



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

Pool D1: Brazil v Serbia

Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Serbia will meet for the seventh time in the World Grand Prix.
- Brazil won the first four meetings, three in straight sets and one in five sets. Serbia won the last two, a 3-2 win in 2016 and the straight sets victory last week.
- Their meeting last week was only one of the five straight set defeats Brazil have suffered in the last 10 editions of the World Grand Prix.
- The last team to beat Brazil twice in straight sets in a single World Grand Prix campaign was China in 2005.

Brazil

- Brazil have opened this year's World Grand Prix campaign with two wins and one defeat.
- Brazil have lost only three of their last 17 World Grand Prix matches of which two came against Serbia.
- In the previous 11 editions of the World Grand Prix, Brazil have only once suffered multiple straight set defeats: against Russia and United States in 2015.
- Brazil have lost only two of their last 13 matches against European opposition in the World Grand Prix, both against Serbia.

Serbia

- Serbia have started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with three straight set wins.
- The last team to win the first four matches in a World Grand Prix campaign without dropping a set was Netherlands in 2014.
- Serbia could win their first four matches for the second time after 2013, when they won their first five.
- They are currently on their longest winning streak in the competition as they have won their last seven matches.
- Serbia have also won four successive World Grand Prix matches without losing a set for the first time.
- Serbia are three shy of claiming their 150th set in the World Grand Prix.



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Pool D1: Japan v Thailand

Head-to-Head

- Japan and Thailand will meet for the 12th time in the World Grand Prix.
- Japan have won nine of their 11 previous encounters, including each of their last six. Thailand's only wins came in 2009 and 2012, both in five sets.
- Their most recent meeting came last week, when Japan won in five sets. Two Japanese players reached at least 20 points in that match: Sarina Koga (23) and Mari Horikawa (21).

Japan

- Japan won two of their three matches so far at this year's World Grand Prix, both in five sets (Thailand, Netherlands).
- Japan could win three of their first four matches in the competition for the first time since opening with six wins in 2013.
- Against Netherlands, Japan won their first World Grand Prix match after trailing two sets since beating Germany in 2013.
- Japan have won back-to-back matches in the competition only once in their last 23 matches. Last year they beat Germany and Thailand in succession.

Thailand

- Thailand are currently on a nine-match losing streak in the competition, since the 3-2 win against Italy on 20 June 2016.
- Thailand have won the opening set only once in their last 18 World Grand Prix matches, also in that 3-2 win against Italy.
- Thailand are hoping to record a World Grand Prix victory against a fellow AVC team for the first time since the 3-2 win against China in 2012.



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Pool E1: China v Italy

Head-to-Head

- China have won four of their last five meetings with Italy at world level.
- Italy's last major victory over China came at the 2015 World Grand Prix (3-2).
- These teams also met last weekend in their opening match to the 2017 World Grand Prix season. Hosts China won by 3-1.

China

- China won their first two matches in their opening weekend, against Italy and Russia, before suffering defeat against United States.
- China have now lost four of their last seven matches at the World Grand Prix.
- China have won 10 of their last 12 World Grand Prix matches in Macau.

Italy

- Italy started off their World Grand Prix season with defeats against China and United States before recovering with a 3-2 victory against Russia,
- Italy have lost their last two matches against Asian opposition at the World Grand Prix.
- Against Russia, Paola Egonu paced her team with 39 points. None of her teammates contributed more than 16.



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Pool E1: United States v Turkey

Head-to-Head

- United States have won nine of their 11 encounters with Turkey at world level. This includes each of their last four.
- Turkey achieved their last major victory over Team USA at the 2014 World Grand Prix.
- They also met at the World Grand Prix last season. United States won 3-0 in front of a home crowd in Long Beach.

United States

- United States won all of their three matches on opening weekend, 3-2 against Russia before reeling off straight sets wins against Italy and China.
- United States have won 12 of their last 13 matches at the World Grand Prix, their only defeat in this sequence being last season's gold medal match against Brazil.
- This is the first time since 2015 that United States start a World Grand Prix campaign with three victories. In that year, they won each of their first eight.

Turkey

- In their opening weekend, Turkey suffered defeat against Serbia and Brazil and triumphed over Belgium.
- Turkey have lost six of their last seven at the World Grand Prix.
- For the first time since their meeting in Long Beach against the US last season, Turkey will play a World Grand Prix match outside of Turkey.



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Pool F1: Netherlands v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won five of their six encounters with Belgium at world level.
- Their last encounter was played out in the World Grand Prix last season. The Dutch won by 3-1.
- Belgium's only major victory over Netherlands took place in the 2014 World Grand Prix. The Belgians won the Group 2 final in five sets to earn promotion to the top tier.

Netherlands

- Netherlands won the first eight sets of their 2017 World Grand Prix season, but then dropped three on the trot against Japan, leaving them with two victories and one defeat from their opening weekend.
- Netherlands have won seven of their last eight world level encounters with European opposition, including each of their last five.
- Holland's last eight World Grand Prix matches have been decided either in three sets or five sets.

Belgium

- Belgium started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with three straight defeats, against Brazil, Turkey and Serbia.
- Belgium have lost 11 of their last 12 World Grand Prix matches, their only victory in that run coming against Turkey last year.
- Last season, Belgium started their World Grand Prix season by losing their first six matches.



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Pool F1: Russia v Dominican Republic

Head-to-Head

- Russia have won all of their 12 meetings at world level with Dominican Republic.
- Their last major encounter took place at the 2015 World Cup. Russia triumphed in straight sets.
- They last faced off in the World Grand Prix in 2015, when Russia also won in straight sets.

Russia

- Russia have started their 2017 World Grand Prix this season with three defeats, against United States, China and Italy.
- Russia have now lost their last five World Grand Prix matches, their longest losing run in the competition.
- Their last four defeats in the World Grand Prix were matches that took a fifth set to decide.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic rebounded from a season opening defeat against Netherlands with victories against Japan and Thailand.
- Dominican Republic have won nine of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches.
- Against Thailand, Dominican Republic were paced by Annerys Vargas and Brayelin Martinez, who contributed 21 points each.