



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool A: Iran - Poland (June 27 & 29)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the first ever World League meeting between Iran and Poland.
- Iran have won their last two matches against European teams (two wins vs Italy) and can record three wins in a row against European opposition for the first time in team history.
- Poland have lost only two of their 20 matches against Asian opposition: China (3-1) and Japan (3-2) beat Poland in the 2008 World League.

#### Iran

- Iran are currently second in the group with 13 points from eight matches played. They are hoping to reach the World League finals for the first time. In their debut season (2013), they finished fifth in group B and ninth overall.
- Iran started their 2014 World League campaign with three consecutive losses. In their first match against Poland, they can record their first three consecutive wins of the season.
- Three successive wins would also see them equal their team record, previously set in 2013.
- Iran can become the 25th team to win at least 10 matches in the history of the World League.

#### Poland

- Poland are in perfect balance in this World League season: four wins and four losses.
- Poland lost their last match in straight sets (3-0 vs Brazil). They can lose consecutive World League matches without scoring a single set for the first time since 2011, when USA and Brazil both proved too strong.
- Zatorski Pawel is the best digger in group 1, averaging 3.03 per set. With Drzyzga Fabian they also have the best setter in the group (6.57 per set).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-28, 2014

### Pool B: Russia - United States (June 27 & 28)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the 23rd time Russia and United States go head-to-head in the World League. Russia have had the upper hand in the previous 22 meetings: 14 wins against eight losses.
- USA won both meetings with Russia in this World League season: 3-2 and 3-0. Once before did they beat Russia 3-0 in consecutive World League matches: in 1992. United States won one of their four World League medals that year (bronze).
- USA's Matthew Anderson can face his Zenit Kazan teammates Nikolay Apalikov, Evgeny Sivozhelez, Alexey Verboc and Maxim Mikhaylov.

#### Russia

- After four straight defeats in their first four matches of the 2014 World League season, Russia have bounced back with four wins. All these wins came in straight sets.
- France are the only other team to have won four matches in a row by a 3-0 score line this year.
- Russia themselves are the last team to have a longer streak of straight set wins in the World League. In 2011, they set a streak of six successive 3-0 wins.

#### United States

- Last match day, United States suffered their first defeat of this World League season (3-2 vs Bulgaria).
- They have seven wins in their 2014 World League campaign so far. Another win would see them double their total number of wins of last season (4).
- They are one shy of their 125th win in the World League.
- USA have the best scorer (Anderson Matthew), spiker (Sander Taylor), server (Holt Maxwell), and receiver (Erik Shoji) in Group 1 of the World League this season.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool B: Serbia – Bulgaria (June 27 & 29)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the 10th World League meeting between Serbia and Bulgaria. Serbia have won five, Bulgaria four.
- Serbia won the last two matches. They have never won three in a row against Bulgaria. Bulgaria beat Serbia in three consecutive matches once (2003).
- In 2004, these two teams battled for third place. Serbia beat Bulgaria 3-0 to claim the bronze that year.

#### Serbia

- Serbia are currently third in pool B, eight points behind USA and three behind Russia. They have failed to reach the finals in each of their last three seasons. The last time they did, they finished third (2010).
- They are on a four-match losing streak (their first since 2002), after having won their first four matches of the season. They can lose five matches in a row for the first time in team history.
- They have failed to win a set in their last two matches. They have never suffered three successive straight set defeats.
- Drzyzga Fabian is the best setter in Group 1, with an average of 6.57 per set.

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria beat USA 3-2 in their most recent match, ending a losing streak of 10 matches, their longest ever in the World League.
- They have lost exactly 100 World League matches, and have won exactly 500 sets. If they lose against Serbia, their number of lost sets will reach 399.
- Bulgaria have won nine sets so far this season. Of all teams in the first two groups, only Japan have won fewer (5).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool C: Australia - Belgium (June 27 & 28)

#### Head-to-Head

- Belgium beat Australia twice in this year's World League – 3-0 and 3-1 in Week 1. These were the first meetings between these nations in main tournaments. The first match marked Belgium's only straight sets win in the World League thus far.
- Australia scored only 68 points in their first match against Belgium in Week 1, their lowest number in the 2014 World League.
- Australia have played three five setters in the World League this season, winning two. Belgium played two and lost them both.

#### Australia

- Australia have lost only one match in straight sets in this World League, versus Belgium in Week 1. In their only other World League (1999), they lost all 12 matches, of which eight in straight sets.
- In Australia's last seven matches in the World League, results have alternated (LWLWLWL). According to this rhythm, Australia should win the first and lose the second encounter vs Belgium this week.
- Aidan Zingel is the World League's third-most successful blocker in 2014, averaging 0.79 points per set.

