



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool A: Italy – Brazil (03 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Italy and Brazil have met on 26 previous occasions, with Italy winning 14 times and Brazil 12 times.
- The last two meetings have been won 3-1 by Italy. These took place in the first week of the 2014 World League.
- The last six meetings between these teams were completed in four sets. One of those matches was the World League final of 2004, won by Brazil.

#### Italy

- As the hosts of the 2014 WL, Italy automatically qualify for the Final 6. They are, however, currently in second place behind Iran with 19 points.
- After winning the first six matches this year, Italy have now lost four in a row, against Poland and Iran. Italy can lose five World League matches in a row for the first time in team history.
- Ivan Zaytsev is this season's second-most successful spiker in Group 1 with a success rate of 49.24%.

#### Brazil

- Brazil are currently third in Group A with 11 points and need to stay in front of Poland (also 11) to qualify for the Final 6. Brazil currently have a better win-loss set ratio than Poland (0.773 vs 0.682), which is the following decider when both teams equal in points.
- Brazil have already lost six matches in the Intercontinental Round this season. In only one other season Brazil have lost more matches (8) in the Intercontinental Round: the 1991 World League.
- The 1991 World League season also marks the only time Brazil did not succeed to qualify for the Final Rounds.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool A: Poland – Iran (04 and 05 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Last week, these two teams met for the first time in the WL. Iran won both encounters (3-1 and 3-0).
- Dawid Konarski was Poland's best scorer in both matches against Iran with 17 points in the first and 15 points in the second match.
- Iran have now won their last four meetings with teams from Europe, which is a team record after winning two matches in a row against European sides in 2013.
- After Poland's defeat against Iran, they have now lost four of their 22 matches against Asian opposition.

#### Poland

- Poland have now lost six out of their ten matches this season and have a current streak of three defeats in a row. They can lose five WL matches in a row for the first time since 2000.
- Poland are currently in fourth place in Pool A with 11 points and need to surpass Brazil (also on 11) to qualify for the next round. Brazil have a better win-loss set ratio than Poland (0.773 vs 0.682), which is the following decider when the teams equal in points.
- Fabian Drzyzga has this season's highest setting average Pool 1 - 5.62 per set. Pawel Zatorski has the highest digging average in this Pool - 2.62 per set.

#### Iran

- With their last two victories against Poland, Iran qualified for the Final Round of the 2014 World League for the first time in team history.
- Iran have now won four matches in a row after their victories against Italy and Poland, which is a team record after their three consecutive wins in their debut season of 2013.
- Mohammad Mousavi is this year's best blocker of the competition (group 1, 2 and 3) with an average of 1.00 per set.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool B: Serbia – USA (04 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Serbia (as an independent nation) and USA have met five times in the World League. Serbia won twice and USA three times. The two wins of Serbia were both 3-0 victories.
- Their last match, in week two of the 2014 WL, was the only one that went the distance. USA lost the third and fourth set after a 2-0 lead, but were eventually victorious.
- Serbia and USA met in the 2008 World League Final, which was won 3-1 by USA.

#### Serbia

- Serbia currently hold third place in Pool B with 17 points. To secure a Final Four spot, they either need to make up one point to Russia, who are in second place with 18 points, or surpass USA by winning twice with a 3-0 or 3-1 score.
- To finish second behind USA, and send Russia to third, Serbia are required to gain at least one point more than Russia.
- Serbia won their last two matches in three sets. In their last six matches, Serbia either won or lost in three sets, with the exception of their 3-2 defeat to USA.

#### USA

- USA currently top Pool B and can qualify for the Final 6 by defeating Serbia once OR by losing twice in five sets.
- USA have won eight of their last 10 matches, but lost two out of their last three (3-2 against Bulgaria and 3-0 against Russia).
- USA have the best scorer (Matthew Anderson), spiker (Taylor Sander), server (Maxwell Holt), and receiver (Erik Shoji) in Group 1 of the World League this season.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool B: Bulgaria – Russia (05 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Russia have met 16 times in the World League. Russia won 12 of those matches, Bulgaria four.
- Their two encounters in Week 4 of the 2014 WL both ended in a 3-0 victory for the Russian team. The 55 points scored by Bulgaria in the first match, was the lowest total in this pool in the tournament.
- Russia have booked 10 straight sets wins v Bulgaria in the WL, compared to only one for Bulgaria v Russia, in their first meeting in the 1994 WL.

#### Bulgaria

- With only four points after ten matches, Bulgaria are not able to qualify for the final six. Only Japan (3) and Tunisia (2) have scored fewer points.
- In their last 13 matches in the World League, Bulgaria only succeeded to win once. Their only victory came in five sets against USA, current leader of Pool B.
- Tsvetan Sokolov is Bulgaria's top scorer with 138 total points. He scored 91 point less than Group 1 top scorer Matthew Anderson (USA).

#### Russia

- Russia currently hold second place in Pool B with 18 points. They are three points behind USA and one point in front of Serbia. To qualify for the Final 6 they need to keep at least one of those two behind them.
- By winning both matches against Bulgaria, with at least one with a 3-0 or 3-1 score, they control their own qualification and will earn a place in the Final 6.
- Russia have won five of their last six matches in the World League, all in three sets. Their only defeat came against USA, current leader of pool B.
- Russia lost all three five setters played in this World League (and their last four in total). Their last win in five sets came against Brazil in last year's final round.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool C: Finland - Belgium (04 and 05 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Belgium have won 3-1 and lost 3-2 in their two home matches against Finland.
- Finland have won their last five matches against Belgium in other major competitions (WCh 1978, WChQ 2010 (2), ECh 2007, 2011).
- Eemi Tervaportti (15) and Sam Deroo (14) are among the players with most aces in Group 2. Canada's Gavin Schmitt leads with 16.

