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US Women suffer loss to the Netherlands at World Grand Prix

NINGBO, China (June 24, 2005) – Francien Huurman scored a match-high 12 points to lead three players in double figures as the Netherlands posted a decisive 3-0 win over the USA Women’s National Volleyball Team in the World Grand Prix opener for both teams Friday afternoon.

Huurman had nine kills, two service aces and one block in the 25-17, 25-14, 25-17 victory as the Dutch ruined the homecoming of Chinese superstar and Team USA head coach “Jenny” Lang Ping at Ningbo Beilun Gym.

Chaine Staelens and Manon Flier each scored 11 points for the Netherlands, which plays defending Olympic gold medalist China in its next match on Saturday.

“The result was not surprising because these players have trained together for only three days,” said Lang Ping. “Moreover, our two outside hitters are both college students; they have never played such important games. Today we struggled in our offense as the Netherlands destroyed our receiving with quality serves. They also did very well in blocking today.”

Jane Collymore (Englewood, Colo.) scored 10 points on seven kills, two blocks and one service ace to lead the Americans, who captured the bronze medal in this event in each of the last two years after winning Grand Prix titles in 1995 and 2001.

Two Athens Olympians, Elisabeth Bachman (Lakeville, Minn.) and Nancy Metcalf (Hull, Iowa), scored eight points each for Team USA. Bachman, playing in her first match of the year, had seven kills and one block. Metcalf, who was named the “Best Scorer” at last week’s Pan American Cup in the Dominican Republic, blasted eight kills.

“Our players tried their best, but we just need time to play better,” added Lang Ping.

The United States will try to even its record in Group A against Thailand tomorrow before taking on China on Sunday to cap the first weekend of the World Grand Prix.

On the second weekend of pool play (July 1-3), the USA will play the Dominican Republic, Japan and Korea in Seoul, Korea, as a member of “Group D.” On the third



weekend of pool play (July 8-10), the USA will play Japan, Poland and Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand, as a member of "Group I."

The top five ranked teams after pool play will advance to the championship round along with the host team, Japan, from July 13-18 in Sendai, Japan.

World Grand Prix – Week One

Overall Standings

Italy (1-0)
Japan (1-0)
Netherlands (1-0)
China (1-0)
Brazil (1-0)
Cuba (1-0)
Germany (0-1)
Korea (0-1)
Thailand (0-1)
USA (0-1)
Poland (0-1)
Dominican Republic (0-1)

Group Standings

Group A (Tokyo, Japan)

Brazil (1-0)
Japan (1-0)
Korea (0-1)
Poland (0-1)

Group B (Reggio Calabria, Italy)

Italy (1-0)
Cuba (1-0)
Germany (0-1)
Dominican Republic (0-1)

Group C (Ningbo, China)

China (1-0)
Netherlands (1-0)
Thailand (0-1)
USA (0-1)

Results/Schedule (Week One)

Friday, June 24, 2005

Group A (Tokyo, Japan)

Brazil def. Korea, 3-0 (25-21, 25-20, 25-14)
Japan def. Poland, 3-0 (25-16, 25-11, 25-17)

Group B (Reggio Calabria, Italy)

Cuba def. Germany, 3-0 (29-27, 27-25, 27-25)
Italy def. Dominican Republic, 3-0 (25-12, 25-12, 25-10)

Group C (Ningbo, China)

China def. Thailand, 3-0 (25-20, 25-15, 25-18)
Netherlands def. USA, 3-0 (25-17, 25-14, 25-17)

Saturday, June 25, 2005

Group A (Tokyo, Japan)

Brazil vs. Poland
Japan vs. Korea

Group B (Reggio Calabria, Italy)

Cuba vs. Dominican Republic
Germany vs. Italy

Group C (Ningbo, China)

China vs. Netherlands
Thailand vs. USA

Sunday, June 26, 2005

Group A (Tokyo, Japan)

Korea vs. Poland
Brazil vs. Japan

Group B (Reggio Calabria, Italy)

Dominican Republic vs. Germany
Cuba vs. Italy

Group C (Ningbo, China)

Netherlands vs. Thailand
China vs. USA

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