



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JULY 14 TO 16

Pool D1: Brazil v Thailand

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won all 12 World Grand Prix matches against Thailand, losing only two sets in these 12 matches.
- Brazil have not played more matches against any other nation in the competition, having a perfect record.
- Brazil have won 40 of their last 42 World Grand Prix matches against AVC-countries.

Brazil

- Brazil have opened their World Grand Prix campaign with three wins and a defeat.
- Two of their three wins came in three sets, including a 3-0 on Friday against Serbia, a team they lost 3-0 against last weekend.
- Natalia Pereira scored 16 points in the 3-0 win against Serbia. Tandara Caixeta is Brazil's top scorer on 54 points this tournament.

Thailand

- Thailand have lost their last 10 matches in the competition since a 3-2 win against Italy on 20 June 2016.
- Thailand have won the opening set only once in their last 19 World Grand Prix matches, also in that 3-2 win against Italy.
- Three Thai players scored double figures in their 3-1 defeat against Japan on Friday: Ajcharaporn Kongyot (15), Pleumjit Thinkaow (11) and Wilavan Apinyapong (11). Kongyot is the team's tournament top scorer with 49 total points, one more than Thinkaow.



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Pool D1: Japan v Serbia

Head-to-Head

- This will be the eighth World Grand Prix match between these nations. Japan have won four of the previous even, while Serbia have won three, including the most recent one in Kyoto last year on 25 June (3-2).
- The last six encounters between these nations in Japan have all been won by Serbia (all competitions), dating back to the 2011 World Grand Prix.
- Japan have won three of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches against CEV teams, while Serbia could win three in a row against Asian teams for the first time since 2011 (in World Grand Prix).

Japan

- Japan won three of their four matches so far at this year's World Grand Prix. The last time they did this was in 2013, when they won the first four.
- Japan could win three matches in a row for the first time since winning eight straight in 2014.
- Risa Shinnabe and Sarina Koga led their team in scoring on Friday with 20 and 18 points respectively. Koga raised her tournament total to 64, a leading mark for Japan.

Serbia

- Serbia have started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with three straight-set wins before losing in three sets against Brazil on Friday.
- This result ended their longest winning streak in the competition (7 matches).
- For the first time since 2015-2016 (4 losses in a row), Serbia could lose back-to-back World Grand Prix matches. One of those four defeats came against Japan.
- Ana Bjelica scored 15 of Serbia's 63 points against Brazil on Friday. Brankica Mihajlovic (11) was the other Serbian player with double-digit points.



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Pool E1: China v Turkey

Head-to-Head

- This is the fourth meeting between these nations in the World Grand Prix. China have won two of the previous three meetings, both finishing in 3-2.
- Turkey won the first World Grand Prix meeting between these nations, 3-1 in China (Ningbo).
- These nations also met at the 2012 Olympic Games (3-1 for China) and 2010 World Championships (3-1 for Turkey, in Japan).
- China have won eight of the last nine World Grand Prix encounters against CEV teams.

China

- China have lost successive matches in straight sets, against United States and Italy.
- They have never lost three successive matches by a 3-0 scoreline before in the World Grand Prix.
- No Chinese player scored more than 10 points in their 3-0 defeat to Italy. Ting Zhu and Xiangyu Gong scored exactly 10.

Turkey

- Turkey have won only one of their last eight World Grand Prix matches, the 3-1 win over Belgium on 8 July.
- Turkey's World Grand Prix balance is in perfect harmony, as they have now won and lost 34 matches.
- In their 3-1 loss to United States on Friday no Turkish player scored 10 or more points. Melis Durul was the team's top scorer with nine.



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Pool E1: United States v Italy

Head-to-Head

- United States have won 11 of the 19 World Grand Prix meetings with Italy, including eight of the last nine.
- These nations also met at the Olympic Games last year, with USA winning 3-1 in the group stages.
- Italy defeated USA 3-2 in the final of the 2002 World Championships in Germany.
- USA have won eight of the last 10 meetings with Italy in all major tournaments, dating back to the 2011 World Grand Prix.

United States

- United States have won their first four matches of the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- The last time United States started a World Grand Prix season with a streak of five victories was in 2015, when they won their first eight matches.
- Also considering last season United States have won 13 of their last 14 matches, with the sole exception their 3-2 loss in the 2016 final against Brazil.
- United States beat Turkey 3-1 on Friday. Michelle Bartsch-Hackley scored a match-high 17 points, while opponents Turkey did not have a single player in their ranks who scored more than 10 points.

Italy

- Italy beat China 3-0 on Friday, only their second straight sets win at the World Grand Prix in their last 20 matches.
- Italy have now won back-to-back matches. They can record three successive wins for the first time since July 2015, when they beat Belgium, Turkey and Japan respectively.
- Paola Egonu scored a match-high 20 points in Italy's victory over China.



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Pool F1: Netherlands v Dominican Republic

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won all previous five World Grand Prix meetings with Dominican Republic, including last week in Apeldoorn, Netherlands (3-0).
- Dominican Republic have won two sets against Netherlands in the World Grand Prix. In 2009, they lost 3-2 in Macau.
- Netherlands have won the last 10 sets against Dominican Republic in all competitions combined.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have started their World Grand Prix campaign with three victories and one defeat. All victories came in straight sets.
- Netherlands have won the first two sets in all four World Grand Prix matches they played in 2017.
- Netherlands could win four of their first five matches in Group 1 play. Last season, they claimed three wins in the first five en route to a third place finish in the tournament.
- Celeste Plak scored 21 of Netherlands' 75 points in their 3-0 win over Belgium on Friday. She converted 18 of no less than 40 spike attempts.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic have two wins and two defeats thus far in the 2017 World Grand Prix,
- Dominican Republic lost 3-1 against Russia on Friday. With that result, they have still won nine of the last 11 matches in the World Grand Prix. The only other defeat came against Netherlands in the opener this season.
- Gina Mambro and Brayelin Martinez shared the top scoring honours for the team against Russia with 16 points each. Annerys Vargas and Jineiry Martinez delivered six blocks each.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JULY 14 TO 16

Pool F1: Russia v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- This is the fourth World Grand Prix meeting between these nations. Russia have won twice and Belgium once. All matches have ended in 3-0.
- The most recent World Grand Prix meeting was in Kaliningrad last year (won 3-0 by Russia).
- Russia have lost their last three World Grand Prix matches against CEV teams, all by 3-2, which they were leading 2-1 in sets in all three matches.

Russia

- After losing five straight World Grand Prix matches, including the last four in five sets, the Russians booked a 3-1 victory against Dominican Republic on Friday.
- Their five-match losing streak was their longest ever in the competition.
- Four Russian players reached double figures against Dominican Republic, of which Irina Fetisova tallied the most (18).

Belgium

- Belgium are still looking for the first victory in this season's World Grand Prix. Going back to last season, their losing streak is now six matches.
- Belgium are in danger of equalling their longest run of defeats in the World Grand Prix – seven in 2015.
- In their debut season 2014, Belgium won eight of their first 11 World Grand Prix matches. Of 27 matches in the tournament since, they won only three.
- Kaja Grobelna was the only Belgian player reaching double figures in scoring against Netherlands on Friday. She recorded 13 points, including nine spikes and four kill blocks.