



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE REVIEWS WEEK 8 – JULY 11-12, 2014

Final for first place in Group 2: France - Australia (July 12)

- Australia beat France in five sets to book a place at the World League Group 1 Finals this upcoming week in Florence, Italy. Australia join Brazil, Iran, Russia, United States and hosts Italy.
- The World League Finals will thus see five different continents represented: Europe (Italy, Russia), North America (United States), South America (Brazil), Asia (Iran) and Oceania (Australia).
- Australia finished in last place in Pool C, but qualified for last weekend's semifinals as the host nation.
- It is only Australia's second World League appearance. In their previous season in 1999, they finished last in joint-tenth place, losing all twelve matches they played.
- Australia have won four World League matches in a row. Prior to this streak, they had won a total of just three matches.
- In the semifinal the previous evening, Australia had beaten the Netherlands in their first straight set win in the World League. It was also their first ever victory against a former World League winner.
- For France, this final was only their third loss of the season (11 wins). Eleven wins equalled the nation's record for most wins in a single World League campaign, set in 2006.
- France have now failed to reach the top-six in their last seven World League seasons. The last time they did so was in 2007, when they finished sixth.

Final for third place in Group 2: Belgium - Netherlands (July 12)

- Belgium (vs France) and the Netherlands (vs Australia) both lost their semifinals in Group 2 in straight sets, meaning that the final for third place became the first 'Derby of the Low Countries' in the World League.
- Belgium beat the Netherlands 3-0 to claim their third straight set win in only their first World League season (14 matches).
- In total, Belgium finished their debut season with eight wins and six losses.
- For the Netherlands, it was the first time since 2010 that they lost consecutive World league matches in straight sets. Both losses back then came against Bulgaria.
- The Netherlands ended their 2014 World League campaign with nine wins, most since 1998 (13).