



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool A: Poland – Brazil (June 20 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- Poland and Brazil have clashed 31 times before in the World League. Brazil have won 22 matches and Poland are on nine victories.
- Earlier this season the teams met in Maringá, with both sides winning once by a 3-0 score line.
- This is a replay of the 2006 World Championships final, when Brazil clinched their second world title by beating Poland in straight sets in the gold medal match.

#### Poland

- Poland have lost only two of their last 12 World League home matches and are unbeaten in their last six on home turf. Their only two home defeats in this time span came in June 2013, when they suffered two defeats against this week's opponents Brazil (3-2 in Łódź, 3-1 in Warsaw).
- Poland can win seven home matches in a row for the first time in the competition since an eight-match home winning streak in 2007.
- Pawel Zatorski is this season's leading digger in group 1 with an average of 2.48 digs per set.

#### Brazil

- Brazil have already lost five matches in the Intercontinental Round this season. They can lose at least six Intercontinental Round matches in one single season for only the second time in World League history. In 1995, they suffered eight defeats in the Intercontinental Round.
- Brazil's five defeats in this World League campaign, are more than they suffered in their previous 21 Intercontinental Round matches combined (4).
- The only time Brazil failed to qualify for the final round was in 1991, when they lost six of their opening 10 Intercontinental Round matches. They are currently on five defeats after eight matches.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool A: Iran – Italy (June 20 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- Iran and Italy have met four times before in the World League. Italy have won three matches, Iran are on one victory.
- Last year in Modena, debutants Iran pulled out a shock victory (3-1) against Italy. Iran's win was engineered by Julio Velasco, the Argentine head coach who was in charge of Italy from 1989 to 1996.
- Earlier this World League season, Italy recorded two home wins over Iran, both in straight sets.

#### Iran

- Iran have lost seven of their 10 World League matches against opposition from Europe, including their last three in straight sets.
- Iran can lose four consecutive World League matches against European opposition for the first time in the competition.
- Shahram Mahmoudi is in second place on the group 1 top scorers table with 114 points (97 spikes, 11 blocks and 6 serves), trailing only Matthew Anderson (USA) with 150.

#### Italy

- Last week, pool A leaders Italy suffered their first defeats of this World League campaign, when they lost twice against Poland (3-2, 3-1).
- Italy are on a two-match losing streak and can lose three World League matches in a row for the first time since June 2012.
- Italy have won their last two World League matches against Iran by a 3-0 score line and are on a total 124 wins in straight sets in the competition, trailing only Russia (126) and Brazil (153).
- Salvatore Rossini is this season's second-best digger in group 1 with an average of 2.10 digs per set.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool B: Russia – Serbia (June 20 & 21)

#### Head-to-Head

- This is the 23rd and 24th World League meeting between Russia and Serbia (including Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro). Russia have won 16 of the previous 22 encounters.
- Earlier this World League season, Serbia won their two home matches against Russia (3-2 and 3-1).
- The six Serbia victories have all come since Serbia began competing as an independent country in 2007.
- Last September, Russia beat Serbia 3-1 in the European Championships semifinal, before claiming gold in the final against Italy (3-1 win).
- Milos Nikic (SRB) plays at Russian side Guberniya Nizhniy Novgorod, alongside teammates Nikolay Pavlov (RUS), Sergey Savin (RUS) and Alexey Ostapenko (RUS).

#### Russia

- Last week, defending champions Russia beat Bulgaria twice by a 3-0 score line, to end a losing streak of four consecutive World League matches.
- The last time Russia won three successive World League matches in straight sets was in 2011, when they beat Germany, Bulgaria and Japan all twice by a 3-0 score line.
- Denis Biriukov is on top of the Group 1 servers list with an average of 0.35 per set, while Sergey Savin's 47.26% efficiency as receiver is the second highest in Group 1.

#### Serbia

- Last week, Serbia suffered their first two defeats of this World League campaign, as USA beat them twice (3-0, 3-2) in Chicago.
- Serbia can lose three consecutive World League matches since losing the opening three matches of the 2008 World League campaign.
- The last time Serbia suffered four defeats in a row in a single World League campaign was in 1998, when Yugoslavia lost their first four matches of the season.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool B: USA – Bulgaria (June 20 & 21)

#### Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and USA have met 13 times before in the World League. Bulgaria have won eight matches and USA have five wins.
- In the opening weekend of this World League season, Bulgaria lost their two home matches against USA (3-2 and 3-1).
- Before claiming gold at the 2008 Olympic Games, USA beat Bulgaria 3-1 in the group stage.
- Nikolay Penchev (BUL) and Paul Lotman (USA) are teammates at Asseco Resovia (POL).
- Zlatan Yordanov (BUL) and Murphy Troy (USA) both play for Saint-Nazaire VB Atlantique (FRA).
- Danail Milushev (BUL) and Vaafuti Tavana (USA) are teammates at Spacer's Toulouse Volley (FRA).

