



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

Turkey - Russia (August 22)

Head-to-Head

- This is the third time these teams meet in a World Grand Prix setting. Both previous encounters took place in the Preliminary Round this season.
- On August 3, they met for the first time with Turkey pulling out a 3-2 win in Ankara. Neriman Ozsoy led the way for the host team, recording 26 points, 22 in attack.
- Russia avenged that defeat on August 16 with a 3-1 home win in Kaliningrad. This victory capped off a three-match winning streak for Russia, a run that propelled them into the Finals, leaving United States and Germany in their wake.
- Tatiana Kosheleva's 26 points in that match spearheaded Russia's triumph. None of her teammates contributed more than nine points.

Turkey

- Turkey have started their Finals campaign with a win and a defeat. They defeated reigning champions Brazil 3-2 before losing 3-0 to hosts Japan.
- Their whitewash defeat against Japan ended a string of 33 successive World Grand Prix matches in which Turkey had managed to win at least one set, a run following a 3-0 defeat against Poland on 6 July 2008.
- In search of their second medal in the World Grand Prix. Their best finish in the competition is third place in 2012.
- The last time they suffered back-to-back defeats in the World Grand Prix, earlier this month, the second loss was inflicted by Russia.

Russia

- Russia have started the Finals with a 3-1 defeat against Japan, followed by a straight sets victory against Belgium.
- Russia have won four of their last five World Grand Prix matches.
- Russia have finished in the top three in the World Grand Prix on 11 occasions (G3 S5 B3). Only Brazil have captured more medals in the competition (15).
- Russia last won the World Grand Prix in 2002 and last finished in the top three in 2009 (second place).



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Belgium - Brazil (August 22)

Head-to-Head

- This is the first ever meeting between these teams in the World Grand Prix. Belgium are making their debut this season. Brazil have appeared in all but one (1997) of the competition's 22 seasons.
- This is Belgium's fourth straight World Grand Prix match against former champions in this competition. They beat the Netherlands in the Final Four decider and opened their Finals campaign facing China and Russia.
- Brazil have won 31 of their last 34 World Grand Prix matches against European opposition, however lost their last. In their opener to this Final Round, Turkey halted their 18-match winning streak in the competition.
- Brazil have not lost consecutive World Grand Prix encounters with European foes since 2007, when they lost to Russia, Italy and the Netherlands in the space of just three days.

Belgium

- Belgium have lost their first two Finals matches, to China and Russia.
- This is their first losing streak in the World Grand Prix. Earlier in their debut season, the 'Yellow Tigers' had followed up every defeat with a victory.
- 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.
- Serbia finished third in 2011, which is the best finish by newcomers to the competition, excluding the inaugural 1993 season.

Brazil

- Brazil won their second match of the Finals, defeating China in straight sets. Brazil had lost their opener against Turkey and the victory against China made them avoid back-to-back World Grand Prix defeats for the first time since 2007.
- Brazil are seeking back-to-back World Grand Prix championships. They won three straight from 2004 to 2006 and two in a row from 2008 to 2009. They join the United States as the only teams to have retained their crown in the competition.
- 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).
- Brazil are in search of their 10th World Grand Prix crown. No other country has won more than five.



China - Japan (August 22)

Head-to-Head

- This is a meeting between the only two ever presents in the World Grand Prix. China and Japan have appeared in all of the competition's 22 seasons.
- China have won 20 of the previous 22 encounters with Japan in this competition. Japan are the opponents that China have defeated most often in the World Grand Prix.
- The last meeting between these two was won by Japan. Last 17 August, Japan emerged victorious 3-1 in Macau.
- They also ran into each other on 9 August of this year, with China vanquishing Japan in straight sets in Hong Kong.
- Their one previous World Grand Prix meeting in Tokyo took place exactly five years ago (August 22, 2009). China coasted to a 3-0 victory in that one.

China

- China have started their Finals with a win and a defeat, beating Belgium 3-1 before losing 3-0 against defending champions Brazil.
- China have lost three of their last four World Grand Prix matches.
- 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 suffered their 100th World Grand Prix defeat against Brazil. Their opponents, Japan, have suffered most World Grand Prix defeats (151).

Japan

- Japan finished outside the top 6 in the Preliminary Round (seventh place), but is the only team that has won its first two matches in the Finals phase.
- Japan have won their last six World Grand Prix matches, a streak that is one victory shy of the team record in the competition. Japan won seven in a row in 1994 and matched that achievement from 2012 to 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 World Grand Prix finish, fourth, equal to their final rank in 1994 and 1997.
- With their 3-0 victory over Turkey, Japan ended a string of 14 World Grand Prix matches in which they did not secure a win in straight sets.