



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool J1: Poland - France (13 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- France have won each of their last five World League meetings with Poland, including both encounters this season.
- Poland's last World League victory over France dates back to July 2007, when Poland triumphed 3-2 in Katowice.
- Historically, France hold the upper hand against Poland in the World League, having won eight and lost four against them.

#### Poland

- Poland have won the World League once, in 2012. They have not finished in the top three since.
- Poland finished 10th of 12 in Group 1, but qualified for the Final Six as hosts.
- Poland won their last match in Group 1. They have not claimed back-to-back World League victories since June-July 2015 against Iran and USA.
- Rafal Buszek has the highest efficiency as receiver, 59.5%.

#### France

- France are the defending World League champions. Apart from their first place finish last season, they have one more top three finish in the competition: runners-up in 2006.
- No side has won the World League in back-to-back seasons since Brazil's consecutive championships in 2009 and 2010.
- In Benjamin Toniutti, the French have the tournament's best setter (9.1 average per set), ahead of Poland's Grzegorz Lomacz (8.8).
- In Jenia Grebennikov (100 digs), they have its best digger.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool J1: Poland - Serbia (14 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Serbia and Poland will meet for the 19<sup>th</sup> time in the World League. Serbia have won 13 of the previous 18 meetings.
- Serbia have won eight of their last nine World League matches against Poland, including each of their last three. Poland's only victory against Serbia in the World League in this span took place on 30 July 2006, the 3-1 Poland triumph in Łódź, Poland.
- They met once in the World League this season, with Serbia winning 3-0 in Kaliningrad, Russia, on 19 June.

#### Poland

- Poland defeated France 3-2 on Wednesday, after being 2-0 down. It was the first time in the World League since 2007, they won a match after a 2-0 deficit.
- They can win three World League matches in a row for the first time since May - June 2015.
- Their last two matches went into a fifth set. The last time they had three successive World League matches going into a first set was in 2013
- Three players scored more than nine points against France on Wednesday. Mateusz Mika (12), Karol Klos (13) and Dawid Konarski (20) achieved this feat.

#### Serbia

- Serbia finished runners-up in the World League last season, equalling their best performance in the competition.
- Serbia have finished in the top three in eight different World League seasons, but have yet to claim a gold medal in the tournament.
- Serbia started their World League campaign this season with six successive victories, before winning only one of their next three.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool J1: Serbia - France (15 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Serbia have won six of their last eight World League encounters with France.
- However, the French have won each of the last two, including last season's World League final 3-0 en route to their first ever World League trophy.
- France have not beaten Serbia in three successive World League meetings since 2002, when they defeated them four times in a row.

#### Serbia

- Serbia have won their last two matches, against Italy and Poland after losing two in a row against Iran and Argentina.
- Serbia have finished in the top three in eight different World League seasons, but have yet to claim a gold medal in the tournament.
- Uros Kovacevic scored 100 spikes. She scored a team-high 118 points in the 2016 World League.

#### France

- France have lost their last two matches at the World League and can lose three in a row for the first time since they lost their opening four matches in 2013.
- France lost their last match against Poland after five sets. They have now lost their last three five-set matches. Their last five-set win came against Poland in 2015 en route to their World League victory.
- Antonin Rouzier scored 123 points for France, most of the team. He also scored a team-high 114 spikes.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool K1: Brazil - Italy (13 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- This is the first meeting between these teams in the World League this season.
- Brazil have won five of the last seven World League meetings between these two.
- Their last encounter in the competition was won by Italy, a 3-2 away victory in Uberlândia on 3 July 2015.
- In total, these teams have met 33 times in the World League. Brazil won 17 and Italy 16 times.

#### Brazil

- Brazil are in search of their 10th trophy in the World League. Their nine championships are already a record within the competition and one more than Italy's eight.
- Brazil have not won the World League since 2010 and have finished runners-up on three occasions since then.
- Brazil finished top of Group 1 with eight wins and one defeat. That lone defeat came against Serbia.
- Wallace De Souza is Group 1's best spiker with a 55.9% success rate.

#### Italy

- Italy's eight trophies in the World League rank second only behind Brazil's nine. Italy have not won the competition since 2000.
- Italy claimed a bronze medal in two of the previous three seasons in the World League. Last season, they finished fifth.
- Five of Italy's six victories in the World League this season have come in straight sets.
- Luca Vettori (123) and Ivan Zaytsev (121) lead Italy in scoring.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool K1: United States - Italy (14 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- This is the 25<sup>th</sup> World League meeting between these teams at the World League. Both teams have won 12 of the previous 24 meetings.
- United States have won 11 of their last 14 World League encounters with Italy, including four of their last five.
- Italy's last World League victory over USA dates back to 16 July 2014, when Italy prevailed in straight sets in Florence.
- They met once earlier this season, with the United States emerging victorious 3-0 in Rome.

#### United States

- United States are in search of their third World League trophy. They won the competition in 2008 and 2014.
- The US claimed a bronze medal last season, their sixth overall (G2-S1-B3) in the competition.
- Team USA won eight of their nine matches in Group 1, only falling to Brazil in the process.
- Taylor Sander (58% efficiency) and Erik Shoji (56.2%) are among the best receivers in this year's World League.

#### Italy

- Italy have now lost their last two World League matches and can lose three in a row for the first time since they lost four in a row last year, in the Intercontinental Round.
- The last time they opened the Final Round with back-to-back defeats was in 2010 when they lost against Russia and Cuba in Argentina.
- Five of Italy's six victories in the World League this season have come in straight sets.
- Ivan Zaytsev was the only Italian to score more than nine points against Brazil on Wednesday (13).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

### Pool K1: Brazil - United States (15 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won five of their last six World League encounters with United States, including each of the last two.
- That includes this season's meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 18 June, which Brazil won 3-1.
- The last US victory over Brazil in the World League dates back to July 2014, when the Americans engineered a 3-1 victory in Florence, Italy.

#### Brazil

- Brazil have won nine of their 10 matches at the 2016 World League.
- Only Canada have won more matches at the 2016 World League, as they won 10 of their 11 matches so far. Canada eventually won Group 2.
- Brazil last won 11 World League matches in a single World League campaign in 2013 when they played a total of 14 matches. They lost more than once in all editions since 2010.

#### United States

- United States lost 3-1 against Italy, which ended their six-match winning streak.
- They can lose two consecutive World League matches for the first time since 2015 when Iran proved too strong twice.
- United States have lost two matches so far. They never ended a World League campaign with fewer than four losses (2007, 2008, 2010, 2014).