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WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS
SAPPORO 2013

World Grand Prix Previews - Finals (August 28 – September 1)

Day 2 (Thursday August 29)

USA v Serbia

USA

- Wednesday's first-up finals loss to Brazil snapped the USA's seven-match finals winning streak. Even with the loss, the USA have won 15 of their last 17 matches in the World Grand Prix Finals.
- The USA have not lost a World Grand Prix Finals match to a team other than Brazil since losing back-to-back matches against Cuba and Italy in 2008.
- In all World Grand Prix play, the USA have won 29 of their last 32 matches, with all three losses coming against Brazil.
- In this year's World Grand Prix, the USA have a 0-2 record against Brazil and an 8-0 record against everyone else.

Serbia

- After Wednesday's first-up Finals defeat, Serbia have lost two consecutive World Grand Prix matches, both at the hands of China.
- If Serbia lose a third consecutive match, it will be only the second time this has happened in Serbia's brief World Grand Prix history. Serbia lost four consecutive matches in last year's tournament.
- If Serbia lose to the USA, Serbia will have a 0-4 record against China and the USA in this year's World Grand Prix and a 7-0 record against all other countries.

Head to Head

- The USA have won four of their five matches against Serbia in the World Grand Prix, including a 3-2 victory in the preliminary round earlier this year.
- In all five World Grand Prix Finals encounters between these two teams, the team that won the first set has gone on to win the match.
- The USA can become the first team to defeat Serbia twice in the World Grand Prix Finals, having previously won 3-0 in the 2011 semifinals.
- Serbia are the last team other than Brazil to defeat the USA in the World Grand Prix, earning a 3-1 victory in the 2011 preliminary round.

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Italy v China

Italy

- Italy's loss to Japan on Wednesday was only their third loss in their last 12 World Grand Prix matches dating back to last year.
- Wednesday's loss represented the fourth time in the last six years that Italy have lost to Japan in the World Grand Prix Finals, with no Finals victories over Japan during this time.
- Italy have lost four of their last five World Grand Prix Finals matches dating back to 2011. Their only Finals win during that time came against Thursday's opponents China.
- Italy face the prospect of losing their first two Finals matches for only the second time since 2003. They lost their first three Finals matches in 2011.

China

- With Wednesday's victory over Serbia, China remained undefeated in this year's World Grand Prix with a perfect 10-0 record.
- Victory over Italy would give China 11 consecutive wins in the World Grand Prix for the first time since 2007-2008, when they won 12 straight World Grand Prix matches.
- China's only other streak of 11+ consecutive wins in the World Grand Prix was an 11-match run in 2001.
- This will be China's 259th match in the World grand Prix, more than any other country.

Head to Head

- Italy and China have met on 18 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix, with Italy holding a 10-8 advantage.
- Italy have won their last three World Grand Prix matches against China and can win four in a row for the second time in this rivalry. Overall, Italy have won seven of their last nine matches against China in the World Grand Prix.
- Five of the last six World Grand Prix matches between these teams, all since 2007, have been decided in five sets, except for Italy's 3-0 win over China in the 2010 Finals.
- Exactly half of the World Grand Prix encounters between these teams have come in the Finals. In those nine matches, Italy holds a 5-4 edge, including winning the last three.



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Japan v Brazil

Japan

- Japan defeated Italy on Wednesday, only the third time (after 2001 and 2010) that Japan won their first match of a World Grand Prix finals campaign.
- It was Japan's third straight World Grand Prix finals victory dating back to 2011, setting a new national record. Before this current streak, Japan had never won consecutive matches in the World Grand Prix finals.
- Japan won in straight sets for the fourth time in this year's World Grand Prix, one short of the league-leading total of five, achieved by China, Italy and Serbia.
- Japan have 88 wins in World Grand Prix play, and can tie Italy in sixth place on 89 victories on Thursday if Japan win and Italy lose.

Brazil

- Wednesday's emphatic win over their arch-rivals the USA was Brazil's ninth victory in 10 matches in the World Grand Prix this season. Their only loss this year was a 3-1 setback at the hands of Bulgaria.
- Brazil have won 36 of their last 40 matches in the World Grand Prix dating back to the 2010 finals.
- Brazil's last 15 World Grand Prix finals matches have resulted in 12 wins and just three losses, all three of which came against the USA. Brazil's last World Grand Prix Finals loss to a team other than the USA came against Thursday's opponent, Japan, in 2010.
- A victory over Japan would be Brazil's 199th win in World Grand Prix play, leaving them one short of becoming the first country to reach 200.

Head to Head

- Japan and Brazil have met on 34 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix. Brazil holds a commanding 30-4 edge in these head-to-head match-ups, with a 96-30 advantage in sets won.
- Nine of the 34 matches have come in the finals, with Brazil winning eight of those. Japan's only World Grand Prix Finals win over Brazil is also their most recent World Grand Prix Finals win over the South Americans: a 3-2 triumph in the 2010 finals.
- Prior to that 2010 loss, Brazil had won 17 consecutive World Grand Prix matches against Japan. Since that loss, Brazil have won both of their World Grand Prix Finals matches against Japan without dropping a set.
- Three of Japan's four wins over Brazil in the World Grand Prix have come in five sets. The other win was a straight sets victory in 2001.
- Brazil have won the first set in their last nine World Grand Prix matches against Japan.