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# VOLLEYBALL NEWS

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In what promised to be a hard-fought battle of world volleyball... SELECT \* FROM tblArchiveStory WHERE archive\_id = 419

**MATERA, Italy (July 30, 2003)** – In what promised to be a hard-fought battle of world volleyball heavyweights, the U.S. women’s national volleyball team struggled to defend the Russian attack and eventually dropped the match 3-1 (25-19, 21-25, 25-21, 25-17) at the 2003 FIVB World Grand Prix.

The win put Russia in first place in the final round by a slim margin with just two matches remaining. The loss dropped Team USA to 1-2 in the finals and slid down to fourth-place in the final round standings.

The U.S. team was led in scoring by Tayyiba Haneef (Laguna Hills, Calif.) with 18 points on 18 kills. Haneef was one of four U.S. players to score in double figures. Danielle Scott (Baton Rouge, La.) added 12, Keba Phipps (Lakewood, Calif.) scored 11 while Nancy Metcalf (Hull, Iowa) contributed 10 points off the bench.

Ekaterina Gamova led all scorers with 23 points on 19 kills, two blocks and two aces. Evguenia Artamonova added 19 points in the victory.

“Russia played an excellent match tonight,” said U.S. coach Toshiaki Yoshida. “We could not touch their attack. We just could not get near them.”

Team USA will take a few days off before resuming competition on Saturday, August 2nd. They will face winless Korea in Andria.

Other action on Wednesday saw China defeat Italy 3-1 (25-22, 23-25, 25-15, 25-20) and the Netherlands downed Korea 3-2 (18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-20, 22-20).

### 2003 FIVB World Grand Prix Standings

1. Russia
2. China
3. Netherlands
4. USA
5. Italy
6. Korea

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