



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

Pool G1: China v Serbia

Head-to-Head

- China and Serbia have met most recently in the Olympic Games final with China winning 3-1.
- In the Group phase at the Olympic Games, Serbia won in straight sets against China.
- Their most recent World Grand Prix meeting came in 2015 when China prevailed after five sets.
- These teams have met six times at the World Grand Prix. Both teams have won three times.

China

- China saw a three-match winning streak come to an end against Russia on Saturday (3-1 defeat). The Chinese now have five wins and three defeats in the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- China have lost at least one set in each of their last eight World Grand Prix matches.
- China are one shy of 200 wins in the World Grand Prix (199 wins, 111 defeats).
- Xiaotong Liu led China in scoring against Russia with 15 points. She scored all of her points in the first three sets.

Serbia

- Serbia have won six and lost two matches in the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- Serbia lost to Japan in a five-setter after being 2-0 up in sets. This was their first ever defeat in the World Grand Prix after being two sets in front.
- Serbia have now won seven and lost 13 five-set matches in the World Grand Prix. They had won their last three five setters, against Belgium, Russia and Japan in 2016, prior to their loss against Japan this weekend.
- Serbia could lose back-to-back World Grand Prix matches for the first time since four straight defeats in 2015-2016.



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Pool G1: Japan v Russia

Head-to-Head

- Russia have won their last four major encounters with Japan, following a 3-1 defeat against them in Tokyo in the 2014 World Grand Prix.
- They last met at the Olympic Games in Rio last summer. In the pool phase, Russia won in straight sets.
- Japan won each of their first five World Grand Prix meetings with Russia, but then Russia won 19 of their next 24.

Japan

- Japan have won five and lost three matches in the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- On Saturday, Japan fought back from a 2-0 deficit in sets to claim a five-set victory over Serbia. On 9 July, they also beat Netherlands 3-2 after being two sets down. Until this campaign, Japan had never achieved two such comebacks in any single World Grand Prix season.
- For the first time since 2014, Japan could win more than five matches in a single World Grand Prix campaign. Back then, they won eight.

Russia

- Russia have three wins and five defeats in the 2017 World Grand Prix.
- After beating China 3-1 on Saturday, the Russians have the opportunity to win back-to-back matches for the second time this season. They beat Dominican Republic and Belgium successively last week.
- Kseniia Parubets (22 points) and Irina Voronkova (20) led their team in scoring, while Irina Zaryazhko (6 kill blocks), Parubets (4) and Ekaterina Evdokimova (4) showed impressive defence at the net.
- This match against Japan will be Russia's 250th in the competition (164 wins, 85 defeats thus far).



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Pool H1: Dominican Republic v Turkey

Head-to-Head

- Turkey have won four of their five encounters with Dominican Republic at world level.
- The Dominicans' only triumph over Turkey dates back to the 2014 World Grand Prix, when they won in five sets.
- Their most recent major encounter resulted in a straight sets victory for Turkey in the 2015 World Grand Prix.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic's straight sets defeat to Italy on Saturday brought their World Grand Prix balance in 2017 to four wins and four losses.
- Last year they won a team record seven matches in one single World Grand Prix campaign.
- Dominican Republic's straight sets loss to Italy was their 56th such a defeat in the World Grand Prix. They have won only nine matches by a 3-0 score line.
- Gina Mamburu (10 points) was the only Dominican player to reach double numbers in scoring in their match against Italy.

Turkey

- Turkey's 3-0 loss to Thailand on Saturday was their sixth World Grand Prix defeat in a row.
- Only once did Turkey set a longer losing streak in the competition: seven successive defeats in 2015.
- In total Turkey have now won one of their last 12 World Grand Prix matches, the 3-1 versus Belgium on 8 July.



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Pool H1: Thailand v Italy

Head-to-Head

- Thailand have won only one of their 11 encounters with Italy at major tournaments.
- This was their most recent run-in. The visiting Thai won 3-2 in Bari in last season's World Grand Prix.
- Italy had won the first seven matches between these teams in the competition.

Thailand

- Thailand beat Turkey 3-0 on Saturday, their second win in their last 14 World Grand Prix matches. The other victory in this run was their 3-0 win against Brazil on 15 July.
- Thailand can win successive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since beating Algria and Cuba in 2013.
- They can win successive World Grand Prix matches in straight sets for the first time since 2012, when they claimed successive 3-0 victories over Argentina and Puerto Rico.
- Hattaya Bamrungsuk and Chatchu-On Moksri scored a match-high 11 points against Turkey (Turkey's Hande Baladin also 11 points).

Italy

- Italy can win a team record seven successive World Grand Prix matches.
- They won six in a row on four previous occasions.
- Italy can also lose their 100th match in the World Grand Prix (112 victories).
- In their 3-0 win over Dominican Republic on Saturday, Caterina Bosetti and Miryam Sylla scored a match-high 11 points. Both scored 10 points from spikes and one from a block.



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Pool I1: Belgium v Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- Belgium have won only one of their seven encounters with neighbours Netherlands at world level. In addition, they have met on several other occasions on a continental level.
- That one victory came in the final round of the 2014 World Grand Prix and enabled Belgium to win promotion to the top tier of the competition.
- They met last weekend in Kaliningrad, Russia. Netherlands recorded a straight sets victory.

Belgium

- Belgium (8 losses) are the only team in Group 1 still awaiting its first World Grand Prix victory of the season. Combined with last season, they have suffered 10 successive defeats.
- Belgium have won only one of their last 17 World Grand Prix matches, the 3-1 triumph over Turkey on 24 June of last year.
- Belgium have claimed multiple World Grand Prix victories against three opponents: Turkey, Poland and Canada (two versus each). They can now beat Netherlands for the second time as well.
- Despite a 3-1 defeat, Kaja Grobelna took the top scoring honours against United States on Friday, tallying 24 points.

Netherlands

- Netherlands aim to bounce back from defeats in their first two matches this week, 3-1 against United States and Brazil. Their 2017 World Grand Prix record now is five wins and three defeats.
- Netherlands could lose three matches in a row. This has not happened to them since four straight defeats in the 2013 campaign.
- Celeste Plak again led the Dutch team in scoring on Friday with 14 points.



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

Pool I1: Brazil v United States

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won eight of their last 10 major encounters with United States, however only two of their last three.
- Brazil won their last meeting at world level, last season's World Grand Prix gold medal match in Bangkok, Thailand. Brazil won in five sets.
- In the final round of the World League the year before, Team USA defeated Brazil in front of a home crowd in Omaha.

Brazil

- On Friday, Brazil beat Netherlands 3-1 to improve to five wins and three defeats in the 2017 World Grand Prix campaign.
- Brazil have lost three matches in the 2017 World Grand Prix and could lose a fourth for the first time since 2007, when they suffered five losses.
- Brazil have now won the last 14 matches they played in front of a home crowd. Their last defeat in Brazil was the 3-1 against United States on 17 June 2012.
- Five Brazil players reached double figures in their win against Netherlands on Friday, with Rosamaria Montibeller (18) and Natalia Pereira (17) being the frontrunners.

United States

- United States beat Belgium 3-1 on Friday. They now have six wins and two defeats in the 2017 campaign.
- United States' next World Grand Prix defeat will be their 100th in the competition (171 victories).
- United States have won at least two sets in each of their last 18 World Grand Prix matches, including in all eight this season.
- United States' last straight sets defeat in the World Grand Prix came on 10 August 2014 against Brazil. In 38 matches since, they took at least one set on each occasion.