



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 9, FINALS – JULY 16-20, 2014

Pool H: Italy - USA (July 16)

Head-to-Head

- Italy and USA have met 22 times in the World League, with both teams winning 11 times.
- Italy have won only two of their last 12 matches against USA in the World League. In their first 10 World League encounters, Italy lost only once.
- The teams have met twice in the final round of the World League. In 1992, Italy defeated USA in three sets in the semifinal and in 2000 Italy defeated USA 3-1 in the Round Robin phase. In both seasons Italy ended up winning the World League.
- In two of their fixtures a five-setter was needed to decide the winner. Both five-setters were won by USA, including their last encounter in July 2012.

Italy

- As the hosts of the 2014 World League Finals, Italy were automatically qualified. Italy also won their Pool A with 19 points.
- Italy are in the Final Round for the 20th time in 25 World League participations.
- Italy are currently on a six-match losing streak, their longest World League losing streak in team history.
- Before this losing streak, Italy had won seven consecutive World League matches in a row. Their longest winning streak since they won nine consecutive World League matches in 2002.
- Last season, Italy won both matches in the group stage of the Final Round. They defeated both Bulgaria and Argentina 3-1. Italy were ousted by Russia in the semifinal (3-1).

USA

- USA qualified for the Finals by finishing first in Pool B with 24 points.
- This is the eighth time USA reach the Final Round in their 17 World League participations. Their last appearance in the Final Round was in 2012 when USA lost the final to Poland in straight sets.
- USA won their first seven group matches this season, but have lost three of their last five group matches.
- USA have played five five-setters (Won 4-Lost 1) this season. Only Finland have played more five-setters (6).



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Pool I: Iran - Russia (July 16)

Head-to-Head

- Iran and Russia have met twice in World League history. These matches came in the Intercontinental Rounds of 2013. Both matches were won by Russia (3-0 and 3-1).
- These meetings were Iran's debut matches in the World League.
- Russia also defeated Iran in the 2011 World Cup (3-0) and the Grand Champions Cup in 2013 (3-0).

Iran

- In their second participation in the World League, Iran qualified for the Final Rounds for the first time by finishing second behind Italy in Pool A.
- Iran have won 50% of their matches this season (W6-L6). They also won 50% in their debut year 2013 (W5-L5).
- Iran have won only three of their seven World League matches played in five sets. Their last five-set win came against Brazil on 13 June.
- Iran have lost their last two matches in the World League (both against Poland, 3-1 and 3-0).

Russia

- Russia have qualified 22 times for the Final Round in their 23 World League appearances. The only time Russia failed to qualify for the Final Round was in the 2012 World League. In 2004 and 2005 they were absent from the World League.
- Of their last eight matches, Russia won seven. Six of those matches were won in straight sets. The only other team to win six matches in straight sets in the Intercontinental Rounds this season is France.
- Last season, Russia won only one of the two matches in the group stage of the Final Round, but still reached the semifinals in which they beat Italy. In the final, Russia defeated Brazil.
- Russia have lost all of their five-setters this season (L3). They have now lost four five-setters in a row in the World League, their worst run since losing five in a row in 2000-2001.