



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool A2: Bulgaria v Korea

#### Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Korea will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- The last time these teams met at a major tournament was at the 2002 World Championship. Bulgaria won by 3-1 in the second group stage.
- Korea last beat Bulgaria at a major tournament at the 1986 World Championship, 3-0 in the first group stage.

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria opened their 2017 World Grand Prix season with a 3-0 victory over Kazakhstan on Friday.
- Bulgaria will hope for a repeat of how they started last season, not of how they ended. In 2016, they won their first three and finished with two straight defeats.
- The victory against Kazakhstan was their first in straight sets in the World Grand Prix since 3-0 against Kenya on 4 June 2016. Bulgaria had conceded at least one set in each of their next six.

#### Korea

- Korea opened their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-1 victory against Germany on Friday. Korea did not manage back-to-back World Grand Prix victories since August 2014.
- All of Korea's last six victories in the World Grand Prix have resulted in 3-1.
- Korea have conceded at least one set in each of their last 22 World Grand Prix matches.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool A2: Germany - Kazakhstan

#### Head-to-Head

- Germany are unbeaten in their previous four World Grand Prix meetings with Kazakhstan.
- Germany won both of their matches against these opponents (in 2008) in straight sets and both of their matches in 2013 by a 3-1 scoreline.
- Germany also beat Kazakhstan in the first round of the 2010 World Championship (3-0).

#### Germany

- Germany started off their 2017 World Grand Prix season with a 3-1 defeat against Korea on Friday.
- Combined with last season, in which Germany were relegated from Group 1, Germany have now lost 10 successive matches in the World Grand Prix.
- This is their longest losing streak in the competition since 11 in a row in 2001-2002.

#### Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan slumped to a straight sets defeat against Bulgaria in their 2017 World Grand Prix opener on Friday.
- Kazakhstan have now lost three of their last four World Grand Prix matches.
- Last season in the World Grand Prix, Kazakhstan started with a defeat before responding with a straight sets victory in their second match.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool B2: Argentina - Croatia

#### Head-to-Head

- Argentina and Croatia will meet for the second time at the World Grand Prix, with Argentina winning their only previous encounter in 2015 (3-1).
- In all major competitions, Croatia had won their first two matches versus Argentina: at the 1999 World Cup (3-0) and the 2014 World Championship (3-1).
- Argentina have lost 20 of their 22 World Grand Prix matches against European sides, only defeating Germany (3-2 in 2013) and Croatia.

#### Argentina

- Argentina lost 3-0 against Canada in their first match.
- They have not lost their first two matches of a World Grand Prix campaign in each of the last four editions.
- This will be Argentina's 50<sup>th</sup> match at the World Grand Prix (W11-L38).
- Lucia Fresco scored 10 points against Canada.

#### Croatia

- Croatia suffered a 3-0 defeat against Poland.
- Their record at the World Grand Prix is now W12-L11.
- In their three previous campaigns at the World Grand Prix, Croatia lost their first two matches only once, in 2015.
- Lucija Mlinar scored seven points against Poland, one more than her teammate Katarina Pavicic.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool B2: Poland v Canada

#### Head-to-Head

- Poland and Canada will meet for the fifth time at the World Grand Prix. The Polish team won each of their previous encounters with Canada by a 3-1 scoreline. On each occasion, they won the first set and lost the second.
- Poland have only played more World Grand Prix matches against Argentina without losing once (5).
- The only other encounters between Poland and Canada at world level came at the 1974 World Championship, with Poland winning both matches in straight sets.
- Canada have lost 12 of their 13 World Grand Prix matches against European sides, only winning 3-2 against Bulgaria in 2015.

#### Poland

- Poland beat Croatia 3-0 in their opening match.
- Last year, Poland won their first two matches of a World Grand Prix campaign.
- Poland could record back-back straight-set wins for the first time since 3-0 victories against Korea and Chinese Taipei in 2102.
- Malwina Smarzek scored 19 points against Croatia.

#### Canada

- Canada started the World Grand Prix with a 3-0 win against Argentina.
- This was their second win in straight sets at the World Grand Prix after a 3-0 win versus Peru in 2014.
- Last year the Canadians lost all their matches.
- They could now win two matches in a row for the first time.
- Alexa Lea Gray scored 18 points against Argentina.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool C2: Peru v Colombia

#### Head-to-Head

- Peru and Colombia will meet for the fifth time at the World Grand Prix.
- Peru won twice in 2015 (3-1, 3-0) and once in 2016 (3-2). Colombia beat Peru 3-0 in 2015.
- These teams have met at each of the last four editions of the South American Championship (2009-2015). Peru won all five meetings at these editions, including the bronze medal matches in 2009 and 2011.

#### Peru

- Peru beat Puerto Rico 3-1 in their opening match.
- Angela Leyva was their top scorer on 23 points. Maguilaura Frias (16) and Carla Rueda Cotito (14) also scored 10+ points.
- Peru won their first two matches at each of their last two World Grand Prix campaigns.
- Their last match in the 2016 tournament was the 3-2 win against Colombia.

#### Colombia

- Colombia lost their opener 3-0 against Czech Republic.
- They had won their first match at each of their previous two World Grand Prix campaigns.
- Colombia have never lost their first two matches.
- Dayana Segovia, Giselle Perez and Melissa Rangel each scored eight points against Czech Republic.



## FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

### Pool C2: Puerto Rico v Czech Republic

#### Head-to-Head

- Puerto Rico and Czech Republic have met four times at the World Grand Prix.
- Puerto Rico won 3-2 in 2015 and 3-1 in 2016, while Czech Republic won 3-0 in 2013 and 3-1 in 2015.
- Last year, Puerto Rico won each of their four meetings with European sides at the World Grand Prix.

#### Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico lost 3-1 against Peru. They had won their opening match in the three previous World Grand Prix campaigns.
- The last time Puerto Rico lost their first two matches was in 2013. Their first match that year was against Czech Republic (3-0).
- Last year, Puerto Rico won seven of their eight matches.
- Stephanie Enright (914) and Karina Ocasio (14) were the top scorers for Puerto Rico against Peru.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic won 3-0 against Colombia in their first match.
- Marie Toufarova was top scorer against Colombia on 16 points.
- In their previous four campaigns they won their first two matches only in the 2014 tournament.
- The last time they recorded two straight-set wins in a row was last year, when they beat Canada twice.