#### Belgium

- Belgium lead Pool C with four matches to go for each nation. If Belgium win both matches 3-0 or 3-1 and Canada do not take more than 2 points against Finland, Belgium qualify for the Final Rounds. If Belgium win one match 3-2 and the other 3-0 or 3-1, then they qualify for the Final Rounds if Canada take maximum one point against Finland.
- Belgium have participated in the shortest match (1:17) and the longest match (2:34) in Pool C of the World League this season, of which the longest saw exactly double the duration of the shortest.
- Sam Deroo is second in receiving efficiency of Group 2 in this World League with a rate of 69.68%. Deroo also is second in serving with 0.41 points per set in Group 2.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool C: Finland - Canada (June 27 & 28)

#### Head-to-Head

- Canada and Finland met each other in Week 1, with Canada winning 3-0 and 3-2.
- These teams also met in the World Leagues of 2007, 2012 and 2013, with both teams winning a total five matches.
- Including 2014, Canada are on a five-match winning streak against Finland, including two in straight sets.

#### Finland

- Finland have won three World League matches this season. They could equal their total number of wins from 2013 (4) with another win, or reach five by winning twice. Only in 2007 and 2009 they had more (7 each, in 2011 also 5).
- Finland have given up at least one set in each of their eight World League matches in 2014. Their last straight sets win is 16 World League matches ago – vs Korea Republic in 2013. In the meantime, they lost twice in straight sets themselves, both versus Canada.
- Results have alternated in Finland's last six World League matches (LWLWLW). They can win back-to-back World League matches against different opponents (3-2 vs Belgium last week, now versus Canada). They have not done this since June 2011 – 3-1 vs Argentina, 3-2 versus Portugal.

#### Canada

- Canada are three points behind Belgium in the Pool C standings. With four matches to go, Canada can be eliminated if Belgium claim four points more versus Australia than Canada claim versus Finland.
- Canada have won 146 total World League sets. They can reach the mark of 150 by claiming four against Finland. Of all nations with eight or fewer participations (Canada have 8), only Serbia have won more (230).
- Gavin Schmitt is the most prolific scorer in group 2 (Pool C, D, E) in this World League with 171 total points (145 spikes, 15 blocks, 11 serves). Daniel Lewis has the lead in digs (3.12 per-set-average) and receiving efficiency rate (72.29%).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 –JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool D: France - Argentina (June 27 & 29)

#### Head-to-Head

- France and Argentina have met on 16 previous occasions, with France winning nine times.
- The last time these two teams met was in the first week of this year's World League. Both matches were won by France (3-2 and 3-0).
- France beat Argentina in straight sets in the previous mutual match. This marked only the second time these two teams needed only three sets to decide the winner. In 1999, Argentina won in three sets.
- France have now won the last four encounters with Argentina.

#### France

- France is currently on top of Pool D, three points above Argentina. They can qualify for the Final Rounds of Group 2 by winning one of the two matches against Argentina. They will also proceed to the next round by losing twice in a five setter.
- France have lost only one out of ten matches in the 2014 World League. France can win more than nine matches in the Intercontinental Rounds for the first time in a single World League.
- For the first time, France have won six matches in straight sets in the Intercontinental Rounds of a single World League.

#### Argentina

- Argentina have won their last two matches against Germany (both 3-0), making it six matches in a row Argentina won. They have had two longer winning streaks in World League play – seven matches in 2006, eight in 2011.
- With two wins in straight sets over Germany last week, Argentina have now won five matches in straight set in the 2014 World League. The only time Argentina had more straight set victories in one season was at the 2011 World League (5 in the Intercontinental Rounds, 1 in the Final Round).
- To qualify for the Final Rounds of Group 2, Argentina needs two wins against France with one of those matches ending in a 3-0 or 3-1 win.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 –JUNE 28-29, 2014

### Pool D: Japan - Germany (June 28 & 29)

#### Head-to-Head

- Japan and Germany have met 10 times before, with Germany winning on six previous occasions.
- The last time they clashed was in the first week of the 2014 World League. Both fixtures were won by Germany (3-0 and 3-2).
- Their last four encounters were won by Germany, with Japan winning only three sets. Japan's last victory over Germany came in the 2011 World League in five sets.

#### Japan

- Japan lost their last two matches against France and are now winless in 12. Their last longer losing streak – 22 in 2011-13.
- Japan have already lost six matches in straight sets, most of any team in the 2014 World League. Germany have lost five in straight sets.
- After 10 matches played in the 2014 World League, Japan have only managed to acquire one point and have no chance of progressing to the Final Rounds. They have acquired the fewest points of all teams participating this season.

#### Germany

- Germany lost their last two matches against Argentina, both in straight sets, and now have lost three matches in a row. The last time Germany lost three matches in a row was in the 2011 World League.
- The last time Germany lost three matches in a row in straight sets was back in 1992.
- Germany have only managed to get 10 points in 10 matches, which makes them unable to qualify for the Final Rounds.
- Christian Fromm was top scorer in both matches against Japan in the first week of the 2014 World League.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 28-29, 2014

### Pool E: Korea Republic - Netherlands (June 28 & 29)

#### Head-to-Head

- Korea Republic and Netherlands have met each other 20 times. Korea have won twice, Netherlands 18 times.
- The last match between these two countries ended in a win for Korea Republic (3-1), after 18 defeats in a row against Netherlands and the first since they first met in 1993 (3-2).
- None of the last 14 matches between these two teams ended in a five-setter. Their last matches that went the distance were played on May 21 and 22, 1994. Both matches were won by Netherlands.

