



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS FINAL FOR 1ST PLACE GROUP 2 – JULY 12, 2014

France - Australia

Head-to-Head

- France and Australia have never met in the World League.
- Their last meeting came in the 1st Group Stage of the 2006 World Championship. France won 3-1.
- Two of the three players with 100+ digs during the Pool Stage in Group 2 of this World League meet – Luke Perry (Australia, 119) and Jenia Grebennikov (France, 118). Only Daniel Lewis (Canada, 149) has more.
- The winner of this match will qualify for the Final Six. If Australia qualify, the six participants in Florence (Italy) will come from five different continents, adding to South America (Brazil), Asia (Iran), Europe (Italy, Russia) and North America (USA).

France

- Their straight-sets win in the semifinal v Belgium was France's 11th World League win of the season. This equals the nation's record, set in 2006. Another win would give them an outright wins record in a single campaign.
- France have reached the top-6 in five previous World League final rankings – fifth in 1990, 2001 and 2004, second in 2006 and most recently sixth in 2007.
- France have now won 14 of their last 16 World League matches, of which seven in straight sets.

Australia

- Just like Turkey did in Group 3, Australia have reached the Final Four decider in their home country. Turkey lost the final v Cuba.
- Australia have now won three World League matches in a row, all in Sydney. Three successive wins are as many as in their other 22 World League matches combined.
- Against Netherlands in the semifinal, Australia booked their very first straight sets victory in the World League. They lost 10 matches in straight sets themselves, including their first six appearances (all in 1999).



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS FINAL FOR 3RD PLACE GROUP 2 – JULY 12, 2014

Belgium - Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- This is the first 'Derby of the Low Countries' in the World League.
- For the first time in 27 years, these teams meet in a main tournament. In September 1987, Netherlands won 3-2 in a Qualification Match 5-8 at the European Championship.
- In their semifinal v Australia, Netherlands fielded four players in their six-man starting line-up who play league volleyball in Belgium – Michael Parkinson (Maaseik), Robin Overbeeke (Lennik), Thomas Koelewijn and Yannick van Harskamp (both Antwerp). Belgium fielded only two players in their semifinal starting line-up who are active in their own country – Matthias Valkiers (Maaseik) and Matthijs Verhanneman (Roeselare).

Belgium

- Belgium have lost four of their five World League matches against European sides in 2014 – three v Finland in Pool C, one vs France in their semifinal.
- Belgium lost in straight sets v France. This has happened to them once this season (vs Canada). In all other 11 matches they won at least two sets.
- Belgium have lost all four five-setters they played in the World League this season (3 vs Finland, 1 v Canada).
- Belgium have won seven and lost six matches in their debut World League season. They can finish with a positive balance by beating Netherlands.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have nine total World League wins this season, most since 1998 (13). In eight seasons in the 1990s, they had double-digit wins, but never more than in 1996 and 1998 (13).
- In their semifinal v Australia, Netherlands suffered their first straight-sets defeat in the World League since 2010 (vs Bulgaria). They had won at least one set in their 24 matches until their defeat vs Australia.
- Netherlands have won eight of their last 11 World League matches against European sides, immediately after losing 11 straight matches against Europeans prior to this run.