



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE REVIEWS WEEK 9, FINAL SIX – JULY 16-20, 2014

Brazil - Iran 1-3

- Iran defeated Brazil 3-1 to secure their place in the semifinals of the Final Six.
- Iran became the first team from Asia to be guaranteed a top four finish in the World League.
- Iran are only in their second season in the World League. Last season, they finished ninth on debut.
- Only one team has ever won the World League after failing to place among the top eight in the previous season. Netherlands lifted the trophy in 1996, after having finished 12th (and last) in 1995.
- Iran's victory sealed the fate of titleholders Russia, who finished bottom in Pool I. Brazil remain the last team to win the World League in back-to-back seasons. They last managed that in 2009-2010.
- Iran snapped a three-match losing streak in the World League, a rut that was preceded by a string of four successive victories.

Australia - Italy 0-3

- Italy saw off Australia in straight sets to reach the semifinals in dominant fashion. They have yet to drop a set in the Final Six they are hosting.
- Italy now face Brazil in the semifinals. These teams have won 17 of the 24 previous World League titles between them.
- Brazil is the only team that has beaten Italy in Italy in the current World League season. The South Americans secured a pair of 3-1 wins in Italy earlier this month in the Intercontinental Round.
- Australia finished sixth out of 28, which is a vast improvement over their only previous WL campaign. In 1999, they finished 10th among 12 teams.
- Italy finished third last season. They have not won medals in back-to-back World League seasons since 2003 and 2004.