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VOLLEYBALL
WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS
SAPPORO 2013

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

Day 3 (Friday, August 30)

CHINA v USA

China

- With Thursday's victory over Italy, China remained undefeated in this year's World Grand Prix with a perfect 11-0 record.
- This is the third time China have won 11 consecutive matches in the World Grand Prix.
- With a victory over the USA on Friday, China would equal their longest World Grand Prix winning streak of 12 matches, set in 2007-08.
- A victory over the USA would be China's third consecutive win in the World Grand Prix Finals, something the country last achieved in 2007 (four straight wins).
- This will be China's 260th match in the World Grand Prix, more than any other country.

USA

- The USA have lost their first two matches of a World Grand Prix Finals series for the first time.
- A loss to China would hand the USA three consecutive losses in the World Grand Prix for the first time since 2009 and only the eighth time ever.
- A loss to China would represent the first time ever that the USA have lost three consecutive matches in the World Grand Prix Finals. They had lost two straight finals matches only twice prior to this year.
- The USA have only won one set in their first two finals matches. This is the first time in their history that they have won one or fewer sets in two consecutive World Grand Prix Finals matches combined.

Head to Head

- China and the USA have played each other on 30 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix, with China holding an 18-12 edge.
- The USA have won the last five World Grand Prix matches between the teams and can equal the longest streak in this rivalry, China's six-match winning run from 1997-2000.
- China have not beaten the USA in the World Grand Prix since 2007.
- The USA have won 10 consecutive sets against China in World Grand Prix play coming into this match.
- In the World Grand Prix Finals, the USA have won their last four contests against China, three of which were in straight sets. China's last win over the Americans in a World Grand Prix Finals match came in 2003.



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BRAZIL v ITALY

Brazil

- With two wins from two World Grand Prix Finals matches in 2013, Brazil join China as the only teams yet to lose a match in this year's Finals series.
- Brazil are the only team yet to drop a set in this year's final series. All other teams have lost at least three sets in their first two matches.
- Brazil have won their last six World Grand Prix matches since their only World Grand Prix loss of the year so far (against Bulgaria).
- A win over Italy would give Brazil 7+ consecutive World Grand Prix wins for the eighth time in their history.
- Brazil have also won six consecutive World Grand Prix Finals matches, the sixth time they have achieved this. They are 24-4 in their last 28 World Grand Prix Finals matches.
- If Brazil defeat Italy, Brazil will become the first country to win 200 matches in the World Grand Prix. China is second with 165 wins entering Friday's matches.

Italy

- With two losses in two matches so far in the 2013 World Grand Prix Finals, Italy join the USA as the only countries yet to record a victory.
- Italy have now lost five out of their last six World Grand Prix Finals matches and eight of their last 10.
- If Italy lose to Brazil, they will have lost their opening three matches of a World Grand Prix Finals campaign for the third time, after 2003 and 2011.

Head to Head

- Brazil and Italy have met on 20 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix, with Brazil holding a commanding 16-4 edge.
- Brazil have won their last five World Grand Prix matches against Italy. The last World Grand Prix victory in this rivalry for the Italians was in the preliminary round in 2010.
- The two teams have played seven times in the World Grand Prix Finals, with Brazil triumphing on all but one occasion. Brazil have won the last three Finals matches between the sides since Italy's lone Finals win over the South Americans in 2007.
- In their current three-match World Grand Prix Finals winning streak against Italy – featuring victories in 2008, 2010 and 2011 – Brazil have not dropped a set.

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SERBIA v JAPAN

Serbia

- Serbia bounced back from Wednesday's first-up loss to the China by defeating the USA on Thursday, joining their next adversary Japan as the two 1-1 teams after two matches.
- Thursday's win was Serbia's 21st in World Grand Prix competition, taking them past Turkey (20) and within three of the Dominican Republic (24) for 13th place.
- Serbia have alternated wins and losses in their last five World Grand Prix Finals matches, with a pattern of: W-L-W-L-W. If this pattern holds up, they are due for a loss against Japan.

Japan

- Japan's three-match World Grand Prix Finals winning streak was snapped on Thursday at the hands of Brazil. Japan is now 1-1 after two matches, the same record as Friday's opponents Serbia.
- Japan have won eight World Grand Prix matches this year to equal their national record, set in 1994 and equaled in 2010 and 2011. If they defeat Serbia it will be the first time Japan will have won nine matches in one World Grand Prix campaign.
- Seven of the nine matches Japan have won in the World Grand Prix Finals have come against European opponents.
- Japan's last seven matches in the World Grand Prix Finals – three wins, four losses – have all been decided in straight sets.

Head to Head

- Serbia and Japan have met only twice before in World Grand Prix play, with the teams splitting two matches in the 2011 preliminary round.
- Serbia have won their last three matches against Japan in all competitions. Two of those three victories came in Tokyo.
- In Serbia's brief World Grand Prix history, the only countries they have lost to multiple times are the USA (four times) and China (twice). Japan could therefore become the third country to defeat Serbia more than once in the World Grand Prix.