



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

Pool D1: Japan v Brazil

Head-to-Head

- Japan and Brazil will meet for the 40th time in the World Grand Prix, the most contested match in the competition.
- Brazil have won 35 of the previous 39 encounters. Three of Japan's four wins have come in a five-setter.
- The last time Japan beat Brazil in the World Grand Prix was in 2010, a 3-2 victory.
- Since that victory, Japan have claimed only one set in seven straight World Grand Prix meetings with Brazil.

Japan

- Japan have won three of their five 2017 World Grand Prix matches, losing against Dominican Republic (3-1) and Serbia (3-0).
- Japan have already equalled their total number of wins from last year's World Grand Prix (3). They won four matches in the 2015 edition.
- Japan have not lost consecutive World Grand Prix matches in straight sets since a run of three in a row in July 2015, which included a 3-0 defeat against Brazil.

Brazil

- Brazil will become the second team, after China (307), to play 300 World Grand Prix matches.
- Brazil have won 241 of their 299 World Grand Prix matches (L58), a competition record.
- Brazil have lost two of their five 2017 World Grand Prix matches, both in straight sets.
- Brazil could lose three matches in a single World Grand Prix campaign for the first time since 2010.
- Only once before have Brazil suffered more than two straight-set defeats in a single World Grand Prix campaign – three in 2002.



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Pool D1: Serbia v Thailand

Head-to-Head

- Serbia have won their first (2011) and last (2016) World Grand Prix meeting with Thailand. The three matches in between were victories for Thailand.
- Thailand have only won more World Grand Prix matches against Puerto Rico (5) and Cuba (4).
- Two of Thailand's wins against Serbia came in five sets, in 2014 and 2015.

Serbia

- All five of Serbia's 2017 World Grand Prix matches have been decided in straight sets, with four wins and a defeat against Brazil. That is Serbia's only loss in their last nine World Grand Prix fixtures.
- Serbia's final World Grand Prix match of the 2016 tournament was the straight-set victory against Thailand. Their last fixture in the competition to last more than three sets was the 3-2 triumph versus Japan on 25 June 2016.
- Serbia have won four of their last five World Grand Prix matches that have gone to a deciding set, having been victorious in only three of their first 14 five-setters in the competition.
- Brankica Mihajlovic leads Serbia in scoring in 82 points.

Thailand

- Thailand's straight-sets victory against Brazil ended a 10-match losing streak in the World Grand Prix.
- Thailand could win consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since 2013 (against Algeria and Cuba).
- Thailand have won the opening set in only two of their last 20 World Grand Prix matches. They went on to win both of those fixtures.
- Ajcharaporn Kongyot is Thailand's top scorer on 67 points.



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Pool E1: China v United States

Head-to-Head

- China have won 21 of their previous 37 World Grand Prix meetings with United States.
- United States have won nine of their last 12 matches against China in the competition, including their last three. Last week, United States won in straight sets.
- China have only won more World Grand Prix matches against Japan (23) than versus United States (21).

China

- China have won three of their five 2017 World Grand Prix matches, also suffering straight-set defeats against United States and Italy.
- China could equal their total number of defeats in the World Grand Prix campaigns of 2015 and 2016 (both 3).
- Of China's last six World Grand Prix defeats, four came against United States.
- Only in 2010 (4) and 2011 (3) have China had more than two straight-set defeats in a single World Grand Prix campaign.

United States

- United States' last match was a five-set defeat against Italy, after they had started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with four victories.
- That was only United States' fourth loss in their last 34 World Grand Prix matches, with two of those defeats coming against China.
- United States could lose consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since back-to-back defeats against Brazil in August 2014.
- United States have won five and lost five of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches to have gone to a deciding set.



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Pool E1: Italy v Turkey

Head-to-Head

- Italy have won four of their previous five World Grand Prix matches with Turkey.
- Turkey's only win against Italy in the World Grand Prix came in 2014 (3-1).
- That victory marks Turkey's only win over Italy at world level tournaments (7 losses).

Italy

- Italy (99) are one short of becoming the sixth team to lose 100 World Grand Prix matches.
- Italy have won three consecutive World Grand Prix matches, after beginning the 2017 campaign with two defeats.
- Italy could win four consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since a run of six in a row from 2012 to 2013.
- Italy could win four consecutive World Grand Prix matches in a single year for the first time since a run of five in a row in 2011.

Turkey

- Turkey have lost eight of their last nine World Grand Prix matches, with the only exception in that run the 3-1 victory against Belgium in their second fixture in this year's competition.
- The fewest number of wins Turkey have recorded in a single World Grand Prix campaign is two in 2015.
- Turkey's defeat in their last fixture against China means they have now lost more World Grand Prix matches than they have won (W34-L35).



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Pool F1: Dominican Republic v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- Dominican Republic and Belgium have met once before at a world level tournament.
- At the 2014 world championships, Dominican Republic won in five sets after leading 2-0.
- Belgium have won three of their four World Grand Prix meetings with NORCECA sides, only losing to United States in 2015.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic have two wins and three defeats thus far in the 2017 World Grand Prix, Their last two matches ended in defeat.
- Since the opener of the 2016 competition, the Dominicans had avoided defeat in successive matches.
- Last time, Dominican Republic suffered a five-set defeat in the World Grand Prix was against Bulgaria last year. They went on to win the next match in a five-setter versus Argentina.
- Against Netherlands, Bethania De La Cruz was the only player with at least one point in the spikes (11), blocks (1) and serves (3) categories.

Belgium

- Belgium are still winless in this season's World Grand Prix. Including last season, their losing streak is now seven matches.
- Belgium have equalled their longest run of defeats in the World Grand Prix – seven in 2015. Another defeat would indicate their longest streak ever.
- In their debut season 2014, Belgium won eight of their first 11 World Grand Prix matches. Of 28 matches in the tournament since, they won only three.
- Britt Herbots (16) and Kaja Grobelna (13) were the two Belgian players reaching double figures in points scored against Russia on Saturday.



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Pool F1: Russia v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- This is the 10th World Grand Prix meeting between these nations.
- Russia have won seven of the previous nine and Netherlands have won twice, including the most recent match, the bronze medal match last year 3-2, after trailing 2-0.
- These teams have played eight matches at World Championships or Olympic Games against each other, with Russia winning all eight.

Russia

- After losing five straight World Grand Prix matches, their longest ever streak in the competition, the Russians have booked consecutive victories on Friday and Saturday.
- Russia have won at least two sets in each of their last six World Grand Prix matches (W2-L4), since a straight set defeat against United States in last years semifinal.
- After the straight set win against Belgium, Russia can win back-to-back matches in straight sets. They last achieved this last year against Netherlands and Thailand.
- Irina Voronkova (14 points) led Russia in scoring in their 3-0 win over Belgium on Saturday. Irina Fetisova added five kill blocks.

Netherlands

- Netherlands came back from a 2-0 set deficit to beat Dominican Republic 3-2 on Saturday. The last time they erased a two-set deficit was in the bronze medal game of last year's campaign, against Russia.
- Netherlands have now won four of their five World Grand Prix matches in 2017.
- Netherlands also won four of their last five World Grand Prix five-setters.
- Netherlands have won at least two sets in each of their last six World Grand Prix matches (W5-L1).
- Anne Buijs led Netherlands with 31 points against Dominican Republic. Celeste Plak, the Dutch top scorer in the 2017 tournament, added 16 points.