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WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS
SAPPORO 2013

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

Day 4 (Saturday, August 31)

ITALY v USA

Italy

- With one point out of their first three final matches, Italy have no more chance of winning the 2013 World Grand Prix.
- Italy have lost three consecutive World Grand Prix final matches. If they lose against the USA, they will equal their worst World Grand Prix final-streak in history. They previously lost four final matches in a row in 2003.
- Italy have won two sets so far in the Finals. If they fail to win any more, they will equal their lowest amount of set wins in a World Grand Prix Finals. They previously won only two sets in 1999, but this was only in two matches.
- Looking at matches including the preliminary round, Italy have suffered three World Grand Prix defeats in a row. If they lose both remaining matches, they will lose five in a row for the first time since 2000.

USA

- By losing 3-0 to China on Friday, the USA have no more chance of prolonging their series of three consecutive World Grand Prix championships. They won the tournament in 2012, 2011 and 2010.
- The USA will not set the outright streak of most consecutive World Grand Prix championships. They will have to keep sharing their record three wins in a row with Brazil (2004-2006).
- For the first time ever, 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 suffered three consecutive losses in the World Grand Prix for the first time since 2009 and only the eighth time ever.
- If they lose against Italy, the USA will set their outright second longest losing streak in World Grand Prix play, after a streak of 20 consecutive losses in 1997-2000.
- Of all World Grand Prix final matches played on Japanese soil, the USA have won only two (six defeats).

Head to Head

- Italy and the USA have faced each other on five previous occasions in the World Grand Prix Finals with the USA slightly having the upper hand: three wins versus two wins.



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- Looking at all World Grand Prix matches, Italy have won seven and the USA eight of their previous 15 encounters.
- The USA have won their last five World Grand Prix matches against Italy, since a 3-1 defeat in the 2008 Finals.

BRAZIL v SERBIA

Brazil

- Brazil are on a perfect record in the 2013 World Grand Prix Finals: three out of three without losing a set. They are the only team yet to lose a set in the Finals.
- Brazil are on course of winning their first World Grand Prix championship since 2009. If so, they would end their second longest winning draught in the tournament. Their longest winning draught: 5 years from 1999-2003.
- Brazil are on a seven match winning streak in World Grand Prix finals, their second longest winning streak in the Finals. Their record is 10 (2008-2009).
- Brazil beat Italy on Friday to claim their 200th World Grand Prix win. They became the first team to reach this milestone. China is second with 166 wins.

Serbia

- Serbia can equal their team record of winning three World Grand Prix Finals matches in a row.
- Serbia previously set this feat in 2011.
- Serbia are currently ranked third and are on course to equaling or bettering their previous World Grand Prix result. In 2011, Serbia finished third.

Head to Head

- Brazil and Serbia have faced each other once before in the World Grand Prix. In the 2012 preliminary round Brazil beat Serbia 3-2.
- The two teams have also gone head to head twice in the Olympic Games and once in the World Championships (as Serbia and Montenegro), with Brazil winning all meetings.
- Brazil have not lost a Finals match against European opposition since a 3-1 loss against Italy in 2007.

JAPAN v CHINA

Japan

- Japan have lost their last two Finals matches without winning a set. Once before did they lose three consecutive Finals matches without winning a single set (2010-2011).
- They can lose at least three Finals matches in one edition for the first time since 2010 (3 losses).

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- 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 China it will be the first time Japan will have won nine matches in one World Grand Prix campaign.
- Japan's last eight matches in the World Grand Prix finals – three wins, five losses – have all been decided in straight sets.

China

- China are currently ranked second in the World Grand Prix final, one point behind Brazil.
- They are looking to claim their second World Grand Prix championship, after finishing first in 2003. They are the only country from Asia to have ever won this tournament.
- China are on a three match winning streak in the World Grand Prix Finals, their longest run of consecutive wins since winning four in a row in 2007.
- Including preliminary round matches, China have equalled their longest winning streak in World Grand Prix play (12) by beating the USA on Friday. They previously set this feat in 2007-2008. If they win against Japan, they will set a new team record of 13 consecutive World Grand Prix wins.
- China have won all three of their World Grand Prix Finals matches this season. Prior to this tournament, they had only won five out of 24 Finals matches since the start of the 2008 World Grand Prix.

Head to Head

- China will face Japan for the 20th time in World Grand Prix play. They have only played more matches against Brazil, Cuba, the USA (all 31) and Russia (26).
- China won 18 of their previous 19 meetings.
- Only against the USA have China won more World Grand Prix matches: 19.
- Japan's sole win against China in the World Grand Prix came in the 2001 preliminary round (3-0),
- China's last three World Grand Prix wins against Japan all came in the Finals (2008, 2009 and 2010).
- Both teams have also met six times in the Olympic Games, with China winning on five occasions. Japan's only win though was in their most recent Olympic encounter (3-2 in the 2012 London Olympic's quarterfinal).