



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS FINALS – AUGUST 16-17

### Finals Group 3 – Country specific statistics

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria are aiming to clinch 21st place in front of a home crowd in Samokov. In 2013, their only prior season in the World Grand Prix, they finished ninth.
- Together with the Czech Republic, they are the only unbeaten team in Group 3 with six wins each.
- Their six wins this season equal their six wins in 2013. One more win would set a new team record.

#### Croatia

- Croatia are the only debutants in Group 3 to have made it to the finals. Australia, Kenya and Mexico all failed to do so, while the only other debutants Belgium have reached the finals in Group 2
- Croatia are yet to play a five-setter in the World Grand Prix.
- They lost their last match (3-1 vs Bulgaria) and can lose two in a row for the first time in team history.

#### Czech Republic

- The Czech Republic have won all of their six matches in this World Grand Prix season so far. In their only previous season in the competition, they won just two of nine matches.
- Their last three wins against Algeria, Mexico and Kazakhstan all came in straight sets.
- Aneta Havlickova is both the most prolific scorer (113 points) and best spiker (49.03%) in Group 3.

#### Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan have already won as many matches this tournament as in their previous four World Grand Prix appearances combined: three.
- All of those three wins this season came in straight sets (against Australia, Mexico and Algeria). Before this year, they had never won a match in straight sets in the World Grand Prix.
- Kazakhstan lost 3-0 to the Czech Republic in their most recent World Grand Prix match, their first straight set loss of the season. It was their 23rd straight set loss in team history.



## Finals Group 3 – Head-2-Head

### Czech Republic v Croatia

- This will be the second meeting between the Czech Republic and Croatia in the World Grand Prix. The Czech Republic won the first match 3-1 earlier this season.
- The first set of that match ended in a 32-30 win for the Czech Republic.
- Croatia are still winless against European opposition, having lost to the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. They won their four other matches against Kazakhstan, Kenya and Australia (twice).

### Bulgaria v Kazakhstan

- This will be the first ever meeting between Bulgaria and Kazakhstan.
- Kazakhstan are winless in 18 World Grand Prix matches against European teams. In all these 18 matches, they only managed to win nine sets.
- Bulgaria have won and lost one match against Asian opposition, a 3-0 win vs Japan and a 3-0 loss vs China.