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7/9/2004 - The USA women's national volleyball team began the World Grand Prix in...

BANGKOK, Thailand (July 9, 2004) – The USA women's national volleyball team began the World Grand Prix in fine fashion by sweeping Korea Friday afternoon at Nimiboot Hall.

Heather Bown scored a match-high 13 points to lead three players in double-figures in the 28-26, 25-13, 25-22 victory for Team USA, a member of Pool A along with Cuba, Korea and Thailand.



"The first match of any tournament is a tough one to get through," said Bown (Yorba Linda, Calif.), who had nine kills, four blocks and a hitting percentage of .500. "Some adjustments were made on our side to pull out game one. After that we seemed to find our rhythm for the remainder of the match."

Keba Phipps (Las Vegas, Nev.) and Danielle Scott (Baton Rouge, La.) added 12 points apiece as the United States improved to 11-7 overall this season.

"This was a good opening-match win for USA," explained Scott, who had nine kills, two aces and one block. "Winning the first game gave us a bit of momentum as we focused on the details we've been working on in practice. Hopefully, we'll continue to improve throughout the tournament."

Tayyiba Haneef (Laguna Hills, Calif.) scored nine points, Logan Tom (Salt Lake City, Utah) added seven points and 10 digs and setter Robyn Ah Mow-Santos posted 34 assists, four points and nine digs for the United States.

In other Pool A action on Friday, Cuba swept Thailand.

This year's Grand Prix, the premier annual women's competition that features many of the best teams in the world, will serve as the final pre-Olympic competition for Team USA before it begins play in the 2004



Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, on Aug. 14.

The 12-team Grand Prix will feature 10 of this year's 12 Olympic teams. In fact, six of Team USA's nine scheduled pool-play matches will be against teams heading to Greece next month, including four matches against teams in its Olympic pool (Cuba, China, Germany and Russia).

The 12-team field is broken into three pools that will change slightly on each weekend of pool play (July 9-11, July 16-18 and July 23-25). The top five ranked teams after pool play will advance to the championship round along with the host team, Italy, from July 27-Aug. 1.

[USA Women's World Grand Prix Roster](#)

World Grand Prix

Standings (Week One)

Pool A

Cuba (1-0)

USA (1-0)

Korea (0-1)

Thailand (0-1)

Pool B

China (1-0)

Brazil (1-0)

Dominican Republic (0-1)

Germany (0-1)

Pool C

Russia (1-0)

Italy (1-0)

Japan (0-1)

Poland (0-1)

Results/Schedule (Week One)

Friday's Results

Pool A (Bangkok, Thailand)

Cuba def. Thailand, 3-0

USA def. Korea, 3-0

Pool B (Miao Li, Taiwan)

Brazil def. Dominican Republic, 3-0

China def. Germany, 3-0

Pool C (Kawasaki, Japan)

Russia def. Poland, 3-0

Italy def. Japan, 3-1

Saturday's Schedule

Pool A (Bangkok, Thailand)

Korea vs. Thailand

Cuba vs. USA

Pool B (Miao Li, Taiwan)

Brazil vs. Germany

China vs. Dominican Republic

Pool C (Kawasaki, Japan)

Italy vs. Russia
Japan vs. Poland

Sunday's Schedule

Pool A (Bangkok, Thailand)

Cuba vs. Korea
Thailand vs. USA

Pool B (Miao Li, Taiwan)

Dominican Republic vs. Germany
Brazil vs. China

Pool C (Kawasaki, Japan)

Italy vs. Poland
Japan vs. Russia

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