



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS GROUP 1 FINALS – AUGUST 20-24, 2014

China - Belgium (August 20)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first meeting between China and Belgium in the World Grand Prix.
- These teams have never met in any of the other major tournaments, Olympic Games, World Championships or World Cup.
- China have won 16 of their 34 Final Round matches against European teams, including their last two World Grand Prix Final Round encounters against European opposition Serbia and Italy last year.

China

- China and this year's Final Six hosts Japan are the only two nations to have competed in all 22 editions of the World Grand Prix.
- China have finished in the top six in 20 of their previous 21 World Grand Prix participations. They only missed out on a top 6 finish in 2011, when they were ranked eighth.
- China won the World Grand Prix in 2003 and finished runners-up in 1993, 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2013 when they lost the final against Brazil (3-0).
- China have lost 99 matches in World Grand Prix history (271 matches). They can become the fourth nation to reach 100 World Grand Prix defeats.
- China have lost their last two World Grand Prix matches and can lose three in a row for the first time since a run of four successive defeats in the round robin phase of the 2012 Finals.

Belgium

- Apart from the teams in the first edition in 1993, Belgium are the second debutants to finish in the top six after Serbia, who finished third in 2011.
- Belgium have won their last three World Grand Prix matches. They have never won four in a row.
- With 246 points, Lise Van Hecke led all players in scoring in this year's groups.
- Valerie Courtois had an average of 3.47 digs per set in this year's World Grand Prix, most of all players of the current Final Six teams.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS GROUP 1 FINALS – AUGUST 20-24, 2014

Turkey - Brazil (August 20)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won both of their World Grand Prix matches against Turkey, 3-0 in 2008 and 3-1 in the 2012 Finals.
- Brazil also beat Turkey in their other encounters in major tournaments, 3-1 in the 2003 World Cup and 3-2 at the 2012 Olympic Games.
- Brazil have won their last 11 matches against European opposition in the World Grand Prix Finals, since losing 3-1 to Italy in the 2007 World Grand Prix Finals.
- Turkey have won seven of their 13 World Grand Prix matches against teams from the Americas.

Turkey

- Turkey reached the finals for the second time after a third place finish in 2012. They came in eighth in 2013 and seventh on their debut in 2008.
- Turkey have won World Grand Prix matches against four of the six former winners, China, Cuba, Russia and USA. They can now add Brazil to this list. The Netherlands are the other former winners.
- Turkey have won three of their four five-set matches this season.
- Kubra Akman leads all players in this year's World Grand Prix in stuffed blocks, with 42.

Brazil

- Brazil's women can win the World Grand Prix for the 10th time, claiming one more win than Brazil's men have won World Leagues.
- Brazil have won or finished runners-up in the last six editions, winning in 2008, 2009 and 2013.
- They have won gold or silver in nine of the last 10 World Grand Prix editions, finishing fifth in 2007.
- Brazil's winning percentage of 81% in 262 World Grand Prix matches is only bettered by Bulgaria's winning percentage of 82% from 17 matches.
- Brazil have won their last 18 World Grand Prix matches, conceding only three sets in these 18 matches.
- None of Brazil's players lead any of the statistical categories in this season's World Grand Prix.



Japan - Russia (August 20)

Head-to-Head

- Japan have won nine of 26 matches against Russia in the World Grand Prix.
- After winning the first five matches against Russia, Japan have only four against them in the following 21 matches.
- Russia defeated Japan 3-1 in this year's group phase, with 19 of their 99 points coming from blocks.
- Russia have won all four meetings with Japan in World Grand Prix Finals in 1997, 2001, 2006 and 2009.

Japan

- Japan and China are taking part in a record 22nd World Grand Prix competition.
- Last year, Japan equalled it's best-ever finish, fourth, equal to their final rank in 1994 and 1997.
- Japan's win/loss record of -59 is the worst of all teams in World Grand Prix history.
- Japan is the only team in this year's Finals with a winning percentage of under 50% in World Grand Prix history: 38%.
- Japan have won their last four matches after losing their first five matches this season.
- Saori Kimura's 62.65 efficiency is the highest for receivers of all six teams in the Finals.

Russia

- Russia have won the World Grand Prix three times, 1997, 1999 and 2002.
- They have finished runners-up five times, equal most with Brazil and China.
- Last year Russia equalled their worst ranking, seventh. They also finished seventh in 1994 and 2004.
- Russia have won their last three matches after a losing run of four matches. In total they have won 12 of their last 16 matches.
- They need to win two more sets to reach 500 won sets. Only Brazil (690), China (611) and USA (511) have won more than 500 sets.