



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS SEMIFINALS GROUP 2 – JULY 11, 2014

Australia - Netherlands

Head-to-Head

- These teams will meet for the first time in the World League. Australia are the 20th opponent for Netherlands in the competition, while Netherlands are Australia's seventh opponent.
- These teams have met on three occasions at Olympic Games – twice in 2000 (Group Stage and Qualification 5-8), once in 2004 (Group Stage). Netherlands won all three matches in straight sets.
- Aidan Zingel, Adam White (Australia) and Thijs ter Horst (Netherlands) play for the same team in Italy (BluVolley Verona). Australia's Jordan Richards plays in the Netherlands for Landstede Volleybal.

Australia

- Australia finished fourth in Pool C, are in the Final Four as hosts of the tournament. They have won five matches this season – three vs Canada, two vs Finland.
- Australia have lost all four matches against Belgium in Pool C. The Netherlands can be their first scalp from the Low Countries.
- Australia have won three of their six matches at home. The last two wins against Canada were recorded in Sydney.
- Aidan Zingel ended the Group Stage with the most stuff blocks of all players in Group 2 – 42. His closest rival, Dutchman Thomas Koelewijn, had 32.

Netherlands

- Of all four countries in this Final Four, only the Netherlands have won the World League, in 1996.
- The Netherlands have survived the Intercontinental Round in the World League for the first time since 2002. They finished fourth and last in their Final Round group phase that year.
- The Netherlands have won nine matches this season, the most for them since 1998 (13).
- The Netherlands can become the sixth nation (after Brazil, Italy, Russia, Cuba and Serbia) with 150 World League wins, if they manage to win this Final Four. They are currently on 148 World League victories.
- Dick Kooy is the only Dutchman ranked in the top-3 of a single statistical category in Group 2 this season. He is second in spiking with a 55.56% success rate.



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS SEMIFINALS GROUP 2 – JULY 11, 2014

Belgium - France

Head-to-Head

- These teams will meet for the first time in the World League. Earlier this year, they met in a World Championships Qualifier. Belgium won 3-2.
- Only two nations in Pools A-E have managed to win at least two sets in 11 of their 12 World League matches this season – Belgium and France.
- Simon Van De Voorde (Belgium) and Nicolas Marechal (France) play together for Polish side Jastrzębski Węgiel. Belgium have three players active in France: Bram Van Den Dries, Frank Despestele (both Beauvais) and Kevin Klinkenberg (Tours).

Belgium

- Belgium won Pool C by claiming seven victories. Of their five defeats, three came against Finland, the only European side they have faced in the World League so far.
- If Belgium manage to reach the Final Six, they will become the fourth nation with a top-6 finish in their debut season, after Cuba (2nd in 1991), Russia (6th in 1992) and Czech Republic (4th in 2003). The inaugural 1990 World League is not taken into account in this statistic.
- Belgium have lost all four five-setters they have played in the World League this season (Three vs Finland, one vs Canada).

France

- France have won 33 total sets in the World League this season, and collected 30 points. Both numbers are most for all nations in all groups during this campaign.
- France have won 10 World League matches for the second time, after winning 11 in 2006, when they recorded their best result in the World League, finishing second.
- Two wins this weekend would set an outright record for them in a single campaign.
- Benjamin Toniutti has been the most prolific setter of all players in Group 2 this season with a 7.62 per set average.