



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 4 – AUGUST 2 TO 6

Pool K1: Serbia v USA

Head-to-Head

- Serbia and United States have met seven times at the World Grand Prix. Serbia won two of these matches, United States five.
- One of Serbia's two victories over United States came in the final round, as they beat United States 3-1 in 2013.
- They last locked horns in the World Grand Prix in 2015, when United States won 3-2.
- Serbia and United States met twice at last year's Olympic Games. In the preliminary round United States won 3-1, but Serbia would get their revenge in the semifinals, beating United States 3-2.

Serbia

- Serbia will finish in the top six for the first time since 2013, when they finished third.
- They have won seven of their nine World Grand Prix matches this season, losing only to Brazil (3-0) and Japan (3-2).
- Six of their nine matches this season ended in straight sets (W5-L1).
- Brankica Mihajlovic (153 points) finished as top scorer in Group 1 (Italy's Paola Egonu next, 149).

USA

- United States are in search of their seventh gold medal. Only Brazil (11) have won more.
- They have won six of their nine World Grand Prix matches this season, losing to Italy (3-2), China (3-2) and Brazil (3-1).
- That loss against Brazil was their most recent match in the World Grand Prix and their 100th defeat in the competition in total (W171-L100).
- Michelle Bartsch-Hackley scored 17 aces in Group 1, more than any other player.



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Pool J1: China v Brazil

Head-to-Head

- These teams last met in the World Grand Prix on 19 June 2016, when China won 3-0.
- That victory ended a 12-match losing streak for China against Brazil in the competition.
- In total these team met 36 times in the World Grand Prix, with China winning 11 times and Brazil 25 times.
- Twenty-five losses against a specific opponent is a record for China in the competition. Brazil have only suffered more defeats versus Russia (12).
- At last year's Olympic Games China beat Brazil 3-2 in the quarterfinals. They would go on to win the gold medal.

China

- China will host the final round for the eighth time, most of all countries. Japan follow with six.
- This will be China's first World Grand Prix match in the city of Nanjing. They had played in 16 other Chinese cities before.
- China (199) are one shy of winning their 200th World Grand Prix match (W199-L112).
- Only forthcoming opponents Brazil (244) have broken the 200-wins barrier so far (United States 171).
- China are in search of their second World Grand Prix gold medal, after winning the title in 2003.
- China have won five of their nine World Grand Prix matches this season, but lost their last two (versus Russia and Serbia).
- They last lost three World Grand Prix matches in a row in 2016 (two versus United States, one versus Netherlands).

Brazil

- Brazil have won a record 11 World Grand Prix titles.
- They have won six of their nine World Grand Prix matches this season, losing to Serbia (3-0), Thailand (3-0) and Japan (3-2).
- Brazil lost only two sets in their last three matches, as they beat Belgium 3-0 and Netherlands and United States 3-1.

Adenizia was the best blocker in Group 1, averaging 1.09 per set.



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Pool K1: USA v Italy

Head-to-Head

- United States and Italy have played 20 World Grand Prix matches with United States winning 11 and Italy winning nine.
- Earlier this edition, these nations met twice in the group stages. On 8 July, United States won in straight sets in Kunshan. On 15 July, Italy took revenge, beating USA in five sets in Macau.
- USA have won at least two sets in each of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches against Italy.

USA

- United States have lost their last two World Grand Prix matches. They lost their last preliminary round match against Brazil (3-1) and lost against Serbia in five sets in the final round.
- Another loss will result in their worst streak since losing four in a row in 2013. That streak included defeats against Brazil, Serbia and upcoming opponents Italy.
- United States have lost their last three five-setters at the World Grand Prix (against Italy, China, Serbia). They can lose four five-setters in a row for the first time ever in the competition.

Italy

- Italy qualified for the final round with six wins and three losses in the preliminary round.
- Italy are hoping to reach the World Grand Prix semifinals for the first time since 2006, when they lost 3-2 against Russia.
- Italy lost their last World Grand Prix match 3-0 against Thailand. The last time they lost back-to-back matches in straight sets in the competition was in 2015 (against Brazil and Russia).
- Monica De Gennaro was the best receiver in Group 1 this season (77.50%).



