



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

### Pool I: Brazil - Iran (July 18)

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Iran have met four times in the World League (all in 2014) with both teams winning twice. Brazil won twice in five sets, while Iran won once in five sets and once in straight sets.
- Iran have won 10 of the 18 sets they played against Brazil in this season's World League.
- Brazil defeated Iran in straight sets at both the 1991 and 2011 World Cup.
- These teams also met twice in the Grand Champions Cup (2009 and 2013) with Brazil winning twice by a 3-1 set score.

#### Brazil

- Brazil have already qualified for the Finals semifinals following their 3-1 win over Russia.
- Brazil have now reached the semifinal stage in seven of the last eight World League seasons. In this period they only failed to reach the semifinals in 2012 when they suffered defeats against Cuba and Poland in the Finals.
- Brazil have won seven of their 13 World League matches in 2014 including their last four.
- Wallace De Souza scored 23 of Brazil's 98 points in their Finals match against Russia.

#### Iran

- Iran need a win in order to qualify for the semifinals. A Brazil victory would see Russia go through to the semifinals.
- If Iran beat Brazil and proceed to the semifinals, defending champions Russia would be eliminated. This would be the third successive season in which the defending World League champions fail to reach the semifinals: 2011 champions Russia were eliminated in the Intercontinental rounds in 2012, and 2012 champions Poland were eliminated in the Intercontinental rounds in 2013. The last defending champions to reach the World League final were 2010 champions Brazil who were losing finalists in 2011.
- Iran lost their first Finals match against Russia in five sets. They now have lost three World League matches in a row, just one defeat shy from their longest World League losing streak recorded between 2013 and 2014.
- Iran have won only one of their four five-setters this season. This victory came against Brazil in the Intercontinental Round.
- Iran won the fourth set against Russia 37-35, which equalled the most points in a single set in group 1 and 2 this World League year. On 20 June, Russia beat Serbia 37-35 in the first set.



- Amir Ghafour scored 30 of the 109 points in Iran's last game against Russia. In Iran's matches played in the Intercontinental Round, Amir Ghafour recorded a total of 88 points (12 matches).

## Pool H: Australia - Italy (July 18)

### Head-to-Head

- Australia and Italy have met four times in the World League. In the 1999 World League these teams were in the same pool. Italy won all four matches in straight sets.
- These teams have met on three occasions at the Olympic Games with Italy winning all three encounters: 2000 quarterfinals, 2004 group stage and in the 2012 preliminary round.
- Including a 1982 World Championship and 2008 Olympic Qualification victory over Australia, Italy are unbeaten in their total of nine meetings with Australia.
- Australia have only been able to win three sets in their nine encounters with Italy.
- Simone Anzani (Italy) takes on his Blu Volley Verona teammates Aidan Zingel (Australia) and Adam White (Australia).

### Australia

- Last Thursday Australia lost 3-1 to USA in their Finals debut match.
- Australia need to beat Italy in order to qualify for the semifinals.
- Australia have won only seven of their 27 World league matches (1999 and 2014 combined). Four of these wins came in their last five World League matches.

### Italy

- Last Wednesday Italy won their first match in the Finals by defeating USA in straight sets. With this victory, Italy ended their longest World League losing streak (six matches) in team history.
- Italy can win their first two Finals matches for the second year in a row.
- With a win against Australia, Italy will finish within the top four for the second time in the last ten participations and the 17th time in World League history.
- Italy are aiming for their first World League crown since 2000 and their ninth World League gold medal in total.