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News and Features

May 25, 2007

Main draw underway in Louisville Qualifiers Kuk and Whitney continue their run

By Curtis Snyder / Special to AVP.com

UPDATE 5:50 PM EDT

The Friday day session wrapped up with some interesting things on the horizon. On the men's side, seeding isn't holding very strongly as No. 6 seed Casey Jennings and Mark Williams and No. 5 seed Dax Holdren and Kevin Wong both advanced to the semifinals of the winner's bracket with a great Friday night match between Nick Lucena-Will Strickland and second-seeded Jake Gibb-Sean Rosenthal for the right to be the fourth team in the winner's semifinals along with top seed Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers.

Saturday night will feature a match-up of Dahlhausser-Rogers vs. Holdren-Wong. Holdren and Rogers are close friends and have played together in the past.

Holdren and Wong are playing together for the first time and will attempt to do what the regular teams haven't been able to in knocking off Dahlhausser and Rogers.

On the women's side, the top eight seeds all won in the second round of the winner's bracket and half of the semifinals are set. Saturday night will feature Jen Boss and April Ross against Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh. Boss and Ross knocked May-Treanor and Walsh into the contender's bracket last week in Hermosa Beach.

Another match-up of an upset from last week is set for Friday night as Holly McPeak and Logan Tom will try to repeat their performance of defeating Nicole Branagh and Elaine Youngs. The other Friday night match features Tyra Turner and Rachel Wacholder against Carrie Dodd and Tatiana Minello.

UPDATE 4:21 PM EDT

Things are winding down for the Friday day session with every court on either its last or second-to-last match of the day. Tournament Director Matt Gage estimated that between both the men and women, there were 25 straight two-game matches. Scott Davenport and Chad Turner in their third match of the day defeated Billy Allen and A.J. Mihalic in three games to break the streak. Allen and Mihalic wind up with a 17th place finish.

Dax Holdren and Kevin Wong defeated Olson and Ring to advance to the Saturday night session where they will face Dalhausser and Rogers. No. 3 seed Mike Lambert and Stein Metzger are in action in the stadium in the final winner's bracket match of the day against No. 6 Casey Jennings and Mark Williams.

The women are still a bit further along with just three matches remaining in the 17th place round. Koester and Rouwenhorst earned the right to play Saturday with a win over Keao Burdine and Nancy Mason. Angie Akers and Brooke Hanson earned the same right with a win over Chara Harris and Brooke Langston.

UPDATE 3:08 PM EDT

The Friday night session matches are now set. On the men's side, No. 10 Nick Lucena and Will Strickland got past No. 7 Anthony Medel and Fred Souza and will square off against No. 2 Jake Gibb and Sean Rosenthal, who defeated No. 15 Brent Doble and Ryan Mariano in the second round.

On the contender's side of the bracket, No. 18 Adam Jewell and Jose Loiola defeated No. 16 Dain Blanton and Jason Lee. Blanton-Lee end the tournament with a 17th-place finish.

In women's action, EY and Nicole downed the Lindquist sisters to advance to the night session, where they will go up against McPeak and Tom. May-Treanor and Walsh defeated Davis and Johnson Jordan and will not play again until the Saturday night session, when they will face the winner of Boss-Ross and DeNecochea-Fontana.

In the contender's bracket, Kuk and Whitney continued their impressive day and have earned the right to play on Saturday by defeating No. 22 Erin Byrd and Paige Davis, who finish in 17th place. More and Stonebarger also knocked off No. 18 Janelle Ruen and Jennifer Snyder to advance in the contender's bracket, thus giving Ruen and Snyder a 17th-place finish as well.

UPDATE 2:20 PM EDT

After their photo-finish game one victory over the dark horse qualifying team of No. 21 Tara Kuk and Kim Whitney, No. 4 Jennifer Boss and April Ross cruised to a game two win, 21-12. Boss and Ross advance to face No. 4 Dianne DeNecochea and Barbra Fontana, which is getting underway.

The women's night session matches are almost set as No. 3 Tyra Turner and Rachel Wacholder defeated No. 14 Jen ny Pavley and Alicia Polzin on the stadium court. They will face No. 6 Carrie Dodd and Tatiana Minello, who defeated No. 11 Paula Roca and Sarah Straton.

McPeak and Tom have also advanced to the night session, where they will face the winner of No. 2 Nicole Branagh and Elaine Youngs and No. 15 Katie and Tracy Lindquist. Nicole and EY won the first game over the Lindquist sisters by a nose, 22-20.

