



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool D1: Brazil v Serbia (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won all four of their World Grand Prix matches against Serbia.
- Brazil won the last three World Grand Prix meetings with Serbia in straight sets, including last week (25-20, 25-18, 25-18). In their first encounter in the competition in 2012, Brazil needed five sets to beat Serbia.
- Brazil and Cuba (one match) are the only opponents Serbia have never won against at the World Grand Prix.

#### Brazil

- Brazil have won their first three 2016 World Grand Prix matches. In the previous five editions (2011-2015) they always won their first four matches.
- Natalia Pereira scored 14 points against Serbia in Brazil's 3-0 win last week, most of all players. With 39 points, including nine blocks, in three matches she is Brazil's top scorer this World Grand Prix.
- Danielle Lins has an average of 3.50 digs per set, the second-highest in Group 1 so far, behind Serbia's Bojana Zivkovic (3.70).

#### Serbia

- Serbia have lost their first three matches at this World Grand Prix and their last four including 2015.
- They could lose five successive World Grand Prix matches for the first time.
- Bojana Zivkovic's average of 3.70 digs per set is the highest in Group 1.
- Jovana Brakocevic leads Serbia in scoring with 46 points.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool D1: China v Belgium (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- China won their only previous match against Belgium at the World Grand Prix, 3-1 in 2014.
- The two teams met again in 2014 at the World Championship, where China won 3-0.
- These are the only two encounters between China and Belgium in major competitions this century.

#### China

- China have started their 2016 World Grand Prix campaign with three wins. They won their first nine matches in 2015.
- China have won their last 11 matches at major tournaments.
- Ting Zhu leads China in scoring, 48 points at the 2016 World Grand Prix.
- Xunli Xu and Russia's Irina Zaryazhko have scored 11 points from blocks, most of all players in Group 1.

#### Belgium

- Belgium have yet to win a match at this World Grand Prix after three defeats.
- They claimed their first set in their third group match against Netherlands on 12 June (3-1 defeat).
- Britt Herbots has scored a team-high 29 points at the 2016 World Grand Prix.
- Charlotte Leys has served four aces.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool E1: Turkey v Japan (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the seventh encounter between Turkey and Japan at the World Grand Prix. Both teams have won three of their previous six meetings.
- The last time they met was at the 2014 World Grand Prix. Turkey won the first match in the preliminary round in straight sets, but Japan won the second match in the Final Six by the same score. Japan ultimately finished second behind Brazil, Turkey finished in fourth place.
- The last match between Turkey and Japan in any other world level tournament came at the 2010 World Championship, with Japan winning 3-1.

#### Turkey

- Turkey started their World Grand Prix campaign with a win over Belgium (3-0), but lost their last two matches against Netherlands (3-0) and Russia (3-2).
- Last year, they lost their first seven matches in the competition before winning their last two.
- Only Netherlands' Lonneke Sloetjes (68) scored more points in Group 1 than Polen Uslupehliyan (60).
- Nursevil Aydinlar scored 10 points from aces in the first three matches, most of all players in Group 1.

#### Japan

- Japan won their opening match at the 2016 World Grand Prix against Serbia (3-0), but lost their last two matches against Brazil (3-0) and Italy (3-2).
- That win against Serbia was Japan's only victory in their last 8 matches at the World Grand Prix.
- In Japan's last 11 matches in the competition, only their two matches against Italy (2015 and 2016) saw both teams winning multiple sets. Japan won twice by 3-0 and lost seven times in straight sets during this run.
- Sarina Koga has scored a team high 46 points in the first three matches.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool E1: United States v Germany (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- United States and Germany already met in their opening match at the 2016 World Grand Prix, with United States winning 3-0.
- This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> encounter between these teams at the World Grand Prix. Germany won four times, United States won 13 times including their last five meetings.
- Germany's last victory over United States at the World Grand Prix came at the 2010 edition (3-1).
- Their last encounter in another world level tournament was at the 2011 World Cup: Germany won 3-1.

#### United States

- United States won their first two matches at this year's World Grand Prix in straight sets against Germany and Thailand, but lost their last match against China (3-1).
- United States could lose consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since 2014 (two defeats against Brazil).
- They have won their last five World Grand Prix matches played on home soil, as they won all five Group 1 Final round matches in Omaha last year.
- Only China's Yunli Xu (1.10) had a higher average of stuff blocks per set in Group 1 than Christa Harmotto Dietzen (1.00).

#### Germany

- Germany lost their first three matches at the World Grand Prix against United States (3-0), China (3-0) and Thailand (3-1).
- Germany, Serbia and Belgium are the only teams in Group 1 without a single point.
- Germany could lose four consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since 2014-2015, as they lost their last two matches in 2014 and their first two in 2015.
- Louisa Lippmann scored a team high 34 points in the first three matches.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool F1: Russia v Netherlands (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Russia have won six of their seven World Grand Prix matches against Netherlands, including 3-1 on 10 June.
- Russia's Nataliya Goncharova (29 points) and Netherlands's Lonneke Slöetjes (27 points) were on fire in that match on 10 June.
- Russia have won both matches against Netherlands in 2016: besides the victory at the World Grand Prix, they won 3-1 in the final of the European Olympic Qualification tournament in January.
- Russia's only loss against Netherlands at the World Grand Prix came back on 26 August 2007 (3-2), the only year the Dutch won the tournament.

#### Russia

- Russia have won their three matches at the 2016 World Grand Prix in all possible scores: 3-1 against Netherlands, 3-0 against Belgium and 3-2 versus Turkey.
- They can win their first four World Grand Prix matches for the first time since they started the 2011 tournament with six wins.
- Nataliya Goncharova is Russia's top scorer with 55 points.
- Irina Zaryazhko and China's Yunli Xu have scored a Group 1 high 11 points from blocks.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands have won 10 of their last 11 World Grand Prix matches, including wins in their last two in 2016.
- The Dutch have won 22 of their last 26 matches at the World Grand Prix, a run that started in 2013.
- Lonneke Slöetjes is Group 1 top scorer with 68 points, 66 from spikes. She has already scored 311 points for Netherlands in all competitive matches in 2016.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUNE 17 TO 19

### Pool F1: Thailand v Italy (17 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the eighth meeting between Thailand and Italy at the World Grand Prix, with Italy winning all previous seven matches.
- Their most recent meeting in the competition came on 9 August 2014, when Italy won in straight sets.
- Thailand have only played more World Grand Prix matches against Brazil (11) and Russia (9) without winning a single match.
- Thailand and Italy already played against each other in 2016 at the World Olympic Qualification tournament in Tokyo. Italy won 3-1 and ultimately qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio, Thailand finished in fifth place, failing to qualify for Rio.

#### Thailand

- Thailand started their World Grand Prix campaign with two defeats against China and United States (both 3-0), but they have won their last match against Germany (3-1).
- They could win consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since 2013, when they defeated Algeria and Cuba.
- Ajcharaporn Kongyot scored a team high 47 points in the first three matches. No other player scored more than 23.

#### Italy

- Italy lost their opening match at the 2016 World Grand Prix against Brazil (3-1), but have won their last two matches against Serbia (3-1) and Japan (3-2).
- Italy could win three consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since July 2015, when they beat Belgium, Turkey and Japan.
- Paola Ogechi Egonu, with 17 years the youngest player in Italy's squad, has scored most points for Italy at this year's World Grand Prix (46).