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 4 – AUGUST 2 TO 6

Pool J1: Brazil v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Netherlands have met 13 times in the World Grand Prix, with Brazil winning 12 of these encounters.
- The only time Netherlands won against Brazil was in the 2007 final round (3-2). Netherlands went on to secure their only World Grand Prix title.
- In their 2007 World Grand Prix winning campaign, Netherlands first lost to Brazil in the preliminary round (3-0) before taking revenge in the final round (3-2). Earlier this season, Brazil beat Netherlands 3-1 in the group stages.
- Last year, this fixture was played in the World Grand Prix semifinals with Brazil winning in straight sets heading for their 11th title.

Brazil

- With a loss, Brazil will finish outside the top-3 for the first time since 2007 (5th). This was the last time they lost against today's opponents Netherlands, who went on to win the tournament that year.
- Brazil can lose consecutive matches for the second time in the 2017 edition. The last time they lost consecutive World Grand Prix matches prior to the 2017 edition was in 2007 (four in a row).
- Brazil lost their last match 3-0 against China. Brazil have not lost back-to-back matches in straight sets since 2002 (against Germany and Russia).
- Brazil can lose five matches in a single World Grand Prix for the first time since 2007 (5).

Netherlands

- Netherlands qualified for the final round with six wins and three defeats in the preliminary round.
- Last year, Netherlands won seven matches in the World Grand Prix.
- In the 2016 edition, Netherlands reached the semifinals where they lost 3-0 against Brazil.
- Netherlands won their last World Grand Prix match in five sets. They have won five of their last six five-setters in the competition, including the last two.
- Netherlands have played 31 five-setters in total, winning 25 (81%). No country with multiple five-set matches at the World Grand Prix has a higher winning percentage.



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Pool K1: Serbia v Italy

Head-to-Head

- The winner of this match will finish first in the group and the loser will finish second.
- These teams have met three times before at the World Grand Prix, with Serbia winning twice and Italy once, including the most recent encounter in 2016.
- These teams also met at the 2016 Olympic Games, when Serbia won 3-0 in the group stage.
- Serbia have won four of the last five meetings in all competitions against Italy.

Serbia

- Serbia will finish the World Grand Prix in the top four for the first time since 2013, when they finished third.
- They have won eight of their 10 World Grand Prix matches this season, losing only to Brazil (3-0) and Japan (3-2).
- Dating back to last season, they have now won 12 of their last 14 matches in the competition.
- They have won at least two sets in each of their last six World Grand Prix matches.
- Brankica Mihajlovic scored 25 points against USA, including 21 from spikes. Tijana Boskovic also had 21 attacks for Serbia that match.

Italy

- Italy will finish the World Grand Prix in the top for the first time since 2010, when they finished third.
- Italy defeated USA 3-1 and have won their last five World Grand Prix matches in China (including Hong Kong and Macau). They also won five in a row in China between 2004 and 2005.
- They have won nine World Grand Prix matches this year, equal to their wins from 2016.
- Paolo Egonu scored 32 points of Italy's 97 against USA, including 24 spikes, both are by far the most in a single match in the Final Round this year.



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Pool J1: China v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met each other 18 times before at the World Grand Prix. China have won 14 times, while Netherlands have four wins, including the most recent encounter in last year's Final Round (3-2).
- These teams also met at last year's Olympic Games. Netherlands won the group stage (3-2), while China won in the semifinals (3-1).
- China have won at least two sets in each of their last 15 meetings with Netherlands in major competitions.

China

- China have already qualified for the semifinals. Two years ago they finished fourth in the competition, last year fifth.
- China defeated Brazil 3-0 on Wednesday. It was their first straight sets win this World Grand Prix season.
- The last time they won successive World Grand Prix matches without losing a set was in 2016, when they defeated Brazil, Netherlands and Germany on 19, 24 and 25 June.
- Zhu Ting scored 16 points against Brazil, including 15 from spikes.

Netherlands

- Netherlands lost 3-2 against Brazil on Thursday and need a victory to qualify for the semifinals.
- If they do, they are the only team to play in the semifinals in 2016 and 2017.
- Netherlands have won six World Grand Prix matches this year, one short of their number of victories from last year.
- Netherlands have won at least one set in each of their last 11 World Grand Prix matches and won at least two set in nine of their last 11.
- Celeste Plak had 28 points against Brazil (24 from spikes) most of all players in that match (including Brazilian players).