



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS FINALS – AUGUST 20-24, 2014

Russia - Belgium (August 21)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first World Grand Prix meeting between Russia and Belgium. The latter are making their debut in the competition.
- Russia have won six of their last seven World Grand Prix meetings with European opponents, including their last three.
- Belgium have lost four of their 12 World Grand Prix matches this season and all three of them were against European adversaries.
- The last meeting between these teams at a major championship came at the 2009 European Championship and Russia won that match in five sets.

Russia

- Russia started their Finals campaign with a 3-1 defeat at the hands of hosts Japan.
- This ended a three-match winning streak for Russia, a run that propelled them into fourth place in Group 1 and earned them a Finals berth at the expense of the United States and Germany.
- Including 2011, they have now lost four of their last five Finals matches.
- They have finished in the top three in the World Grand Prix on 11 occasions. Only Brazil have captured more medals in the competition (15).
- They need to win one more set to reach 500 won sets. Only Brazil (692), China (614) and USA (511) have won more than 500 sets.

Belgium

- Belgium lost their Finals opener 3-1 against China on Wednesday.
- This ended a three match winning streak by Belgium in the World Grand Prix. Their record in their debut World Grand Prix season dropped to eight wins and four defeats.
- Apart from the teams in the first edition in 1993, Belgium are the second debutants to finish in the top six after Serbia, who finished third in 2011.
- With 246 points, Lise Van Hecke led all players in scoring in this year's groups. Van Hecke did not see any action in Belgium's match against China, as she is nursing a knee injury.



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Brazil - China (August 21)

Head-to-Head

- These sides have met on 33 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix. Brazil have won 23 of those meetings and China have won 10. The only opponents that Brazil have registered more World Grand Prix wins against than China (23) are Japan (31).
- Brazil have won each of their last 10 encounters against China in the competition, dating back to a 3-2 defeat in China in June 2008.
- The last time China recorded a World Grand Prix victory against Brazil in a match outside of a China was in July 2005 in a match that took place in Japan (Sendai).
- Brazil won five of their previous seven World Grand Prix meetings with China in straight sets, the other two in four sets.

Brazil

- Brazil started their Finals campaign with a 3-2 defeat against Turkey. It was their first defeat in the World Grand Prix this season and their first in the competition since August 10, 2013 (3-1 v Bulgaria).
- Last season, Brazil won all of their five matches in the Finals. In 2012, they started with a defeat before reeling off four straight wins and finishing runners-up in the competition.
- Brazil are in search of their 10th World Grand Prix crown. No other country has won more than five.
- Brazil won 15 medals in 20 previous participations in the World Grand Prix. The last time they missed out on the podium was in 2007 (fifth place finish).
- They have not lost back-to-back World Grand Prix matches since 2007.

China

- China started off their Finals campaign for the third successive World Grand Prix campaign by defeating Belgium 3-1 on Wednesday.
- China snapped a two-match losing streak in the competition by dismissing the 'Yellow Tigers'.
- Last season, China even started the Finals with four successive victories before losing against Brazil.
- China won the World Grand Prix in 2003 and finished runners-up in 1993, 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2013 when they lost their final match against Brazil (3-0).
- China have lost 99 matches in World Grand Prix history (272 matches). They can become the fourth nation to reach 100 World Grand Prix defeats.



Japan - Turkey (August 21)

Head-to-Head

- These sides have met five times previously in the World Grand Prix. Japan have won twice and Turkey three times.
- This includes their encounter earlier this season. Turkey triumphed 3-0 in Ankara on 1 August.
- Japan's last victory over Turkey in the competition also took place in Ankara. On August 4, 2013, Japan emerged victorious 3-1 in the Turkish capital.
- They have met twice before in a World Grand Prix match on Japanese soil. The hosts won their 2008 encounter in Kobe (3-2) and the visitors triumphed in Osaka in 2012.

Japan

- Japan started their Finals campaign with a 3-1 victory over Russia.
- Japan have now won five in a row in the World Grand Prix, their longest winning streak in the competition since posting seven successive victories in 2012-2013.
- Japan's present winning streak in the World Grand Prix has followed up on a nine-match losing streak, which lasted a year (August 2013-August 2014).
- Last year, Japan equalled their best-ever Grand Prix finish, fourth, equal to their final rank in 1994 and 1997.

Turkey

- Turkey started their Finals campaign by beating Brazil 3-2, thereby ending an 18-match winning streak by the reigning champions in the World Grand Prix.
- This was Turkey's first ever World Grand Prix win against the defending champions.
- In search of their second medal in the World Grand Prix. Their best finish in the competition is third place in 2012.
- None of their last nine World Grand Prix matches have resulted in a straight sets victory or defeat. In each of the nine, Turkey and their opponents won at least one set.