



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool A1: Serbia v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- Serbia and Belgium will meet at the World Grand Prix for the second time, after 19 June 2016, when Serbia won 3-2.
- In all major competitions including continental championships, Serbia (including as Yugoslavia) have won seven of their eight matches against Belgium. Belgium's only victory came at the 2013 European Championship, when they won 3-2 in the match for the bronze medal.
- When looking at encounters in these competitions, Serbia have won their last three facing Belgium.

Serbia

- Serbia have won their first two matches of a World Grand Prix campaign for the second time, after winning their first five in 2013.
- Serbia have won their last three World Grand Prix matches in straight sets, against Thailand (2016), Turkey and Brazil (both 2017). They could claim four successive straight-set victories for the first time in the competition.
- Serbia are on a six-match winning streak in the World Grand Prix, joint-most for them after a run of six in 2012-2013.
- Brankica Mihajlovic scored most points for Serbia against both Brazil (23) and Turkey (18).

Belgium

- Belgium have lost each of their opening two matches of this World Grand Prix season, 3-0 v Brazil and 3-1 v Turkey.
- Last year, they started with six defeats before claiming their only victory of the campaign, 3-1 over Turkey.
- In total, they have won only three of their last 25 World Grand Prix matches after they started with eight victories in their first 11 matches.
- Belgium won the first set in five of their last seven matches, but only once converted that into victory (v Turkey last year).



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Pool A1: Turkey v Brazil

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won three of their four World Grand Prix matches against Turkey, with the exception of the 3-2 defeat in the final round in 2014.
- Of all opponents Turkey have faced multiple times at the World Grand Prix, they only have a lower win percentage versus Italy and Russia (both 20%) than versus Brazil (25%).
- Turkey's win in 2014 was their only victory over Brazil in world level tournaments, losing on the other six occasions.
- Three of their last four matches in all competitions were decided in five sets, with the exception of Brazil's straight sets victory at the 2016 World Grand Prix.

Turkey

- Turkey bounced back after an opening round defeat against Serbia by beating Belgium 3-1 on Saturday.
- The win against Belgium ended a five-match losing streak for Turkey in the World Grand Prix.
- Since the start of 2015, Turkey have won at least two consecutive World Grand Prix matches only twice.
- Polen Uslupehlivan scored most points for Turkey in both matches this campaign, seven against Serbia and 19 against Belgium.

Brazil

- After a 3-0 opening win against Belgium, Brazil lost their second World Grand Prix match in straight sets against Serbia.
- For Brazil, this was only their sixth straight-sets defeat in the last 11 editions of the World Grand Prix (2007-2017).
- Brazil have not lost back-to-back World Grand Prix matches since losing their last four in the 2007 campaign.
- Brazil have only once lost consecutive World Grand Prix matches in straight sets, in 2002 against Germany and Russia.
- The last World Grand Prix in which Brazil lost two of their first three matches was 2001.



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Pool B1: China v United States

Head-to-Head

- China won 21 of their previous 36 World Grand Prix matches against United States.
- China have only beaten Japan (23 times) more often in the competition.
- United States' 21 defeats against China are at least seven more than against any other opponent in the competition (Brazil 14).
- Last year, United States won two of their three World Grand Prix meetings with China, 3-0 in the preliminary round and 3-0 in the final round. China won 3-1 in the preliminary round.
- This is a repeat of the 2014 World Championship final. United States won their first world title after beating China 3-1.

China

- China have won their opening two World Grand Prix matches for the third campaign in a row. In 2015 they won their first nine and last year their first eight.
- Their 3-2 win against Russia was their 30th win in a five setter, the third country to reach this number after United States (39), Russia (38) and Brazil (34).
- Since the start of 2015, China have lost only six World Grand Prix matches, but three of those came against United States.
- China are four wins shy from their 200th in the competition. Only Brazil have reached 200 victories in the World Grand Prix.

United States

- United States have had the same start to their World Grand Prix campaign as they had last year, when they also won their first two matches.
- USA then lost their third match in 2016, 3-1 against China.
- The last time they won their first three was in 2015, when they won their first eight on their way to the trophy. That run was also ended by a defeat against China.
- USA have won 26 and lost three matches since the start of the 2015 World Grand Prix, but two of these defeats came against China.
- Kelly Murphy is USA's top scorer this tournament on 28 points.