In men's action, one of the front-runners, No. 3 Mike Lambert and Stein Metzger, defeated No. 14 Austin Rester and Aaron Wachtfogel, 21-16, 21-13, in the lower half of the second-round bracket. The three remaining second-round matches are still ongoing. Lambert and

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No. 1 Kerri Walsh (above) and Misty May-Treanor made their way past No. 8 Annett Davis and Jenny Johnson Jordan, 21-19, 23-21 in third-round action Friday afternoon. (Jules Dovani / AVP.com)

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Metzger ran away with the match down the backstretch.

Random stat of the day: Four men's first-round matches went to three games and in three of the four, the team that won the first game won the match. On the other hand in the three women's first-round matches that went three games, the team that lost the first game won the match. All second-round matches have been sweeps so far.

UPDATE 12:10 PM EDT

Happy 26th birthday to Logan Tom, who is currently in action with teammate Holly McPeak against No. 10 Angie Akers and Brooke Hanson. Also celebrating a birthday is Lisa Marshall, who, along with Jessica Veris, fell to Angela McHenry and Lisa Rutledge in the qualifier yesterday.

Meanwhile, No. 21 Tara Kuk and Kim Whitney are continuing their stellar play. They held game point in their first game against No. 5 Jennifer Boss and April Ross, 23-22, but eventually fell, 26-24. The teams are just beginning their second game. No. 8 Annett Davis and Jenny Johnson Jordan defeated No. 9 Angela Lewis and Priscilla Lima and will advance to face No. 1 Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh in the third round.

Next up, No. 3 Tyra Turner and Rachel Wacholder will see their first action in Louisville, when they go up against No. 14 Jenny Pavley and Alicia Polzin.

On the men's side, No. 4 Matt Olson and Jason Ring dispatched of No. 20 Scott Davenport and Chad Turner in two games on the stadium court.

UPDATE 10:55 AM EDT

No. 1 Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh just defeated No. 17 Michelle More and Suzanne Stonebarger in the first game on the stadium court. More-Stonebarger also faced May-Treanor and Walsh in their first main-draw match back in 2004 at Huntington Beach. Three years later, the result was the same, as May-Treanor and Walsh defeated More-Stonebarger, 21-16, 21-8 in 38 minutes.

There's also a minor net problem on court five. No. 15 Brent Doble and Ryan Mariano were leading No. 18 Adam Jewell and Jose Loliola, 13-8, when the net fell down. One of the players noticed the pole was a little off, and when the referee went to check it out, the net fell on top of him and a couple volunteers. The crack AVP crew is all over the problem and only a short delay is expected.

An upset has occurred in both men's and women's action as No. 20 Scott Davenport and Chat Turner defeated No. 13 John Mayer and Scott Wong. Mayer and Wong are playing together for the first time this season, while Davenport and Turner advance to face No. 4 Matt Olson and Jason Ring, who are coming off a second-place finish at Hermosa Beach last week.

In women's action, No. 21 Tara Kuk and Kim Whitney -- who came out of the qualifier's bracket on Thursday -- continued their winning streak after knocking off No. 12 Lauren Fendrick and Brittany Hochevar.

UPDATE 9:49 AM EDT

Early results are trickling in as No. 17 Michelle More and Suzanne Stonebarger advanced past No. 16 Ashley Ivy and Heather Lowe and will face No. 1 Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh on the stadium court shortly.

May-Treanor and Walsh were spotted warming up alongside No. 7 Holly McPeak and Logan Tom on the Crocs court. McPeak and Tom will play the winner of No. 23 Angela Knopf-Catie Mintz and No. 10 Angie Akers-Brooke Hanson a bit later on.

In men's action, top seeds are advancing as No. 16 Dain Blanton and Jason Lee moved on to the second round and will face No. 1 Phil Dahlhausser and Todd Rogers, who are looking for their fifth tournament win of the season. No. 9 Matt Fuerbringer and Sean Scott advanced, as did No. 12 Albert Hannemann and Ed Ratledge.

UPDATE 8:53 AM EDT

Play gets started in the Derby City for the sixth event of the year as rush hour looms on I-64 above Riverfront Park. The cargo barges are making their way up and down the Ohio River just a few feet away. While action on the courts is taking place on both sides of the busy interstate, most of the corporate sponsor tents and stores are directly under the raised interstate. The Crocs court looks like an indoor court when the roof of the gym comes into play, while the Cuervo tent is literally touching the underbelly of the roadway above.

The temperature is in the high-60s as play begins but is expected to reach into the mid- to high-80s by late morning. With the top eight seeds receiving a first-round bye, seeds nine through 24 will be in action for the morning's first hour or two.

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