



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

### Pool I: Russia - Brazil (July 17)

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Russia (including the Soviet Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States) have met 32 times before in the World League. Russia won 13 times. Brazil are on 19 victories.
- This will be a replay of the 1993, 2002, 2010, 2011 and 2013 World League final. Russia claimed victory in 2002, 2011 and 2013, while Brazil lifted the trophy in 1993 and 2010.
- Russia have won their last four World League matches against Brazil, their longest winning streak against the South American country. Two of those matches were won in straight sets and two were won in five sets.
- Nine-time World League winners Brazil and defending champions Russia have clashed 23 times in the Final Round. Brazil won 15 of these encounters.
- Russia have recorded their most Final Round wins (8) and Final Round defeats (15) against Brazil.

#### Russia

- Russia are the first defending World League champions to qualify for the Intercontinental Round since 2010 winners Brazil in 2011.
- Russia are aiming to become the first European nation to claim the World League title in back to back years since Italy in 1999-2000.
- Russia have taken at least one set in 60 of their last 61 World League matches and in 71 of their last 73, only failing to win a set against the United States on 9 July 2010 and 7 June 2014 in that period.
- The last time Russia won their first two Final Round matches was in 2011.
- Russia have now won four successive World League matches for the second time this season. The last time they won at least five in a row within a single season was in 2011, when they won their last six matches.
- Russia's only defeat in their last 10 Final Round matches was against Canada last year.

#### Brazil

- Brazil qualified for the Finals by finishing third in Pool A behind Iran and 2014 Final Six hosts Italy.
- This is Brazil's 23th Final Round participation in 25 World League appearances. In 1991 they failed to qualify for the Final Rounds and in 1998 they were eliminated in the playoffs.
- Brazil have reached the final of the World League in four of their last five participations (Won 2-Lost 2). In this span, they only failed to qualify for the gold medal match in 2012.
- Brazil have won only six of their 2014 Intercontinental Round matches, which marks their worst performance in the Intercontinental Round in team history.
- They are currently on a three match winning streak after winning their last two matches 3-1 against Italy.



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

### Pool H: USA - Australia (July 17)

#### Head-to-Head

- USA and Australia have never met in the history of the World League.
- USA defeated Australia 3-0 in the World Cup of 2007, the qualification tournament for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Both teams did not qualify for the Olympic Games next year.
- At the 2004 Olympic Games of Athens, both teams were drawn in Pool B. USA defeated Australia 3-1 and reached the bronze medal match in which they were defeated by Russia.
- Paul Carroll (Australia) meets SCC Berlin teammate Kawika Shoji (USA).

#### USA

- Against Italy, USA suffered their third straight-sets defeat in their last four World League matches.
- If USA lose this match, they will finish outside of the top four in the World League this season. They finished in the top four only once in the previous five World League seasons, when they came second in 2012.
- USA have not claimed a World League victory in straight sets in any of their last eight matches in the competition, since defeating Serbia 3-0 on 13 June 2014.
- USA are seeking their second World League crown following their overall triumph in 2008.

#### Australia

- Australia are in the Final Six for the first time in team history by defeating France in five sets in the final of the Final Four.
- After their victory against the Netherlands in the semifinals and France in the final of the Final Four, Australia are now on a four match winning streak. Prior to this streak, they had won a total of just three matches.
- In both the semifinal and final of the Final Four, Edgar Thomas was top scorer for Australia. Against the Netherlands, Thomas scored 26 points and against France 24 points.