



FIVB MEN'S WORLD OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION PREVIEWS DAY 2 – MAY 29, TOKYO

Canada - Iran

Head-to-head

- Canada and Iran last met at the World Olympic Qualification tournament in 2004 in Tokyo when Canada won in straight sets.
- Their last encounter came at the 2015 World Cup when Canada won 3-0.
- Canada lost their last match at the World Olympic Qualification against an AVC side when China proved too strong in 2004 (3-0).
- Iran won their last match against a NORCECA side at the World Olympic Qualification tournament when they won 3-1 against Puerto Rico.

Canada

- Canada lost their first match against Poland by 3-2, which still gave them a point to start with.
- Canada could lose their first two matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament for the third time, after 1996 and 2000. At their only other participation at the tournament in 2004, they beat Iran in the opening match (3-0) but then lost their second match against France in straight sets.
- They could lose three consecutive matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament for the first time, as they also lost their last match at the 2004 tournament against China (3-0).
- Gordon Perrin John scored three aces against Poland, equal second-most of all players on Day 1.

Iran

- Iran defeated Australia in straight sets in their opening match.
- Iran could win their first two matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament for the second time, after 2012 when they beat Korea and China.
- They could win three consecutive matches at the tournament for the second time, after 2008-2012 (Australia 2008, Korea and China 2012). Iran defeated Japan in their last match at the 2012 tournament.
- Amir Ghafour scored 1.33 points on average per set from blocks (4 in total), the highest percentage of all players during Day 1.



Venezuela - Australia

Head-to-head

- Venezuela and Australia met at the previous edition of the World Olympic Qualification tournament. In 2012, in Tokyo, Australia won 3-0.
- Their last world level meeting came at the 2015 World Cup when Australia won 3-1.
- Australia also won their encounter at the 2014 World Championship in the last match of the first round (3-2). With that result Australia progressed to the next round while Venezuela were eliminated.

Venezuela

- Venezuela lost their opening match versus Japan (3-1).
- Venezuela could lose their first two matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament for the third time, after 1996 and 2012.
- They have now lost their last five matches at the tournament, their longest ever losing streak. Venezuela's last victory came against Puerto Rico in their third match at the 2012 qualification tournament.
- Fernando Gonzalez scored three points from aces against Japan, equal second-most of all players during the first matchround.

Australia

- Australia were defeated by Iran in their opening match (3-0). They are the only team in this tournament without winning a set.
- It was the first time since 2004, Australia lost their opening match at the World Olympic Qualification tournament (then against France). In 2008 and 2012, they won their opening match.
- Only in 1996 Australia lost their first two matches of the tournament, as both Germany and China proved too strong in straight sets.



France - Poland

Head-to-head

- The last encounter between France and Poland came at the European Olympic Qualification tournament in January 2016: France defeated Poland in the semifinals (3-0) and continued to the final, which they lost versus Russia.
- In 2015, the teams met twice with both teams recording one win.
- At the European Games, Poland defeated France (3-2) in the preliminary round. Both countries progressed to the final round.
- The other meeting in 2015 came in the semifinal of the 2015 World League. En route to their victory, France beat Poland in five sets. Poland eventually lost the third place match against United States (3-0).

France

- France won their first match at the World Olympic Qualification tournament against China (3-1).
- France have now won all of their four opening matches at the tournament. In 2000 and 2004, they also won their second match; only in 2012, they lost their second match against Bulgaria (3-1).
- That loss against Bulgaria was France's only defeat in their last 11 matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament.
- Antonin Rouzier scored 22 points versus China, including 20 spikes: both are most of all players during the first matchround.

Poland

- Poland defeated Canada by 3-2 in their opening match.
- Poland have now won all of their 10 matches at the World Olympic Qualification Tournament (1996, 2004, 2008, 2016), most of all teams with a 100% winning score in the tournament.
- Poland could lose multiple sets in consecutive matches at the tournament for the first time.
- Only upcoming opponent Rouzier (22) scored more points in the opening matchround than Bartosz Kurek (21) against Canada (Kunihiro Shimizu (JPN) also on 21).



Japan - China

Head-to-head

- The last two encounters between Japan and China at World Olympic Qualification tournaments came in 2012 (3-1 win for China) and 2004 (3-2 win for China).
- Besides their World Olympic Qualification meeting in 2012, their last meeting at a world level tournament came in 2011 in the World Cup when Japan won in straight sets.
- Their most recent meeting came at the 2015 Asian Championships when China won 3-1 in the first round. Japan eventually won the tournament while China grabbed bronze.

Japan

- Japan won their first match at the World Olympic Qualification tournament against Venezuela (3-1).
- It was the only second time in six participations, they won their opening match at the tournament, after 2004 (3-0 against Algeria).
- Japan lost the following match in 2004 against China, which means they can win their first two matches at the qualification tournament for the first time.
- Only Antonin Rouzier (FRA) (22) scored more points in the opening matchround than Kunihiro Shimizu (21).
- Shimizu scored four points from aces, most of all players.

China

- China lost their opening match versus France (3-1).
- China could lose their first two matches at the World Olympic Qualification tournament for the first time.
- They could also lose three consecutive matches at the tournament for the first time, after they also lost their final match in 2012 against Australia (3-0).
- Chen Zhang and Zhi Yuan scored four points from blocks against France, equal-most of all players on the first day together with Amir Ghafour (IRI).