

Best D3 Volleyball Match-Ups Scheduled for WEEK #4

The Matchup Metric (MM) is a rating from 1 to 10 for D3 Volleyball matches coming up on the schedule. MM>8 is as Tony the Tiger of Frosted Flakes Fame says, "They're GREAT!" Every match, for the first time all month, is at least an 8.2, in part because the average distance between opponents on the T100 for these 11 matches is less than 3! Not only do I suspect 4 dogs will likely win, but no less than 4 will go to 5 sets, too, maybe even the same 4, or more...?

The first three weeks of MM forecasting: 26 correct - 5 incorrect, & 3 cancellations for an 84% success rate. Still a tick above the success rate for all matches so far, surprising because this sub-group is expected to be more in doubt. Loras over Cal-Lu and Baruch over NYU will do that, though. The third installment missed on 3 of 12, one more than the combined misses from week #1 & #2, as predicted last week! This will be the last of a month-long series now that there is enough data to do a deeper dive into fewer spotlighted matchups for weekends of the 2nd month in the 2024 season.

P(W)= Probability for Match Win PD= Point Differential Forecast P(5th)= Probability Match goes to 5th Set

A / H NEUT	OPPONENTS	P(W)	PRED (PD)	P(5th)	Comments	DAY MM
A	MIT	45%	H 3-2	29%	6 PM – One of these teams will walk away from this contest with a 4th loss, having each played 3 AVCA ranked opponents already. Although neither will be credited with playing a 4th ranked opponent then, I suspect both will make their way into the AVCA Top 20 by the end of the month.	WED 9.4
H	Lasell	55%	(2)			
A	Arcadia	39%	H 3-1	27%	7 PM – One goes two games over .500 with the other settling in right at .500. Cal –Lu (Arc.) & New Paltz (Kean) are looming next, making a win from this CVC/MAC showdown a must for both squads. T100 has them #42 & #43 making Kean a slight favorite, at home more likely to get it done!	WED 9.0
H	Kean	61%	(4)			
A	Carthage	48%	H 3-2	32%	7 PM - The winner of this FJ Invite first goes a long way to securing a satisfying weekend, likely to end up no worse than 2-1. Should Juniata come up short, its first time below .500 in the month of February since...? Carthage tuning up for a couple at Loras & at N. Central the end of the month.	THU 9.2
H	Juniata	52%	(0)			
A	Geneva	37%	H 3-1	26%	7 PM - Why does 2-4 defeat 7-3? Both played away at conference foe St. Vincent and Thiel did what Geneva didn't. The last two years, Geneva began 4-10 & 3-9 before heating up arriving at the AMCC Championship game. Thiel looks to make a statement as an AMCC contender this year.	THU 8.3
H	Thiel	63%	(5)			
A	Nichols	46%	H 3-2	30%	6 PM - I expect Nichols to break into the AVCA Top 20 tomorrow, something Misericordia did for the first time last week. The Bisons already 12th, 16th & 17th in IH, T100, and Massey, respectively - Just ahead of the Cougars in all 3, but slim enough margin for home court tilting Misericordia's way.	FRI 9.2
H	Misericordia	54%	(1)			
A	Vassar	43%	H 3-2	29%	6 PM - The highest MM of the season between T100's #4 & #5. Like directly above, the better ranked team will be a slight dog, only a consequence from having to hit the road. Springfield the only Top 10 team to have not played a ranked D3 opponent,... until now. Time to get informed!	FRI 10.0
H	Springfield	57%	(2)			
N	New Paltz	42%	R 3-2	29%	7:30 PM - R-M is #20 at T100, #30 at Massey, and #57 at IH. WHAT? This match is played back to back by NP after playing Kean. A quick dispatch of Kean might help, otherwise not so sure. Should NP split on Friday, I ask the same as I did for Juniata, "First time below .500 in Feb since ...?"	FRI 8.6
N	Randolph-Macon	58%	(2)			
A	Aurora	52%	A 3-2	32%	1 PM - The presumed 3rd from the NAAC vs. the 4th from the CCIW. Aurora coming off 3 consecutive matches against the better 3 in the CCIW, each now among the T10. IW just lost to Benedictine (#2 in the NAAC) as I write this. Looks like this one is the NAAC/CCIW equilibrium match.	SAT 8.2
H	Illinois Wesleyan	48%	(0)			
N	Randolph-Macon	45%	H 3-2	29%	1 PM - Messiah likely still licking their wounds after giving up a reverse sweep to Juniata last week. A "tester" just like New Paltz the night before playing back to back against Kean right before this one vs. R-M. One of many MAC/CVC cross-overs. Teams ranked at #18 & #20 in the T100 at FJ.	SAT 9.0
N	Messiah	55%	(2)			
N	Hobart	45%	SC3-2	30%	2 PM - These two teams ranked #24 (UCSC) and #27 (Hobart) in the T100. This time and date is what Hobart has on their schedule, but the Banana Slugs seem to think they are playing this one on Friday and SJF on Saturday. Somehow got reversed as Hobart isn't traveling until Saturday?	SAT 9.4
N	UC Santa Cruz	55%	(1)			
A	Benedictine	53%	A 3-2	31%	3 PM –These two teams are ranked 4 spots apart at #17 & #21. Farther apart than 8 of the previous 10 matches listed here. Probably the reason the away team is favored. It occurs to me that a better way to do this exercise might be to flip a coin. Benedictine gets "heads," so they will win.	SAT 8.2
H	Baldwin Wallace	47%	(0)			