



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

Pool A3: Hungary v Trinidad and Tobago

Head-to-Head

- Hungary and Trinidad and Tobago will meet for the first time in any major competition.
- The last time Hungary faced a NORCECA side at a major tournament was on 24 September 1982, when they defeated Canada 3-0 at the World Championship.
- Trinidad and Tobago will face European opposition at a major competition for the first time.

Hungary

- Hungary will participate at the World Grand Prix for the first time.
- At the 2015 European Championship in the Netherlands, they reached the play-offs for the quarterfinals in which they lost in straight sets against Germany. They finished in 12th place.
- Their best result at a major competition was a second place at the 1975 European Championship.
- Their best result at a world level tournament was fourth place at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

Trinidad and Tobago

- For Trinidad and Tobago, it is their first participation at the World Grand Prix.
- They finished respectively sixth and seventh at the last two editions of the Norceca Championships (2013 and 2015).
- Trinidad and Tobago have never participated at any world level major tournament.



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Pool A3: Mexico v Australia

Head-to-Head

- Mexico and Australia will meet for the third time at a major tournament.
- Their previous two encounters came at the last two editions of the World Grand Prix (2015, 2016), with Mexico winning 3-1 on both occasions.
- Australia (2) and Algeria (4 times) are the only opponents which Mexico have defeated at the World Grand Prix.
- Australia have lost 3-1 in each of their last three WGP matches against NORCECA sides since the 3-0 defeat against Cuba in 2015.

Mexico

- Mexico participate in the World Grand Prix for the fourth time. They finished respectively 26th (2014), 28th and last (2015) and again 26th (2016) on the previous three occasions.
- They finished their 2016 campaign with a win over Australia and could win consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the second time, after a run of three in a row in 2015-2016.
- Mexico have lost the first set in each of their last five WGP matches since the 3-0 win over Algeria in their first match of 2016.
- In 2016, Freda López recorded on average 3.26 digs per set, most by any player in group 3.

Australia

- Australia could claim their first World Grand Prix victory after they lost their first 20 matches in the competition.
- Australia could win at least one set in consecutive World Grand Prix matches for the first time since July 2015.
- They hope to improve on their 27th place from last season - their best result in the competition was a 24th place in 2015.
- Shae Sloane had an average of 0.55 aces per set in the 2016 World Grand Prix, highest of all players in the competition.



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Pool B3: Cameroon v Algeria

Head-to-Head

- Cameroon and Algeria will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Since 2003, the sides have met six times: four times at the African Championships and twice at the African Olympic Qualification tournament. Cameroon won four times versus two Algerian victories.
- Their most recent encounter came in February 2016, in qualifying for the Olympic Games. Cameroon won in straight sets in front of a home crowd in the semifinals and went on to qualify for their first Olympic Games by beating Egypt 3-2 in the final.
- On both occasions Algeria beat Cameroon (since 2003), they went on to win the tournament: the 2008 Olympic Qualification and the 2009 African Championships.

Cameroon

- Cameroon will participate at the World Grand Prix for the first time.
- Last year, they were the only African team present at the Olympic Games but they lost each of their five group stage matches and finished in joint-11th place.
- They are the third African participant at the World Grand Prix, after Algeria and Kenya.
- Cameroon have lost all of their 15 matches at world level tournaments (Olympic Games and World Championship), failing to claim a set in 13 of those matches.

Algeria

- Algeria will participate at the World Grand Prix for the fifth time, after having been present at each of the last four editions.
- Algeria finished in last place in 2013 (20th), 2014 and 2016 (both 28th).
- They have lost 25 of their 27 World Grand Prix matches, with their only victories coming over Australia in 2015.
- Only Australia (0%) and Chinese Taipei (3%) have a lower win percentage in the WGP than Algeria (7%).
- Last season, Yasmine Abderrahim (47) was Algeria's top scorer in the World Grand Prix.



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Pool B3: France v Venezuela

Head-to-Head

- France and Venezuela will meet for the first time at any major competition.
- France will face South American opposition at a major tournament for the first time since the 1956 World Championship, when they lost 3-1 against Brazil.
- For Venezuela, this is the first meeting with European opponents since the 2008 Olympic Games when they lost in straight sets versus Poland.

France

- This will be France's first participation in the World Grand Prix.
- The last time they participated at a world level tournament was at the 1974 World Championship, when they finished in 20th place.
- The last time France competed at a major tournament was at the 2013 European Championship, where they finished in eighth place.

Venezuela

- Venezuela also make their debut at the World Grand Prix.
- They are the fifth South American team to participate in the tournament, after Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Colombia.
- Brazil and Colombia won their first WGP match, while Argentina and Colombia were defeated in their first match in the tournament.
- Venezuela will participate at a world level tournament for the first time since the 2008 Olympic Games, when they lost all of their five matches and finished in 11th place.