



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

### Final 3-4: China v Serbia

#### Head-to-Head

- This match is a replay of the Olympic Games final in Rio with China winning the gold after a 3-1 win.
- China and Serbia have met seven times at the World Grand Prix with China winning three of these matches and Serbia four.
- They have met in Group 1 earlier in this World Grand Prix on 23 July 2017 with Serbia winning 3-1.

#### China

- China hoping to claim their 10<sup>th</sup> medal at the World Grand Prix. Their current medal record is: G1-S5-B3.
- The last time China claimed was in 2013 as they came second.
- China have already lost four matches this World Grand Prix, one more than in each of the past two years, when they lost three.
- Ting Zhu scored most points for the team in the semifinal against Italy (21).

#### Serbia

- Serbia are looking for the first medal since claiming bronze in 2013.
- A win would see them equalling their best record in the competition as they also finished third in 2011 and 2013.
- No country have won more than two bronze medals without winning a silver or gold.
- Serbia lost in the semifinal to Brazil (3-1) and can lose back-to-back World Grand Prix matches for the first time since four in a row in 2015 (last match) and 2016 (first three).
- Tijana Boskovic scored 32 points of the total 85 in the semifinal for Serbia.



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

### Final 1-2: Italy v Brazil

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Italy will meet at the World Grand Prix for the 27<sup>th</sup> time with Brazil winning 22 and Italy winning four.
- Brazil have won the last 11 matches between these sides at the World Grand Prix since losing 3-1 in the preliminary round in 2010.
- In 2004 these teams met at the World Grand Prix final with Brazil winning 3-1.
- At the 2014 World Championship, these teams played the bronze medal match with Brazil prevailing after five sets.

#### Italy

- Italy are running for their first World Grand Prix title ever.
- Italy claimed two silvers and four bronze medals before at the World Grand Prix. No other country have claimed more medals without winning the tournament.
- Italy can become the third CEV country to win the World Grand Prix after Russia (1997, 1999, 2002) and Netherlands (2007).
- Italy will finish in the top 2 for the first time since 2005.
- In the last 13 editions (since 2003), 12 times either Brazil (8) or United States (4) won the title with Netherlands in 2007 as the only exception.
- Paola Egonu scored 26 of the 95 points for Italy in the semifinal.

#### Brazil

- Brazil won the semifinal against Serbia (3-1) and will try to defend their title successfully.
- Brazil have won the World Grand Prix a record 11 times. With their 12<sup>th</sup> title they will have won this tournament twice the amount as the second most successful country United States (6 wins).
- They will claim their 19<sup>th</sup> medal, which is also a competition record. Their currently have 18: G11-S5-B2.
- Brazil have won three of the last four World Grand Prix tournaments, only failing to win in 2015 (USA).
- Last year, Brazil won the final against United States in five sets.
- Brazil's first World Grand Prix title came in 1994, when China also hosted the final round (Shanghai).