



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

Pool G1: China v Japan

Head-to-Head

- China have won their last five major encounters with Japan, following a 3-0 defeat in Tokyo in the 2014 World Grand Prix.
- Their most recent meeting at world level was their 2015 run-in at the World Cup. China won that match in Japan by 3-1.
- China have also won each of their last three World Grand Prix encounters with Japan.

China

- China have started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with four victories from their first six. In each of the previous two seasons they started with six successive victories.
- China have won 13 of their last 18 World Grand Prix matches, which all took place in Asia.
- China finished in the top six in each of the previous five World Grand Prix seasons.
- Lin Li ranks as Group 1's Best Receiver, having registered a 90.08% efficiency rating.

Japan

- Japan have started their 2017 World Grand Prix season with four victories from their first six. This is their best start to a campaign since 2013, when they won their first six.
- Japan finished outside the top six in the World Grand Prix last season, but did reach the top six in each of the three seasons prior to that.
- In each of their four World Grand Prix victories this season, Japan conceded at least one set..



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Pool G1: Serbia v Russia

Head-to-Head

- Serbia have won each of their last three encounters with Russia at world level.
- They most recently met at the Olympic Games in Rio last year. In the quarterfinals, Serbia triumphed in straight sets.
- Russia recorded their last major victory over Serbia in the 2015 World Grand Prix, a 3-2 pool victory in Kaliningrad.

Serbia

- After two weeks of play in the World Grand Prix this season, Serbia lead Group 1 with five victories from their first six matches.
- This is their best start to a World Grand Prix campaign since 2013, when they also won five of their first six.
- The 2013 season is also the last in which Serbia finished in the top six. They came third that season.

Russia

- Russia have started their 2017 World Grand Prix season with four defeats from their first six. This is a far cry from last season, when they started out with six successive victories.
- This is Russia's worst start to a campaign since 2014, when they also lost four of their first six.
- Russia recorded a top six finish in 17 of their previous 20 World Grand Prix seasons.



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Pool H1: Italy v Turkey

Head-to-Head

- Turkey have won only one of their nine encounters with Italy at major tournaments.
- That was their 3-1 triumph in the 2014 World Grand Prix, a match played in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- Italy have won each of their last three major encounters with Turkey, all World Grand Prix matches. This includes the straight sets victory in Macau on 17 July.

Italy

- After starting this World Grand Prix season with back-to-back defeats, Italy have won four on the trot.
- This is Italy's longest winning streak in the competition since six in a row in 2012-2013.
- Italy is one defeat away from their 100th in the competition. They have won 110 so far.
- Paola Egonu paced her team last weekend, scoring 64 points across three matches, all Italy victories.
- Egonu leads all of Group 1 in points scoring on 117, of which 98 have come from spikes.
- Egonu is the only spiker to register a success percentage over 50% (54.44%) this season.

Turkey

- Turkey have won only one of their six World Grand Prix matches this season. That was against Belgium, the only side which is still without a victory this term.
- This is Turkey's only victory in their last 10 in the competition.
- That win came against European opposition, as Belgium were beaten by 3-1.



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Pool H1: Thailand v Dominican Republic

Head-to-Head

- On 9 July, these teams met in their World Grand Prix encounter in Apeldoorn, Netherlands. The Dominican Republic recorded a 3-1 victory.
- Thailand's most recent victory over Dominican Republic came in the 2014 World Grand Prix. The match in Bangkok was won 3-1 by the hosts.
- This will be their fifth World Grand Prix encounter. Their series is tied at two apiece.

Thailand

- Thailand have won only one of their first six World Grand Prix matches this season. Remarkably, that won was a straight sets triumph over titleholders Brazil.
- This is also Thailand's only victory in their last 12 matches in the competition.
- Thailand have lost each of their last five World Grand Prix matches in front of a home crowd. Each of these five took place in Bangkok and was lost in straight sets.
- Nootsara Tomkom is Group 1's leading setter, averaging 9.43 per set.

Dominican Republic

- After winning promotion to Group 1 last season, Dominican Republic have started their campaign in the top tier with three victories from their first six.
- Dominican Republic have never finished in the top six of a World Grand Prix season. Their best classification is eighth place.
- Each of Dominican Republic's last two World Grand Prix matches were decided in five sets. The last time they played three in a row was in 2013, winning two and losing one.
- Brayelin Martinez leads her team in points scoring on 104 this season. This is second best among all players in Group 1.
- Annerys Vargas is Group 1's leading blocker and the only one in the top tier averaging 1.00 per set.



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Pool I1: United States v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met once before in a meeting at world level.
- In the 2015 World Grand Prix, the US defeated Belgium 3-0 in a meeting in Ankara, Turkey.
- Team USA have won 19 of their last 20 World Grand Prix matches facing European opposition, but have lost their most recent one (against Italy).

United States

- On Thursday, United States beat Netherlands 3-1 to improve to a 5-2 record in the 2017 campaign. They rebounded from defeats in their last two World Grand Prix matches, their first consecutive defeats in the competition since August 2014.
- United States' next World Grand Prix defeat will be their 100th in the competition (compared to 170 wins).
- United States have won at least two sets in each of their last 17 World Grand Prix matches, including in all seven this season.
- Michelle Bartsch-Hackley scored 23 points against Netherlands on Thursday. Tetori Dixon (20, including 6 blocks), Madison Kingdon (17) and Kelly Murphy (14) also reached double figures.

Belgium

- Belgium are 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 nine successive defeats.
- Belgium have won only one of their last 16 World Grand Prix matches, the 3-1 triumph over Turkey on 24 June of last year.
- Against Brazil on Thursday (3-0 Brazil win), Kaja Grobelna was the only Belgian player to score double-digit points: 16 (all spikes). Marlies Janssens produced four of Belgium's five serve winners.
- Grobelna is Belgium's top scorer in the 2017 World Grand Prix with 89 total points.



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

Pool I1: Brazil v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won only one of their 21 encounters with Brazil at world level. That was their 3-2 victory in the 2007 World Grand Prix final round, en route to their only World Grand Prix trophy.
- Brazil have won each of their last six major encounters with Netherlands.
- Their most recent meeting took place in the World Grand Prix last season. Brazil won in straight sets in Bangkok, Thailand.

Brazil

- In front of a home crowd in Cuiaba on Thursday, Brazil beat Belgium 3-0 to improve to four wins and three defeats in the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- This win ended their first losing streak in the competition (2 defeats in a row) since 2007, when they recorded four consecutive defeats.
- Brazil could suffer a fourth defeat in the 2017 World Grand Prix. The last time they lost more than three matches in a single edition was in 2007, when they lost on five occasions.
- Tandara, Brazil's tournament top scorer (104 total points), led her team against Belgium on Thursday with 17 points. Adenizia and Carol impressed with five blocks each.

Netherlands

- On Thursday against United States, Netherlands suffered their second World Grand Prix defeat in 2017 (3-1). Netherlands now have five wins and two defeats.
- Since August 2013, Netherlands suffered back-to-back World Grand Prix defeats on only one occasion, against China and United States in June 2016.
- Netherlands could claim their sixth win of the campaign. Last season, when they finished third overall, they recorded their sixth victory in their 11th match.
- Anne Buijs (16 points), Yvon Belien (13) and Celeste Plak (12) were Netherlands' top scorers against United States on Thursday.