



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JULY 14 TO 16

Pool D2: Colombia v Croatia

Head-to-Head

- This will be the second World Grand Prix meeting between Colombia and Croatia.
- Croatia beat Colombia in straight sets in 2016.
- They have never met at any other major volleyball tournament.

Colombia

- Colombia ended a four-match losing streak in the World Grand Prix with a 3-0 win against Puerto Rico in their last match.
- Colombia have yet to win their first five-setter in the World Grand Prix. They have claimed nine of their 11 wins without dropping a set.
- Colombia have lost their previous two World Grand Prix matches against European opposition.

Croatia

- Croatia won one of their three matches in the opening weekend of the World Grand Prix, a 3-2 win against Argentina.
- That marked their first win in a decider in the competition.
- Their last match in the World Grand Prix was the 3-1 defeat against Canada. Croatia have not lost back-to-back matches in the competition since 2015.



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Pool D2: Kazakhstan v Germany

Head-to-Head

- Germany are unbeaten against Kazakhstan in the World Grand Prix (5 wins).
- Germany have only claimed more World Grand Prix victories against Dominican Republic, Thailand (both 7) and Japan (6) than against Kazakhstan (5).
- The five defeats against Germany are already most for Kazakhstan against specific opponents in the World Grand Prix.
- Last week, Germany beat Kazakhstan in straight sets.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan have failed to win a single set in their last four World Grand Prix matches, their longest such streak since a run of six in 2008.
- Kazakhstan have won 12 of their last 27 World Grand Prix matches, after winning only two of their first 34 in the competition.
- Kazakhstan have won each of their last 12 World Grand Prix matches in which they won the opening set.

Germany

- Germany bounced back with two victories after a defeat on the opening day of this year's World Grand Prix.
- Their two victories this year were their first wins in the World Grand Prix since winning their last match in the 2015 campaign.
- Germany could win three successive matches in the competition for the first time since a run of three in 2014.
- Germany have won two of their last 13 five-setters in the World Grand Prix. They had won seven of their first 13.



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Pool E2: Argentina v Korea

Head-to-Head

- Korea have won all six encounters with Argentina at world level. Each of those six victories were achieved in straight sets.
- They most recently met in the Pool phase of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- They met once before at the World Grand Prix, in 2011.

Argentina

- Argentina suffered three defeats in their opening weekend, succumbing to Canada, Croatia and Poland.
- Argentina have lost seven of their last eight in the World Grand Prix, including each of their last three. Their only win in that run came against Kenya (3-0).
- Argentina have lost each of their last six five-setters in the World Grand Prix.

Korea

- Korea enjoyed victories against Germany and Kazakhstan in their opening weekend. They lost against Bulgaria.
- Korea have alternated wins and defeats in their last 11 matches at world level. Should this trend continue, they will lose this match.
- Korea have won three of their last four in the World Grand Prix.



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Pool E2: Poland v Peru

Head-to-Head

- Poland have won six of their eight encounters with Peru at world level, including each of their last four.
- They last met in the 2014 World Grand Prix. Poland triumphed in five sets.
- Peru's last major victory over Poland took place at the 1978 World Championship. The South Americans won in straight sets.

Poland

- Poland enjoyed the perfect opening weekend, claiming straight sets victories against Croatia, Canada and Argentina.
- The last team to win the first four matches in a World Grand Prix campaign without dropping a set was Netherlands in 2014.
- This marked the first time that Poland had won three successive World Grand Prix matches in straight sets.
- Poland have not won more than three in a row in the competition since 2013-2014, when they won five on the trot.

Peru

- Peru won two of their three matches in their opening weekend, winning against Puerto Rico and Colombia, before suffering defeat against Czech Republic.
- Peru have not suffered back-to-back defeats in the World Grand Prix since 2014.
- Peru have won nine of their last 11 in the World Grand Prix.



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Pool F2: Czech Republic v Bulgaria

Head-to-Head

- Czech Republic and Bulgaria have met four times in the World Grand Prix. Bulgaria have won three of those four matches.
- Czech Republic's only World Grand Prix victory over Bulgaria came in 2015, when the Czechs triumphed in five sets.
- Their most recent encounter took place in the World Grand Prix last season. Bulgaria won 3-1.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic started their 2017 World Grand Prix season with successive victories against Colombia, Puerto Rico and Peru.
- For the first time since 2014, Czech Republic have won their opening three matches in a World Grand Prix season. In that year, they won their first seven.
- Their current winning run of three is their longest in the competition since seven in a row in 2014.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria won their first two World Grand Prix matches this season, against Kazakhstan and Korea, before losing against Germany on Sunday.
- Both the victory against Korea and the defeat against Germany were decided in five sets.
- Bulgaria will play their first World Grand Prix match outside of Bulgaria in over a year. They played their last five in front of a home crowd.



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Pool F2: Puerto Rico v Canada

Head-to-Head

- The only two meetings between these countries at world level came in the World Grand Prix.
- In 2015, they met in Carolina, Puerto Rico. The hosts triumphed in four sets.
- Last season, they faced off in Poland. Puerto Rico won in straight sets

Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico started off their 2017 World Grand Prix season with three straight defeats, against Peru, Czech Republic and Colombia.
- Puerto Rico have not lost more than three consecutive World Grand Prix matches since 2012-2013, when they dropped 11 on the trot.
- Their straight sets defeat against Colombia was their first such World Grand Prix loss in 13 matches in the competition.

Canada

- Canada concluded their 2017 World Grand Prix weekend with two victories and one defeat.
- Following Sunday's victory against Croatia, Canada find themselves chasing unprecedented back-to-back World Grand Prix victories.
- Last Friday's victory against Argentina ended a string of eight consecutive World Grand Prix defeats for Canada.
- Canada could win three matches in a single World Grand Prix campaign for the first time.