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Pool B1: Russia v Italy

Head-to-Head

- Russia won 15 of their previous 17 World Grand Prix meetings with Italy, only losing in 2004 (3-2) and 2007 (3-1).
- Russia are unbeaten against Italy in each of the last four editions of the World Grand Prix - 3-1 in 2013, 3-1 in 2014, 3-1 and 3-0 in 2015, and 3-2 in 2016.
- Italy won their last meeting with Russia at the World Championship, 3-1 in the third round in 2014.
- Russia could lose three successive World Grand Prix matches against European sides for the first time, after a five set defeat against both Serbia and Netherlands in last year's edition.

Russia

- Russia have started their 2017 World Grand Prix with five-set defeats against United States and China.
- They could lose their first three matches of a World Grand Prix campaign for the first time.
- Russia's final match in 2016 was also five-match defeat, against Netherlands in the third-match play-off.
- In total, Russia have lost their last four matches and could lose five in a row for the first time.
- Kseniia Parubets was the top scorer in their most recent match against China with 20 points. Against United States, she was joint-top scorer with 13.

Italy

- Italy hope to claim their first win this World Grand Prix, after two defeats against China and United States.
- The last year they lost their first three matches was in 2000, with one of those defeats a 3-0 against Russia.
- Italy's next defeat will be their 100th loss in the World Grand Prix (106 wins).
- Paola Ogechi Egonu was their top scorer against United States on 12 points. Indre Sorokaite scored 14 points for Italy against China.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool C1: Netherlands v Japan

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands and Japan will meet for the 11th time in the World Grand Prix. Netherlands have a slight edge with six wins to Japan's four.
- Two of Japan's four victories came in these team's only Final Round encounters (2005 and 2009).
- Netherlands could record seven victories against a specific opponent in the World Grand Prix for the first time. They have currently claimed six wins against Japan, Italy and Poland.
- These team's most recent meeting came in the qualification tournament for the 2016 Olympic Games. Japan won in five sets after trailing by 2-1 and winning a close fourth set 32-30.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have started their 2017 World Grand Prix with two straight-set wins in front of a home crowd, against Dominican Republic and Thailand.
- They could start the competition with three victories for the first time since 2015, when they won all of their eight matches on their way to the Group 2 victory.
- In that season, they had two different runs of three straight-set victories.
- Netherlands are one shy of their 75th win in the World Grand Prix, becoming the eighth team to reach this mark.
- Celeste Plak became top scorer in both opening matches, scoring exactly 17 points in each of those fixtures.

Japan

- After a 3-2 win against Thailand on the opening day, Japan failed to beat Dominican Republic (3-1).
- Japan could claim a set in seven successive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since a run of eight in 2014.
- Yurie Nabeya (16) scored most points for Japan against Dominican Republic, while Sarina Koga (23) was the team's top scorer against Thailand.



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Pool C1: Thailand v Dominican Republic

Head-to-Head

- Thailand and Dominican Republic will meet for the fourth time in the World Grand Prix.
- Dominican Republic won their first encounter in the competition, 3-1 in the preliminary round in 2008.
- Thailand won these team's last two meetings at the World Grand Prix, 3-0 in 2012 and 3-1 in 2014.
- Their most recent meeting in major competitions came at the qualification tournament for the 2016 Olympic Games. Thailand beat Dominican Republic 3-1. Both teams failed to qualify for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Thailand

- Thailand have lost both of their matches at the 2017 World Grand Prix, 3-2 against Japan and 3-0 against Netherlands.
- They could lost their first three of a single campaign for the first time since 2010.
- Thailand are currently on an eight-match losing streak in the competition since the 3-2 win against Italy last year.
- Thailand have won at least two matches in each of their last eight participations in the World Grand Prix.
- Ajcharaporn Kongyot is Thailand's top scorer after two matches with 17 points against Japan and 11 points against Netherlands.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic bounced back after a 3-0 defeat against Netherlands on the opening day by beating Japan 3-1.
- Last year, Dominican Republic started their campaign with one victory and one defeat before winning the other six matches in that tournament.
- Bethanie De La Cruz De Pena is Dominican Republic's top scorer so far this campaign as she scored 31 points in total.
- Annerys Victoria Vargas Valdez has scored eight points from blocks in the first two matches.