



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

Pool A1: Iran - Brazil (03 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won three of their last four major encounters with Iran, all matches in the World League.
- Iran's last major victory over Brazil dates back to the 2014 World League (3-1), their final of five encounters in that World League season.
- They have met seven times in the World League starting with their first WL meeting in 2014. Brazil lead the series 4-3.

Iran

- Iran lost their opening match of this year's World League against Italy in Pesaro (3-0).
- Of their 10 straight sets defeats in the World League, five have come against Italy and only one against Brazil.
- Iran are one set shy of losing their 100th in World League play. They are currently on 88 sets won and 99 sets lost.
- Iran have started all their World League campaigns with multiple defeats: the first three in 2013 and 2014, the first four in 2015 and the first two in 2016. They could break this trend here.

Brazil

- Brazil opened their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-2 defeat against Poland.
- Brazil, who host the Final Round in Group 1 played in Curitiba later this season, could lose three World League matches in a row for the first time since 2013-2014.
- Since the start of the 2015 season, Brazil have lost seven World League matches (21 wins). Four of those seven went to a fifth set.
- Brazil are one shy of 100 defeats in the World League. In comparison: they have won 334 matches.
- With 23 points, Evandro was the best scorer of the match against Poland.



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Pool A1: Poland - Italy (03 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- These teams last met in a major competition at the 2015 World Cup: Italy won 3-1.
- This ended a run of four successive wins by Poland over Italy in major competitions, including two in the 2014 World League and one in the 2015 World League.
- Italy's last WL victory over Poland came on 8 June 2014 (3-1).
- Both teams have won at least one set in their last nine encounters in major competitions since Italy's 3-0 win in the 2011 European Championship semifinals.

Poland

- Poland proved to be the strongest in an opening day showdown against Brazil on Friday. They won the fifth set 15-8.
- Poland have won three of their last four World League matches, as many as in their previous 13 encounters combined.
- Each of their last three victories came in five sets. The last straight set victory for Poland came 28 matches ago, against Russia in the opener of the 2015 season.
- Dawid Konarski scored 20 points against Brazil, leading his side.

Italy

- Italy won their opener in straight sets against Iran. They have now won their opening match in eight of their last nine seasons.
- Last year they lost their first World League encounter (against France), before countering with four consecutive victories in three sets.
- Italy have won a total of 988 sets in the World League. During this World League, they could become the second nation cracking the 1,000-mark, after Brazil (1,106 before Saturday play).



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

Pool B1: Belgium - Serbia (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first encounter between Belgium and Serbia at the World League.
- Their only meeting at the World Championship came 47 years ago - in 1970, Belgium defeated Yugoslavia in straight sets.
- They also met five times at European Championships, with Serbia (including as Yugoslavia) winning three times and Belgium twice.
- The most recent meeting between Serbia and Belgium came at the European Olympic Qualification Tournament in January 2016, when the Serbs won 3-1. Both sides ultimately failed to qualify.

Belgium

- Belgium lost their first match of the 2017 World League by a 3-2 scoreline, even though they outscored their opponents Canada with 109 points to 108.
- This was Belgium's first ever defeat in a World League opener.
- Belgium have now lost four World League matches on the trot, their longest losing streak in the competition's history.
- Belgium's last three matches went to five sets. They lost all three, despite scoring as many or more points than their respective opponents on all occasions.

Serbia

- Defending champions Serbia started their 2017 season with a 3-1 win over United States.
- Last season, the Serbs won their first six matches in the competition.
- They have now won three matches on the trot in the World League, their longest run of wins since that six-match streak at the start of 2016.



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Pool B1: Canada - United States (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first time these teams meet in the World League.
- The last meeting between these teams in a major competition took place at Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Canada won in straight sets in the pool phase, but United States went on to win the bronze medal.
- Prior to their Olympic encounter, United States had won 11 of the previous 13 meetings with Canada in all competitions.
- Canada's only victories in this run came at the Pan American Games (3-2 in 2011 and 2015).

Canada

- Canada beat Belgium 3-2 in their World League opener on Friday.
- Canada have now won 11 of their last 12 World League matches. Their only defeat in this run was a five setter against Finland last year.
- Canada have now won their opening match in their last eight World League seasons. In five of the previous seven seasons in this span, they also won the second match. Their last defeat in an opener came in 1999 against Brazil.
- Canada won their first eight matches in the 2016 World League and the first three in 2015 and 2014.

United States

- Two-time World League champions United States have opened their campaign with a 3-1 defeat against last year's winners Serbia.
- United States are on a three-match losing streak in the World League, the longest run in the competition since five straight in 2013.
- United States have won at least one set in each of their last 20 World League matches, their longest ever run of this type in the competition.
- The last time United States lost both of their first two matches in a World League campaign was in 2010, both against Russia.



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Pool C1: Bulgaria - Argentina (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- The last four encounters between these teams in major competitions all took place in the 2015 World League.
- They split the series 2-2, with Argentina winning the most recent meeting of the four (3-1).
- Bulgaria have won five of their last seven encounters with Argentina in the World League.
- In total have Bulgaria won 15 World League matches against Argentina (L5), more than versus any other opponents.
- Their most recent meeting in another competition than the World League came at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, with Argentina winning 3-1 in the preliminary round.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria suffered a 3-0 defeat against France on the opening day. They lost their first match for the fourth straight season.
- Last season, Bulgaria lost their first eight matches in the campaign, in 2015 they countered with four straight victories after an initial loss.
- In their match against France, Bulgaria collected 60 points. Ten of those were added by top scorer Tsvetan Sokolov.

Argentina

- Argentina lost their opener against Russia: 3-0.
- This was Argentina's first straight sets defeat in eight World League matches. Of the previous seven matches in this span, they won three.
- Since the start of the 2014 season, Argentina have now lost six matches in straight sets. On four of the previous five occasions, they countered with a victory in the following match.
- Gonzalo Quiroga (12, all spikes) was Argentina's only player with more than five points in their match against Russia.



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Pool C1: Russia - France (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- Russia and France have met 10 times in the World League, with both teams winning five.
- These teams met in the World League last year, with France defeating Russia 3-0 in the group phase.
- Their previous five World League meetings all took place in the same year. In 2006, Russia won three of those and France won the other two. They ultimately finished second (France) and third (Russia) in that season.
- Last year, they also met twice in the European Olympic Qualification tournament. France won their group phase match (3-1), but Russia won the final of the tournament 3-1 to claim a ticket to the Olympic Games. France ultimately qualified for Rio 2016 through the World Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Russia

- For the first time since 2013, Russia have started their World League campaign with a victory: 3-0 against Argentina.
- Eight of Russia's last 10 World League matches ended after three sets, including the last five. Russia won four and lost four of those eight matches.
- After suffering a 12-match losing streak in the competition between 2014 and 2015, Russia have now won seven of their last 11 World League matches.
- Maxim Zhigalov led his team in scoring on Friday with 18 points, He converted 10 of 12 spike attempts (83%).

France

- France won their World League opener against Bulgaria 3-0 on Friday.
- France could win their first two matches for the fourth straight time in a World League campaign.
- Eight of France's last 10 World League victories have come in straight sets, including one against Russia in 2016.
- Against Bulgaria, five French players tallied seven points or more, but none had more than 11.

