



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 9, FINAL SIX – JULY 20, 2014

### Italy v Iran

#### Head-to-Head

- Italy and Iran have met six times in the World League, claiming three wins each.
- Iran have won their last two World League meetings with Italy, both at Tehran last June. They can record their second World League win against the Italians on Italian soil, after winning the first ever mutual meeting 3-1 at Modena last year.
- Since June 2012, Italy have lost only two matches in straight sets – yesterday's semifinal v Brazil and one of this season's encounters v Iran.
- Iran have beaten Italy three times in the World League, joint most for Asian nations alongside China.
- If Iran win this match, they beat Italy for the fourth time. Against no other nation they have that many World League victories (v BRA also 3).

#### Italy

- Italy can claim the bronze medal for the second World League season in a row. They had not reached the podium in eight straight campaigns prior to 2013.
- After winning their two Group Stage matches in the Final Six in straight sets, Italy lost the semifinal v Brazil 3-0. They now have lost seven of their last nine World League matches.
- Ivan Zaytsev was Italy's top scorer in the Final Six matches v USA (21 pts) and AUS (15 pts). Against Brazil, he managed to score only nine points. All three matches have been three-setters.
- With a total of 45 points Ivan Zaytsev is the second most prolific point scorer so far at the 2014 Final Six tournament, only Iran's Amir Ghafour has scored more points (63).

#### Iran

- Iran can collect their first ever medal in the World League. In their 2013 debut season, they finished ninth.
- Iran have won only one of their four five-setters this season. This victory came against Brazil in the Intercontinental Round.
- Iran need two sets to reach the mark of 50 in their World League history. They have conceded 53 sets thus far.
- Iran aim to become the first Asian country to win a medal in the World League.
- Iran already are the most successful Asian nation in World League history. Regardless of finishing third or fourth – they will beat the sixth-place finishes of Japan (1990, 1993, 2008), China (1996) and Korea (1995).
- Amir Ghafour is the player to have scored most points in the Final Six this season (63 so far).



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### Brazil v USA

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil and USA have met 35 times in the World League. Brazil have 26 victories, USA nine. Brazil won five of the last seven.
- Brazil and USA meet each other for the first time since 2011 in the World League. In that year, USA booked 3-1 wins at Tulsa (USA) and Belo Horizonte (BRA).
- USA can beat Brazil for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in the World League. Only Italy (14) and Russia (13) have more wins against Brazil (Poland have also 10).
- USA and Brazil have met at least once in seven of the last eight Olympic Games. Only at Sydney 2000, the teams avoided each other. Of nine total matches in this span, USA have won five, Brazil four.
- They have competed in two Olympic finals – both in 1984 (Los Angeles) and 2008 (Beijing), USA claimed the gold medal.
- Either Brazil or USA have taken part in the last 13 World League Finals. Brazil played 11, winning eight, USA played two, winning one. Still, they never met each other in the decider.

#### Brazil

- Brazil can win the World League for the 10<sup>th</sup> time, becoming the first nation with double digit gold medals in the competition (Italy follow with 8).
- The last time Brazil claimed gold was in 2010, when they beat Russia in the Final.
- Brazil have lost the final in two of the last three seasons (2011, 2013), they played Russia on both occasions.
- Brazil could fail to win the World League for the fourth consecutive time, their longest streak without a gold medal since 1994-2000 (7 seasons).
- Brazil have won eight of their 15 World League matches in 2014 including five of their last six.

#### USA

- USA play their third World League Final. In 2008, they beat Serbia, in 2012, they suffered defeat v Poland.
- USA can become the fourth nation with multiple WL gold medals, after Brazil (9), Italy (8) and Russia (3).
- Taylor Sander is USA's top scorer in the Final Six tournament scoring 17 pts v Iran, 21 v Australia and 4 v Italy.
- USA have won 11 of their 15 World League matches in 2014. Only in 1992, 2007 and in their World League-winning season 2008, they recorded more wins - 12, a number they could equal today.