



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

### Group 1 Semifinals: France - Brazil (16 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams have met on 22 occasions in the World League. France won five and Brazil 17 times.
- Two of France's five wins came in their last three meetings. They won 3-1 in their second encounter of 2013 and their only meeting in the 2015 edition.
- Brazil and France met earlier this tournament, on 3 July. The Brazilians won 3-1.
- These teams have never met in a World League semifinal, but it is a repeat of the 2006 final for gold. Brazil came back from two sets down to win the final in five sets.

#### France

- France can become the first team to successfully defend the World League title since Brazil in 2009 and 2010.
- Brazil (2003-07, 2009-10) and Italy (1990-92, 1994-95, 1999-2000) are the only two teams to win back-to-back World League titles.
- Brazil (9), Italy (8), Russia (3) and United States (2) are the only teams with multiple gold medals in the World League.
- In addition to their gold medal of 2015, France also claimed a silver medal in the competition when they lost to Brazil in the 2006 final.
- France are unbeaten in World League semifinals as they beat Bulgaria in 2006 and Poland in 2015.
- Antonin Rouzier leads his teammates in scoring with 145 points (133 spikes, 4 blocks, 8 serves).

#### Brazil

- Brazil have won a record 18 medals and a record nine gold medals at the World League.
- Brazil have not won the competition since 2010. They lost the final of 2011 and 2013 to Russia and the final of 2014 to United States. Last year they finished in fifth place.
- Brazil are unbeaten in their last five World League semifinals since losing in straight sets to United States in 2008. In these last five semifinals they lost just two sets - 3-1 against Cuba (2010) and 3-1 against Bulgaria (2013).
- Ricardo Lucarelli Santos De Souza (21) is one of two players to have produced more than 20 aces in Group 1 of the 2016 World League. Srecko Lisanic has done this for Serbia (also 21).



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

### Group 1 Semifinals: Serbia - Italy (16 July)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams have met 30 times in the World League. Serbia (including YUG, SCG) won 17 times and Italy 13 times.
- Half of these meetings have been decided after five sets, including the last three. Italy won nine and Serbia six of these five-setters.
- Their last World League meeting came earlier this year on 3 July. Serbia won 3-2. Ivan Zaytsev scored a staggering 30 points in this match, at least 21 points more than any of his teammates.
- Serbia and Italy have met twice in a World League semifinal. In 2003, Serbia (as Serbia and Montenegro) beat Italy in straight sets. In 2001, Italy defeated Serbia (as Yugoslavia) in five sets.

#### Serbia

- Serbia have won eight medals in the World League - one as Yugoslavia (B1), three as Serbia and Montenegro (S2-B1) and four as Serbia (S3-B1) - but never managed to win the competition.
- No other team has won a medal in the World League without winning the gold medal on at least one occasion.
- Serbia (including YUG, SCG) have won five of their previous nine semifinals at the World League, including four of the last five as they only lost to Russia in 2010 (3-0).
- Uros Kovacevic is Serbia's most prolific scorer at the 2016 World League. He scored a total of 135 points including 115 from spikes, 13 from stuff blocks and seven from serves.
- Srecko Lisinac is not far behind with 134 points scored (85 spikes, 28 blocks, 21 serves).

#### Italy

- Italy have won the World League on eight occasions, but not since 2000.
- Since their last gold medal in 2000, the Italians have claimed two silver and three bronze medals.
- Only Brazil have won more gold (9) and total medals (18) at the World League than Italy (8 gold, 15 total).
- Italy have won just one of their last five semifinals at the World League, the 3-0 win over Bulgaria in 2004. They lost in the semifinals of 2013 and 2014, but managed to claim the bronze medal in both of these editions.
- Ivan Zaytsev leads his teammates in scoring with 148 points (127 spikes, 9 blocks, 12 serves).