#### Korea Republic

- Korea Republic have won their last match against Czech Republic. With that win, they ended a streak of five losses. The last time Korea won consecutive matches: a double win against Portugal in last year's World League.
- Kwang-In Jeon is the Korea's top scorer with 124 points (107 spikes, 11 blocks, 6 serves). This number marks him fifth of all scorers in group 2 (Pool C, D, and E).
- Korea lost 18 times against the Netherlands. Korea only lost more often against Cuba (28) and Italy (23).

#### Netherlands

- The Netherlands lost their last match against Portugal. That lose ended a streak of three victories. The last time the Netherlands lost consecutive matches: seven straight in 2010, a streak that ended with a win against Korea (3-0).
- Dick Kooy is the Netherlands best spiker with a success percentage of 57.14%. This ranks him in second of all spikers in group 2, and in third in total.
- The Netherlands have won at least one set in their last 20 matches. On July 3 and 4, 2010 Bulgaria won two consecutive matches 3-0.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 6 – JUNE 27-29, 2014

### Pool E: Czech Republic - Portugal (June 27 & 28)

#### Head-to-Head

- The Czech Republic and Portugal played each other twice before in the World League. Portugal won the first match (3-1) and Czech Republic the second and last (3-0).
- In these matches Portugal scored 157 points, while Czech Republic scored 161 points.
- Czech Republic's Kamil Baranek and Portugal's Nuno Alberto Pinheiro play for the same club – Tours VB in France.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic have lost three of the last four matches in the World League, after winning three of their first four matches this season.
- Czech Republic is currently third in Pool E, five points behind Portugal with four matches to go. They need to win at least one match to be not eliminated in the pool. At their debut in the World League in 2003 they reached the semifinals.
- Michal Krisko is the Czech Republic's top scorer with 110 points, ranked 12th in group 2. He is 61 points behind leader Gavin Schmitt.

#### Portugal

- Portugal have won four of their last five matches. Their only loss was against the Netherlands. The first in last weekend's contest ended in 3-0 victory for the Dutch.
- Portugal is currently first in Pool E. They never managed to progress to the next round in the World League.
- Joao Jose has the highest spiking success rate in group 2 this season - 66.94%.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS SEMIFINALS GROUP 3 – JUNE 28, 2014

### Semifinals Group 3: Cuba - China (June 28)

#### Head-to-Head

- The group winners of Pool F and G meet in the first semifinal. They each lost one match in the intercontinental round, and both did this against a fellow Final Four competitor – Cuba 3-1 versus Turkey, China 3-0 versus Slovakia.
- These teams have met nine times in the World League (in 1993, 1996 and 2004 combined). China have three wins, Cuba have six, including the last two.
- The last meeting between these teams was a World Cup regular phase match in 2011, with Cuba winning 3-2.

#### Cuba

- Cuba have played 350 World League matches, winning 215. The other three Final Four nations have combined for 198 matches and 56 victories.
- In their last nine World League matches, Cuba have won the first set (W6-L3 eventually). This streak comes immediately after a run of seven straight first set losses (L7 eventually).
- Cuba have one statistical category leader in group 3 (Pool F & G) after the intercontinental round: Leandro Macias Infante had the highest setting average (9.86 per set). This is also the highest setting average in all groups combined at this WL.

#### China

- China have 49 World League wins to their name thus far. They can become the 16th nation with 50 by beating Cuba.
- China have won five of their last six World League matches. Before this streak, China have only won five matches out of 27 since July 2008.
- Chu Hui has had the most digs per set in group 3 (Pool F & G) in the intercontinental round (2.90). China also had the two most prolific servers in group 3: Yuan Zhi (0.52 points per set) and Zhong Weijun (0.38).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS SEMIFINALS GROUP 3 – JUNE 28, 2014

### Semifinals Group 3: Turkey - Slovakia (28 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Two debutants managed to finish second in their Pools and qualified for the Final Four. Both teams beat the group winners once: Turkey 3-1 versus Cuba and Slovakia 3-0 versus China.
- These teams met at the 2013 European Championships. Slovakia won 3-2 in the group stage.
- Both Turkey and Slovakia have not yet won a five setter in the World League. Turkey lost one in Pool F (versus Mexico), Slovakia two in Pool G (versus Spain and Puerto Rico).

#### Turkey

- Turkey are the lowest ranked World League team on the World Ranking in 2014 (45th). They had an automatic berth for the Final Four as the hosts, but they took matters in their own hands by winning their last four matches and finishing second in Pool F.
- Turkey are currently the only nation in World League history with fewer than 10 sets lost (9). All other nations have given up at least 13, except Slovakia, who gave up 11.
- Turgay Dogan has been the most efficient receiver in group 3 (Pool F & G) with a 70.16% efficiency rate and second most efficient receiver in all groups combined.

#### Slovakia

- Against all three Pool G opponents, Slovakia won once and lost once in Pool G. At home in Kosice, they secured a Final Four spot by winning two of their last three matches.
- Slovakia are the only nation with a 100% record in first sets of matches. They played six matches and won the first set in all of them.
- Slovakia is the only Final Four nation without a leader in a statistical category.