#### Finland

- Finland can no longer qualify for the Final Four in Group 2.
- They claimed their first straight-sets-win this season in their first match vs Canada last weekend. They recorded two 3-0 wins in last year's campaign, against Portugal and Korea Republic.
- Finland have equalled their number of wins from the 2013 WL (4). The last time they had five wins in a single season was 2011.

#### Belgium

- Belgium will be Pool C winners with a win or a five-set defeat vs Finland.
- They have won three of their four away matches this season - only defeat at Canada (3-0).
- They can join Turkey as 2014 World League debutants reaching the Final Four of their group. Turkey managed this in Group 3 (lost final v Cuba).
- Belgium have yet to win a five-set-match. They have lost two five-setters. All other Pool C teams have won two five-set-matches each.
- In comparison, Belgium have won five of their matches by a 3-1 score, more than all other Pool C teams combined (3).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool C: Australia - Canada (05 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Australia and Canada split their two games played in Canada on 20/21 June. Australia won 3-2, before Canada claimed a 3-1 win one day later.
- Australia scored a World League team-high 115 points in that 3-2 win.
- They also each clinched a 3-0 win against each other in other competitions: Canada winning a World Championships match in 1982 and Australia clinching a win in an Olympic Games qualifier in 2004.

#### Australia

- Australia have already qualified for the Group 2 Final Four as hosts and they don't have to travel abroad anymore, playing their last two pool matches vs Canada in Sydney.
- Australia's only home win in the WL so far, came against Finland (3-2) on 7 June.
- Aidan Zingel leads all players in Group 2 in stuff blocks (34).

#### Canada

- Canada only have a slim chance of winning Pool C and qualify for the Group Final Four as Belgium will be out of reach with a win or a five-set defeat vs Finland.
- Canada's Gavin Schmitt is the leading score Group 2 with 204 points. In all groups, only USA's Matthew Anderson has more points (229). In comparison, Australia's leading scorer Adam White has 124 points.
- Group 2's leading digger Daniel Lewis (CAN) - 3.10 digs per set - faces his nearest rival, Australia's Luke Perry, 2.34 digs per set (France's Jenia Grebennikov also has 2.34 digs/set).
- The three most efficient receivers in Group 2 all play for Canada: Frederic Winters (72.00%), Daniel Lewis (71.96%) and John Gordon Perrin (68.13%).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool E: Netherlands – Czech Republic (05 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won both previous World League matches against Czech Republic. These encounters took place in Week 4 of this season's campaign, with the Dutch winning 3-2 and 3-1.
- In that five setter, Netherlands rallied from a 2-0 deficit in sets. This was only their third World League victory after being 2-0 down, after beating Cuba in 2003 and Spain in 1999.
- They played one other match in 2014: a World Championships qualifier in January, which Netherlands won in straight sets.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands have seven wins in this season's World League, already as many as in 2013. If Netherlands beat Czech Republic once, they will have their most since 2002 (8). With two wins, they will set their highest number of wins during this century. On eight occasions in the 1990s, they had more.
- Netherlands will be sure of the Final Four if they beat Czech Republic twice, including once with a two- of three set margin. Other scenarios depend on Portugal's results v Korea.
- Dick Kooy is Group 2's second-most successful spiker with a 54.03% success rate (first is Portugal's Joao Jose - 65.07%). Thomas Koelewijn has Group 2's second-highest blocking average per set with 0.70 (first is Australia's Aidan Zingel - 0.83).

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic have a 59.3 win percentage in the World League (27 matches, 16 wins). Of all European nations with more than one World League participation, only Italy (70.2%), Russia (69.7%, incl. URS, CIS) and Serbia (61.5%, incl. SCG, YUG) have a higher percentage.
- Czech Republic came in fourth during their first World League (in 2003) with a total of 10 wins. They have six so far in 2014, their second appearance.
- Czech Republic will reach the Final Four to beat Netherlands twice, including once with a two- or three set margin AND Czech Republic claim two points more against Netherlands than Portugal do against Korea.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 7 – JULY 03-06, 2014

### Pool E: Portugal – Korea (05 and 06 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Portugal and Korea have played four times in World League history and the results are split with two wins each.
- Earlier this season, Portugal won both Pool E matches against Korea, 3-1 and 3-0 at Ulsan. Last season, Korea won twice 3-1.
- Korea are Portugal's second Asian opponents in the World League. They played Japan 10 times, winning four and losing six. Korea could become the first Asian nation Portugal have a positive World League balance against.

#### Portugal

- With two wins against Korea, Portugal can register their first ever World League with seven wins. Portugal have five wins in this World League campaign, most since 2005 (6).
- Portugal have to beat Korea twice to have a chance of advancing, including at least once with a two- or three-set margin. They also depend on favourable results between Netherlands and Czech Republic.
- Joao Jose is this WL campaign's most successful spiker with a success rate of 65.07%.

#### Korea

- Korea have two wins in this World League campaign, against Czech Republic and Netherlands. Portugal are the only team in Pool E they have not beaten yet in the 2014 World League.
- Coming into this week of play, Korea are the only Pool E nation without a chance to qualify for the Final Four.
- Kwang-In Jeon is the third-most prolific scorer in Group 2 of the World League this season with 162 total points (142 spikes, 13 blocks, 7 serves).