



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JULY 20 TO 23

Pool I1: Brazil v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won each of their seven major encounters with Belgium. The first of those took place at the 1956 World Championship, the last six in the World Grand Prix from 2014 to 2017.
- On 7 July, they met in a World Grand Prix encounter in Ankara, Turkey. Brazil won in straight sets.
- Belgium have never managed to win more than one set in a match against Brazil..

Brazil

- Brazil have lost their last two World Grand Prix matches, against Thailand and Japan. This is their first losing streak in the competition since 2007, when they dropped four in a row.
- They have also lost three of their last five in the competition. Before this, they scattered three defeats over a string of 17 World Grand Prix matches.
- They have won each of their last 12 World Grand Prix matches in Brazil, following a 3-1 defeat against United States in São Paulo on 17 June 2012.

Belgium

- Belgium is the only team in Group 1 that is still awaiting its first World Grand Prix victory of the season. Combined with last season, there have been eight successive defeats.
- Belgium have won only one of their last 15 World Grand Prix matches, a 3-1 triumph over Turkey on 24 June of last year.
- Belgium have lost all three of their matches at world level in Brazil. These were all World Grand Prix matches in the 2015 season.



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Pool I1: United States v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- United States have won their last seven encounters with Netherlands at world level.
- Their most recent encounters came at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Team USA beat the Dutch in a pool match and then in the bronze medal match.
- Netherlands' last major victory over United States dates back to the 2009 World Grand Prix. The Dutch won 3-2 in Chinese Taipei.

United States

- After starting their 2017 World Grand Prix season with four straight victories, United States have dropped two in a row, against Italy and China.
- United States had not lost back-to-back matches in the competition in the 33 matches that preceded their current losing run.
- Last season, Team USA lost only two of their 13 World Grand Prix matches in the season.
- Michelle Bartsch-Hackley has reeled off 14 aces on serve this season, most by any player in Group 1.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have won five of six to start their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign, their only defeat coming against Japan.
- Netherlands finished third in the World Grand Prix last season. They have not finished in the top six in back-to-back seasons in the competition.
- In Netherlands' three victories last weekend, Celeste Plak paced her team with 53 points across three matches.
- Plak ranks joint-third in points scoring in Group 1 and has amassed 102 in total this season.