



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

### Pool A2: Bulgaria - Germany

#### Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Germany will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Bulgaria won six of their previous nine World Grand Prix matches against fellow European sides.
- Germany have met European teams on 40 occasions in the competition, winning only eight times.

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria have won both of their matches so far at the 2017 World Grand Prix. They beat Kazakhstan 3-0 and Korea 3-2.
- In two of their previous four campaigns, Bulgaria also won their first two matches. In 2014 they won all of their eight matches while last year they managed to win their first three.
- Bulgaria have won eight of their 12 five-setters in the competition, including each of their last three.
- Nasya Dimitrova is Bulgaria's top scorer so far in the competition with 13 points against Kazakhstan and 16 points against Korea.

#### Germany

- Germany won their most recent World Grand Prix match, a straight set victory over Kazakhstan, ending a 10-match losing streak which included all of their nine matches from last year.
- They could win consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since a run of three in 2014. The first two of those victories also came in straight sets.
- Four of the last five World Grand Prix matches of Germany were played in three sets (W1-L3) with the exception of their 3-1 defeat against Korea in their first match.
- Louisa Lippman was both against Korea (24) and Kazakhstan (12) top scorer of all players on the field.



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

### Pool A2: Kazakhstan v Korea

#### Head-to-Head

- Kazakhstan and Korea will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Korea beat Kazakhstan in straight sets in their last two meetings at the Asian Championships, in the first round in 2015 and in the 2013 quarterfinals.
- Korea also beat Kazakhstan 3-0 in a 2016 Olympic qualifier.

#### Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan have started their 2017 World Grand Prix with straight set defeats against Bulgaria and Germany.
- The last time they lost their first three of the competition was in 2013 (first seven).
- Seven of Kazakhstan's last nine World Grand Prix defeats came in three sets.
- No Kazakh player has netted more than seven points in a single match this World Grand Prix season.

#### Korea

- After an opening win against Germany, Korea failed to win their second match of the 2017 World Grand Prix (3-2 v Bulgaria).
- Korea have now failed to win their last three five-setters in the competition. Their last five-set victory came in 2011 against Russia.
- Yeon Koung Kim is leading her teammates in scoring as she scored 20 points against Germany and 14 against Bulgaria.



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

### Pool B2: Argentina v Poland

#### Head-to-Head

- Poland won all their previous five World Grand Prix matches against Argentina.
- Three times did Poland win in straight sets, twice in 2011 and once in 2015. The other two times they won in five sets, in 2013 and 2016.
- Poland's five wins against Argentina are joint-most for them against a specific opponent in the World Grand Prix, alongside Dominican Republic, Canada and Japan.
- Argentina have not lost more than four World Grand Prix matches against any other opponent.

#### Argentina

- Argentina are hoping to win their first match this campaign after a 3-0 defeat against Canada and a 3-2 loss against Croatia.
- Argentina have now lost each of their last six five-setters in the World Grand Prix, since winning their first four in the competition.
- Last year, Argentina won one match while hosting a weekend of World Grand Prix matches, a 3-0 win against Kenya.
- Lucia Fresco was the top scorer in both matches as she scored 10 points against Canada and 20 against Croatia.

#### Poland

- Poland have won both of their matches at the 2017 World Grand Prix in straight sets, against Croatia and Canada.
- Poland could win the first three matches of a World Grand Prix campaign for the first time since 2014, when they won their first four.
- The last time Poland won three successive World Grand Prix matches was in 2015. They have never recorded three consecutive straight set victories.
- Malwina Smarzek was Poland's top scorer in both matches with 19 points against Croatia and 17 points against Canada.



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

### Pool B2: Canada - Croatia

#### Head-to-Head

- Canada and Croatia will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Croatia won two of their previous three World Grand Prix matches against NORCECA sides, both against Cuba.

#### Canada

- After a 3-0 win against Argentina, Canada lost in straight sets against Poland.
- Canada are hoping to equal their record number of wins of a single World Grand Prix campaign. They won two matches in 2014 and in 2015.
- Alexa Lea Gray is Canada's top scorer so far after two matches with 29 points in total.

#### Croatia

- Croatia bounced back after a defeat in the opening round against Poland, by beating Argentina 3-2.
- That win marked their first win in five sets. They had lost their previous two deciders.
- Croatia have failed to win the opening set in both of their matches so far. Last year, they won the first set in each of their eight World Grand Prix matches.
- Božana Butiga was Croatia's top scorer against Argentina. She scored 18 points of which five came from her serve and six from stuff blocks.



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

### Pool C2: Peru v Czech Republic

#### Head-to-Head

- Peru and Czech Republic will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Peru won only two of their previous 13 World Grand Prix meetings with European sides, the 3-1 win against Netherlands in 1994 and the 3-1 win against Croatia in 2016.
- Czech Republic are unbeaten in their matches against South American teams in the competition, two wins against Argentina and one against Colombia.

#### Peru

- Peru have started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-1 win against Puerto Rico and a 3-0 victory against Colombia.
- In 2015 and 2016 they also started with two victories, but only last year they managed to win their first three as they did not lose until their seventh match that campaign.
- Peru have won 16 of their last 20 World Grand Prix matches. In their first 25 in the competition they only managed three victories.
- Angela Leyva scored at least 20 points in both matches, 23 against Puerto Rico and 24 against Colombia.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic have also won both of their matches at this year's World Grand Prix as they beat Colombia 3-0 and Puerto Rico 3-1.
- The only other campaign Czech Republic had started off with two wins was 2014, when they won their first seven.
- Czech Republic could win three successive World Grand Prix matches for the second time after that run of seven victories in 2014.
- Six Czech players have managed to score 10 or more points in a single match this World Grand Prix campaign. Marie Toufarova is the only player to do so in both of Czech Republic's matches.



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

### Pool C2: Puerto Rico v Colombia

#### Head-to-Head

- Puerto Rico and Colombia will meet for the first time in the World Grand Prix.
- Colombia won three of their previous four World Grand Prix meetings with NORCECA sides, twice against Mexico and once against Cuba.
- Their most recent meeting came at the qualification tournament for the 2016 Olympic Games. Puerto Rico won in straight sets and eventually qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

#### Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico have failed to win at the 2017 World Grand Prix so far as they lost 3-1 to both Peru and Czech Republic.
- The last time Puerto Rico lost their first three matches of a World Grand Prix campaign was in 2014, when they lost their first eight.
- Puerto Rico have not lost three successive World Grand Prix matches since their last three of the 2015 campaign.
- Puerto Rico have won the opening set in five of their last seven matches in the competition.
- Karina Ocasio is Puerto Rico's top scorer so far with 34 points from the first two matches.

#### Colombia

- Colombia have lost both of their matches this year in straight sets. In their first 16 matches in the World Grand Prix they suffered only two straight set defeats.
- Colombia are on their longest losing-streak in the competition as they also lost their last two matches of last year's campaign.
- Colombia have never won a five-setter in the World Grand Prix. They have won eight matches in straight sets and two by a 3-1 scoreline.
- Dayana Segovia scored a staggering 22 points in Colombia's last match against Peru, more than a third of her teams' total points (60). No other player scored more than four points for Colombia in that match.