#### USA

- USA have won their opening six matches of this World League campaign and can kick off with seven consecutive wins for the first time since 2000 (10 wins).
- USA are the only unbeaten team left of the 2014 World League season (28 teams total).
- USA have won their last six World League matches against European opposition and can win seven in a row for the first time since 2000 (8 wins).
- Matthew Anderson leads the Group 1 top scorers table with 150 points (134 spikes, 10 blocks and 6 serves), while Taylor Sander has the best spike rate (53.70%) in group 1.
- Erik Shoji has a receiving efficiency of 66.42%, best of all players in group 1 this World League season.

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria are on a nine-match losing streak in the World League and can lose 10 consecutive matches for the first time in the competition.
- Bulgaria kicked off this World League campaign with six defeats, which marks their worst start to a World League season. They began with four wins last year.
- They are four sets short of their 500th set win. They would become the sixth country to reach 500+ set wins.



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### Pool C: Belgium - Finland (June 20 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- Finland are unbeaten against Belgium in main tournaments since 1978. Their last defeat was in the World Championship Group Stage, they lost 3-2 (1966).
- During this century, these teams played four official matches and Finland won them all – two World Championship qualifiers (both in 2009) and two European Championship matches (2007, 2011).
- Eemu Tervaportti (FIN) will meet his Knack Roeselare teammates Hendrik Tuerlinckx, Pieter Coolman, Stijn Dejonckheere, Matthijs Verhanneman, Arno Van De Velde en Lowie Stuer (all BEL).

#### Belgium

- Belgium have claimed at least one point in each of their four World League home matches – three victories and one 3-2 defeat.
- Of all World League debutants, Belgium have the joint most points after six matches (13) and joint most victories (4), both alongside Turkey.
- These matches take place in Antwerp and Kortrijk, two venues in which Belgium have a perfect World League record. The team lost two matches, one in Liège and one in Vancouver (CAN).

#### Finland

- Finland have won twice in the World League this season. They could equal their total number of wins from 2013 (4) by beating Belgium twice.
- Finland have given up at least one set in each of their six World League matches in 2014. Their last straight sets win is 14 World League matches ago versus the Korea Republic in 2013. In the meantime, they lost twice in straight sets themselves, both versus Canada.
- Finland can win back-to-back World League matches against different opponents (3-1 versus Australia last week, now versus Belgium). They have not done this since June 2011 – 3-1 versus Argentina, 3-2 versus Portugal.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool C: Canada - Australia (June 20 & 21)

#### Head-to-Head

- Both teams have six matches to play in Pool C of this season's World League, of which four will be against each other.
- These teams met in the Olympic Qualification Tournament (World) in Tokyo in 2004. Australia won in straight sets en route to qualification for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.
- The two best diggers in Group 1 and 2 combined of the World League this season face each other. Daniel Lewis (Canada) has the highest digging average (3.00 per set), Luke Perry (Australia) follows with 2.52.

#### Canada

- Canada have won 14 of their last 19 World League matches, as many as they won in their previous 49.
- Canada lost their last match versus Belgium last weekend. They have not suffered back-to-back World League defeats since June 2012 (versus Brazil, Poland) a stretch of 19 matches without consecutive losses.
- Two players have a receiving efficiency rate above 71% in the 2014 World League, and both play for Canada – Frederic Winters (76.19%) and Daniel Lewis (74.59%).

#### Australia

- Australia have won two of their last four matches in the World League, after remaining winless in their first 14.
- Australia have won two of their 18 matches in World League history, or 11%. This is still the lowest winning percentage of all nations (Puerto Rico also 2 of 18, or 11%).
- Aidan Zingel has Group 2's second-highest blocking average (0.80 per-set average), behind only Portugal's Marcel Keller Gil (0.96).



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### Pool D: Germany – Argentina (June 20 & 21)

#### Head-to-Head

- In ten matches in the World League, Argentina only won once versus Germany. This win (3-0) came in the second week of this season's World League.
- Their last encounter ended in a win for Germany which had to be played out in five sets. This marks the only time Germany and Argentina needed a five-setter to decide the winner.
- In both encounters this season Facundo Conte was top scorer for Argentina. Dirk Westphal and Christian Fromm were top scorers for Germany in those matches.

