



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

General

- With both Brazil and USA progressing to the final both teams finishing second in their Final Round Pool qualify for the gold medal match.
- This is the first time since 2012 both WL semifinals are decided in straight sets. In 2012 USA beat Cuba and Poland beat Bulgaria by 3-0.

Iran - USA 0-3

- USA reach the final of the World League for the third time in history, after their first place in 2008 and their second place in 2012.
- After starting the 2014 World League with seven consecutive wins, USA lost three of their next four matches, and then went on to win three of their last four.
- Today's match marked the third straight set victory for USA this WL season. They also beat Russia and Serbia 3-0 in the Intercontinental Rounds.
- USA reach the final after finishing 12th in last season's World League. This is their biggest improved in rank in successive WL seasons.
- Iran suffered their fourth straight set defeat this WL season. Only Japan (7 times), Bulgaria (6 times) and Germany (5 times) were beaten more often by a 3-0 score.
- No Iran player scored more than 10 points in today's match. Amir Ghafour was Iran's top scoring player on 10 points (all attack).
- Amir Ghafour is also the player to have scored most points for far in the Final Six tournament (63).
- USA's Taylor Sander scored 17 points today, the most of all players in the match. He is also USA's top scorer in this year's Final Six matches with 42 points.

Italy - Brazil 0-3

- Brazil beat Italy 3-0 like they did in the semifinals of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
- The last time Brazil beat Italy 3-0 in the World League was in the 2001 final.
- Italy lost the first set 25-11. Only once did they lose a WL set by bigger margin 25-10 vs Bulgaria in 2005 (since the introduction of the 25-points set in 1999).
- By reaching the final, Brazil will add to their record 9 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze World League medals.
- Italy suffered their second straight set defeat this WL season. In the Intercontinental Rounds they were beaten 3-0 by Iran.