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VOLLEYBALL  
**WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS**  
**SAPPORO 2013**

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

### Day 5 (Friday 30 August)

#### Serbia v Italy

##### Serbia

- Serbia's two-match winning streak ended on Saturday as Brazil beat them in straight sets.
- With one match to spare, Serbia are ranked third. If they can consolidate this position they will equal their best ever World Grand Prix result. They previously finished third in 2011.
- They can also equal their record of most wins in one WGP edition. In 2011, they won 10 matches. This season they have won nine so far.
- Serbia have lost two final round matches this year. In 2011, the only other edition in which they played in the Finals, they only lost one.

##### Italy

- On Saturday, Italy won their first Finals match of this year's World Grand Prix by beating the United States 3-2.
- They can win back-to-back matches in a single WGP final round edition for the first time since 2005, when they recorded their team record of three consecutive wins in final round matches.
- Italy can lose their fourth Finals match in the 2013 World Grand Prix. If so, they would equal their record of most losses in a single WGP Finals edition. They also lost four matches in the 2003 Finals.
- Italy are currently ranked fifth. The last time they finished higher in the World Grand Prix was in 2010: third.

##### Head to Head

- Serbia and Italy have met once before in the World Grand Prix. In 2012, Serbia beat Italy 3-0 in the preliminary round.
- These two teams also went head-to-head in the 2007 European Championships (final), the 2008 Olympic Games, the 2009 European Championships and the 2010 World Championships. Italy won all these meetings in straight sets.
- The last time Italy beat a European opponent in the WGP finals was in 2010 (against Poland, 3-1).



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## China v Brazil

### General

- China and Brazil will go head-to-head to determine the winner of the 2013 WGP.
- To claim the title, China will have to beat Brazil, a feat they haven't done in their last eight World Grand Prix meetings with Brazil.

### China

- China are looking to claim their second World Grand Prix title after finishing first in 2003. They are the only country from Asia to have ever won this tournament.
- China can become the fifth country to win the WGP title multiple times, after Brazil (8 titles), the United States (5), Russia (3) and Cuba (2).
- They can become the first country other than USA or Brazil to win this tournament since 2007, when the Netherlands won the title.
- By beating Japan on Saturday, China set a new team record of winning 13 WGP matches in a row. Their old record of 12 in a row dated from 2007-2008.
- China are on a four-match winning streak in the WGP Finals. Only once did they win more consecutive Finals matches: six in 2003-2004.
- China can stay unbeaten in a WGP Finals for the second time in team history. They previously did so in their title year 2003.
- They are unbeaten in all 13 of their 2013 WGP matches so far and can record a perfect record throughout an entire edition for the first time in team history.

### Brazil

- Brazil can win their ninth World Grand Prix title, more than any other country. The USA is second with five titles.
- It would be their first title since 2009. If they claim the title, they will end their second longest winning drought in the tournament. Their longest winning drought: five years from 1999-2003.
- Brazil won their last two WGP titles on Japanese soil (Tokyo in 2009, Yokohama in 2008). With a win against China, their possible 2013 title will be won in Sapporo.
- Their 2005 title was also won in Japan (Sendai).
- Brazil are on a eight-match winning streak in WGP Finals, their second longest winning streak in the final round. Their record is 10 (2008-2009).
- They have won all of their Finals matches in the 2013 WGP without losing a set. If they beat China 3-0, they will break their own record for fewest sets lost in a WGP Finals (1 in 2008, and 1 in 1998).

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### Head to Head

- China and Brazil will go head-to-head for the 32<sup>rd</sup> time in World Grand Prix play.
- With their 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Brazil will become the team China will have played most WGP matches against. Cuba and the USA (both 31) follow.
- Brazil have only faced Japan more often in the World Grand Prix: 35 times.
- Of their previous 31 encounters, China have won 10. Brazil have won 21.
- China have lost their last eight WGP matches against Brazil, since a win in 2008 (3-2).
- Brazil have won eight of their 11 final round clashes v China, including the last four.
- China last won a WGP final round match against Brazil in 2007 (3-0).



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## USA v Japan

### USA

- USA are currently ranked sixth and have no more chance of prolonging their series of three consecutive World Grand Prix titles. They won the tournament in 2012, 2011 and 2010.
- USA will not set the outright streak of most consecutive WGP titles. They will have to keep sharing their record three wins in a row with Brazil (2004-2006).
- They will set their worst WGP result since 2009, when they finished ninth.
- The United States have lost their last four WGP Finals matches. This was already their worst ever streak in the Finals. They had lost two straight Finals matches only twice prior to this year.
- They have lost all of their four Finals matches in 2013 so far, setting a new team record for most Finals losses in a single WGP edition. They lost three in the 2008 Finals.
- USA have suffered four consecutive losses in the World Grand Prix, their second longest losing streak in WGP play after a streak of 20 consecutive losses in 1997-2000.

### Japan

- Japan are currently fourth but still have a shot at the third place. It would be the first podium finish for Japan in World Grand Prix play
- Japan have lost their last three Finals matches. They can lose four Finals matches in a row in a single WGP edition for the first time in team history.
- The last time they lost at least four matches in a single WGP Finals was 2009 (1 win, 4 losses). These four losses were not in a row.
- Japan have won eight World Grand Prix matches this year to equal their national record, set in 1994 and equalled in 2010 and 2011. If they defeat USA it will be the first time Japan will have won nine matches in one WGP campaign.
- On Saturday, Japan lost 3-2 against China, ending a streak of eight matches for Japan in World Grand Prix Finals that had been decided in straight sets.
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### Head to Head

- Japan have lost their last six World Grand Prix matches against USA.
- In total, the teams have faced each other on 22 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix. The United States won 16, Japan six.
- Japan's last win against USA came back in the 2005 preliminary round (3-1).
- The United States have won all four previous WGP Finals matches against Japan.