#### Germany

- Germany currently have a winning percentage of 50% in this season's World League with four wins out of eight matches. In last season's World League Germany ended with a 50% winning percentage with five wins out of ten matches.
- Going back to last season, Germany have won their last three five-setters in World League play (including two in 2014). They have never won four in a row.
- At this moment Christian Fromm is the top scorer of the second group (Pool C, D, E) with 121 points - 109 spikes, 9 blocks and 3 serves.

#### Argentina

- Argentina have won their last two matches against Japan, making it four matches in a row Argentina won. They have five victories in eight World League matches in 2014.
- They have had two longer winning streaks in World League play – seven matches in 2006, eight in 2011.
- Argentina have won five of their last six matches, as many as they won in their previous 23.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 –JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool D: Japan – France (June 21 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- Japan and France have played 18 World League matches against each other with France winning 15 times. Japan's last win (3-1) against France came in the 2007 World League.
- These teams met twice in the second week of the 2014 World League. France won both matches 3-0.
- Of 18 matches against France, Japan have lost eight in straight sets.

#### Japan

- Japan lost their last two matches against Argentina and are now winless in 10. Their last longer losing streak – 22 in 2011-13.
- In their last match against Argentina, Kunihiro Shimizu was top scorer for Japan with 15 points (all spikes).
- Japan have lost five matches in straight sets, more than any other team in this season's World League.

#### France

- France have won 10 of their last 11 World League matches (only defeat: 3-1 versus Germany last week), and 12 of their last 14.
- France won their last match against Germany in straight sets. It was their fifth straight-set win in 2014, more than any other team in this season's World League.
- Benjamin Toniutti is currently the most active setter of Group 1 and Group 2 combined in the 2014 World League, with a 6.82 per set average.





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### Pool E: Korea - Czech Republic (June 21 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- In the World League history Korea and Czech Republic played each other twice, both in this year's World League. The Czechs won both encounters in five sets.
- Korea is way more experienced in the World League than Czech Republic (200 against 23 matches).
- The only time Czech Republic took part of the World League in 2003, their final ranking was fourth. Korea's never did better in their 15 appearances. Their best result was a 6<sup>th</sup> place in 1995.

#### Korea

- Korea lost the last five matches in the World League. Two versus Czech Republic, two versus Portugal and one versus the Netherlands. Their last win – 3-1 versus the Netherlands in the first week of Pool E play.
- Kwang-In Jeong is Korea's topscorer with a total of 92 points. It ranks him 7<sup>th</sup> of all in the Group 2 scorers.
- Korea have won 46 of 200 World League matches (23%). Of all countries with more than five World League participations, only Japan (22,31%) and Venezuela (19,44) have a lower winning percentage.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic lost the last two matches in the World League (both against the Netherlands). Another loss would equal their longest losing streak in the World League (three matches).
- Czech Republic conceded most points in Pool E (578). With only one point behind Netherlands, they almost scored most points in the group (570). In total they have played most points in Pool E (1148).
- Czech Republic never lost against an Asian nation in the World League. They remained unbeaten in four versus Japan and two versus Korea.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JUNE 20-22, 2014

### Pool E: Portugal - Netherlands (June 21 & 22)

#### Head-to-Head

- Portugal and the the Netherlands played each other four times in the World League. Both teams have won twice.
- Three out of four games between Portugal and the Netherlands became five-setters, of which Portugal won two.
- In one match between the teams, the Netherlands won in straight sets (3-0). The first set of that game ended in (36-34). That's the highest score of both teams against each other.

#### Portugal

- Portugal have won their last three matches. They have never managed four wins in a row in the World League. Last time, back in 2005, Brazil stopped their three-match winning streak (3-1).
- Portugal player Joao Jose is the spiker with the highest success percentage in Group 2 (66,67%). They also have the most prolific blocker in their team: Marcel Keller Gil blocks an average of 0,96 points per set.
- In Pool E, Portugal have lost the fewest points (514), but also won the fewest (527). As leader they scored five points fewer than Korea, who are in fourth in the group.

#### Netherlands

- The Netherlands never lost a game on June 21. They have played five times on this date, three against Cuba, one against Italy and China, winning them all.
- The Netherlands scored most points in group E (571). Robin Overbeeke scored most as an individual for the Dutch team (109).
- In all World Leagues, the Netherlands won 55% of their matches. Portugal only won 25% of their matches.