



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE REVIEW WEEK 1 – MAY 23-25, 2014

### Review: 2014 World League (23 May - 20 July 2014)

#### Pool A: Brazil - Italy (23 and 24 May)

- Eight-time World League winners Italy beat Brazil twice to end a four-match losing streak against the record nine-time winners.
- Matteo Piani's eight blocks in the second match (3-1) are more than any Italian had in a match last year and also most that any player recorded in a match vs Brazil in 2013.
- Italy had last defeated Brazil in 2003, when they also won two matches in a row against the South Americans.
- Italy started a World League campaign with two wins for the fifth year in a row and the 10th time this century.
- Brazil lost their opening two matches of the World League for the fifth time. They can look back at 1993 for inspiration as they won the World League that year despite losing their first two matches.

#### Pool B: Bulgaria – USA (23 and 24 May)

- USA ended a losing streak of five matches, their longest losing streak in the World League since five matches in 2006-2007.
- USA's 3-2 win against Bulgaria in their first match, marked the ninth time USA came back from two sets behind to win a World League match. They had last achieved this against Korea in 2012.
- Bulgaria have now lost their last five World League matches, their worst run since losing six in a row in 2004-2005.

#### Pool C: Belgium - Australia (23 and 25 May)

- Belgium immediately clinched their first win on their debut in the World League, while Australia are still waiting for their first ever win after 14 matches.
- Belgium became the fourth debutant and first since Cuba in 1991 to win their first two matches in the World League. France and Netherlands won their first two matches in the first edition in 1990.
- Belgium were also the first team to win a match in this year's World League. They scored their last point a few minutes before Germany beat Japan.

#### Pool D: Argentina - France (24 and 25 May)

- France defeated Argentina twice to set a winning streak of five matches in the World League for the first time since 2004-2005.



- They won their opening two matches of a World League for the first time since 2008.
- France recorded a 3-0 win for the first time since 1 July 2012 against Korea.
- Argentina's losing streak now stands at 13, their longest since 17 consecutive defeats in 2009-2011.

#### **Pool D: Germany - Japan (23 and 24 May)**

- In the head-to-head with Japan, Germany became the first to win three matches in a row, when they beat Japan in the first match. They extended that streak to four in the second clash.
- Germany recorded two 3-0 wins in a row in the World League for the first time since 2012, when they beat Portugal and Argentina.
- Japan's first set win in their 3-2 defeat against Germany was their 300th set win in the World League.