



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 3 TO 5

### Pool A2: Argentina v Dominican Republic

#### Head-to-Head

- Argentina have lost four and won two matches against Dominican Republic at major tournaments.
- One of these wins for Argentina was in their only encounter at the World Grand Prix, 3-2 in 2011.
- Dominican Republic won their most recent clashes, 3-1 at the 2015 World Cup and 3-1 at the 2014 World Championship.

#### Argentina

- Argentina won their opening match of the 2016 World Grand Prix by beating Kenya 3-0.
- With that win, Argentina ended a losing streak of five matches in the competition.
- Argentina can win back-to-back World Grand Prix matches for the first time since a run of four between 2014 and 2015.
- Argentina could win consecutive World Grand Prix matches in straight sets for the first time in the competition.
- Emilce Sosa and Leticia Boscacci scored most points for Argentina in the first match (both 9 points).

#### Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic failed to win their opening match against Bulgaria (3-2).
- Dominican Republic won their first sets in the World Grand Prix since 2014.
- Only Poland (103) and Bulgaria (105) scored more points than Dominican Republic (97) in Group 2 on the opening day of the World Grand Prix.
- Brayelin Elizabeth Martinez scored most points for Dominican Republic on the first day (25), 12 points more than any of her teammates.



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### Pool A2: Kenya v Bulgaria

#### Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria won both matches against Kenya at major tournaments, with both matches being played at the 2014 World Grand Prix, 3-2, 3-1.
- Kenya can claim their first win against European opposition at a major tournament, after suffering 25 defeats.
- Bulgaria have won all of their four matches against African sides at major events, all in 2014, at the World Grand Prix and the World Championships.

#### Kenya

- Kenya opened their 2016 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-0 defeat to Argentina, breaking their best ever winning streak in the competition of five.
- Kenya have only once lost successive matches in the World Grand Prix - two in a row in 2014 (Croatia, Bulgaria).
- Only Argentina (56) conceded fewer points than Kenya (75) in the first round of matches in Group 2.
- Brackcides Khadambi scored most points for Kenya against Argentina (17 points), almost double the amount of the team's next best scorer Mercy Moim (9).

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria started with a 3-2 win over Dominican Republic on the first day of the 2016 World Grand Prix.
- Bulgaria have now won their last two World Grand Prix matches and could have a run of three for the first time since winning all eight matches at the 2014 World Grand Prix.
- Five of Bulgaria's last six World Grand Prix matches have been decided in five sets (W3-L2). The only exception was a 3-0 victory over Puerto Rico in 2015.
- Emiliya Nikolova scored most points for Bulgaria in the first match (26). Gergana Dimitrova (16), Eva Yaneva (15) and Nasya Dimitrova (10) also reached double figures.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 3 TO 5

### Pool B2: Poland v Czech Republic

#### Head-to-Head

- Poland and Czech Republic will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix, making Czech Republic the 24th opponent for Poland in World Grand Prix history. For the Czechs, Poland are their 16th opponent in all World Grand Prix matches.
- Since 2000, these teams have met four times at the European Championship. Poland won three times (2003, 2007, 2011), but Czech Republic secured the win in their last meeting at the continental championship in 2013.

#### Poland

- Poland have won four of their last five World Grand Prix matches, including their 2016 opening match against Canada on Friday (3-1).
- Poland can kick-off a World Grand Prix campaign with two straight victories for only the second time in 13 appearances (incl. 2016) after 2010, when they won their opening four matches. Poland went on to qualify for the Final Round that season.
- Berenika Tomsia scored a match-high 23 points in Poland's 3-1 win over Canada (19 spikes), ahead of teammate Anna Grejman (20 points).

#### Czech Republic

- On Friday, Czech Republic started their 2016 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-1 defeat against Puerto Rico.
- Czech Republic can lose their opening two matches for the first time in the competition. They managed to win at least one of their first two matches in each of their previous three World Grand Prix appearances.
- Michaela Mlejnkova scored a team-high 15 points (14 spikes) in Czech Republic's 3-1 defeat against Puerto Rico on Friday. Tereza Rossi managed to score 14 points (10 spikes).
- Mlejnkova scored 110 points at the 2015 World Grand Prix, third-most in Group 2 behind Karina Ocasio (PUR, 146) and Stephanie Enright (PUR, 114).



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 3 TO 5

### Pool B2: Puerto Rico v Canada

#### Head-to-Head

- Puerto Rico and Canada have met once at the World Grand Prix. Last year, Puerto Rico won 3-1 at home.
- These teams battled for the bronze medal at the last two NORCECA Championships (2013, 2015). Puerto Rico claimed third place in both editions, winning 3-0 in 2013 and 3-1 in 2015.
- Puerto Rico and Canada most recently met at the 2016 NORCECA Olympic Qualification tournament. Puerto Rico won in straight sets, but both teams failed to qualify as the NORCECA representative. Puerto Rico qualified for the Olympic Games at the 2016 World Olympic Qualification tournament, which was held in Puerto Rico.

#### Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico won their 2016 World Grand Prix opener on Friday, beating Czech Republic 3-1.
- Puerto Rico can win back-to-back matches for the first time in the World Grand Prix since 10-11 July 2015, when they followed up a five-set victory over Czech Republic with a 3-1 win against Croatia.
- Karin Ocasio scored a match-high 17 points in Puerto Rico's 3-1 victory over Czech Republic (incl. 14 spikes).
- With 146 points, Ocasio was the Group 2 top scorer at the 2015 World Grand Prix. She was the only player in Group 2 to score more than 100 points from spikes (118).

#### Canada

- Canada kicked-off their 2016 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-1 loss against Poland on Friday.
- Canada have now failed to win their opening match in each of their four World Grand Prix participations.
- Two of Canada's four wins in World Grand Prix history came on a Saturday: 3-2 win over Bulgaria in 2015 and 3-2 win over Argentina in 2014.
- Danielle Brisebois scored a team-high 17 points in Canada's 3-1 defeat against Poland. Captain Lucille Charuk managed to score 10 points.