVP event together (7th in Austin then 9th in New York)... including qualifier, team has played 10 matches this season, and 6 have gone to a third set... longest partnership in main draw
- #11 Lara Dykstra / Sheila Shaw – 3rd AVP event together (9th in Austin, 13th in New York)... This is Dykstra's 20th AVP tournament with 11th different partner... Shaw's 4th different partner in four years in Seattle
- #TBD Alexis Filippone / Megan Muret – earned wildcard for winning AVP First 18s National Championship in Hermosa Beach last year... in 2016 played in AVP qualifier (finished 57th) and were 5th in 2016 U-19 World Championships