



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool D1: Iran - Belgium (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Iran and Belgium will meet for the first time in the World League.
- Their last meeting came at the 2014 World Championship when Iran won 3-1 in the first round.
- Belgium are unbeaten in their World League meetings with teams representing the Asian Volleyball Federation. They won all six meetings with Australia, losing only two sets.

#### Iran

- Iran opened this year's World League with two defeats (3-0 Italy, 3-1 Brazil) and one win (3-1 Poland).
- Iran have not won back-to-back in their last nine World League matches.
- Iran have won seven of their previous 13 five-setters in the competition, including their last four.
- After the opening week in this year's World League, two Iranian players are in the top three best receivers in Group 1 - Milad Ebadipour Ghara (62.7%) and Mahdi Marandi (57.8%).

#### Belgium

- After an opening match defeat to Canada (3-2) in this year's competition, Belgium won their other two matches, 3-0 against Serbia and 3-1 against United States.
- Belgium could win three successive World League matches for the first time since a run of six in 2015.
- Belgium have lost 10 of their previous 15 five-setters in the World League, including their last four.
- Bram Van Den Dries (59) scored third most points among all players in Group 1 in the first week of the competition.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool D1: Serbia - Argentina (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Serbia (including incl. Serbia and Montenegro) and Argentina have met each other 18 times in the World League. Serbia won 11 times, Argentina seven times.
- Argentina have won their last two World League meetings with Serbia: 3-0 in 2011 and in 2016. They can now beat Serbia three times in a row for the first time in the competition.
- Five of the last six World League meetings between these nations ended in straight sets, with Serbia claiming two and Argentina three of these five 3-0 results.

#### Serbia

- Reigning champions Serbia started their 2017 World League campaign with 3-1 wins over both United States (2 June) and Canada (4 June) and a 3-0 loss to Belgium (3 June).
- Last season, Serbia won their opening six matches in the World League.
- After the first weekend, Marko Ivovic (0.55 average by set) was the third-best server in Group 1. Only Russia's Maxim Zhigalov (0.67) and France's Julien Lyneel (0.70) had a better average.

#### Argentina

- Argentina have lost three of their last four World League matches. The exception in that run is their 3-2 win over Bulgaria last Saturday.
- Argentina's two losses last weekend came by a 3-0 score line. In 2016, only one of their losses came in straight sets.
- Argentina (147) could lose their 150th World League match this weekend. Coming into the weekend, only Japan (221), Korea (175) and Cuba (150) have lost 150 or more World league matches.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool E1: Bulgaria - Poland (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams will meet for the 14th time in the World League, with Bulgaria winning five and Poland winning eight of the previous 13 encounters.
- Bulgaria and Poland last clashed in the World League on 17 June 2016, when Poland recorded a 3-1 victory in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- Bulgaria last beat Poland in the World League in 2013 (twice).

#### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria started their 2017 World League campaign with a straight-set defeat against France, a five-set loss versus Argentina and a 3-2 victory over Russia.
- Bulgaria could record back-to-back victories in the World League for the first time since a three-match winning run in June-July 2015.
- Only Brazil's Evandro Guerra (68) scored more points in Group 1 in the opening weekend than Tsvetan Sokolov (60).

#### Poland

- Poland kicked off their 2017 World League season with victories over Brazil (3-2) and Italy (3-1) and a 3-1 loss against Iran.
- Dawid Konarski made 11 stuff blocks in the opening weekend, joint most in Group 1 along with three other players.
- Only Brazil's Ricardo Lucarelli Souza (24) made more digs in Group 1 last weekend than Michal Kubiak (23).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool E1: Canada - Brazil (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams will meet for the 18th time in the World League. Brazil won 14 of the previous 17 encounters.
- Brazil won 10 of their last 11 World League matches against Canada, seven of which straight sets. The only exception in that run is the five-set defeat on 19 May 2012.
- Canada have lost 14 World League matches against Brazil, at least five more than against any other country (9 against Netherlands).
- These teams most recently met in a competitive match on 9 August 2016, when Brazil beat Canada 3-1 at the 2016 Olympic Games.

#### Canada

- Last Sunday Canada lost 3-1 against 2016 World League winners Serbia, after beating Belgium (3-2) and United States (3-2) on day 1 and 2 respectively.
- Canada could record back-to-back defeats in the World League for the first time since June 2015.
- Canada have won 12 of their last 14 World League matches, with the 3-1 loss against Serbia on 4 June and a five-set defeat against Finland on 3 July 2016 as the only exceptions.
- John Gordon Perrin scored a team-high 51 points in the opening weekend, 12 more than teammate Graham Vigrass.

#### Brazil

- Brazil lost their opening match of the 2017 World League campaign 3-2 against Poland, the only defeat in their last 10 group stage matches.
- Last season's runners-up Brazil are one shy of their 100th defeat in the World League. They suffered their first loss in the competition against Italy (3-1) on 29 April 1990.
- Evandro Guerra scored 68 points in the opening weekend, at least eight more than any other player in Group 1. Bulgaria's Tsvetan Sokolov scored 60 points.
- Mauricio Borges Almeida Silva had the highest efficiency as receiver in Group 1 last weekend (64%).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool F1: France - Russia (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- France and Russia have met in the World League 11 times. France just hold the upper hand: six wins to five.
- France won their last two matches against Russia, 3-0 in 2016 and 3-1 last weekend.
- France can become the first team to win this fixture three times in a row.
- In their meeting last weekend France's Stephen Boyer was the top scorer with 18 points. For Russia Maxim Zhigalov scored a team-high 17 points.

#### France

- France dropped only one set in their opening three matches of the 2017 World League season last weekend. That was in their 3-1 victory over forthcoming opponents Russia.
- They beat Bulgaria and Argentina both in straight sets.
- France won their last four World League matches, since the 3-1 loss to Brazil in last season's semifinal.
- After last weekend France's Julien Lyneel was the best spiker (65.96% success rate) and the best server (0.70 average per set) in Group 1.

#### Russia

- Russia started their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-0 win over Argentina before losing to France (3-1) and Bulgaria (3-2).
- They can lose three World League matches in a row for the first time since a 12-match losing run from 2014-2015.
- This will be Russia's 399<sup>th</sup> World League match (W268-L130). They will play their 400<sup>th</sup> against United States on Saturday.
- After last weekend Russia's Denis Biriukov and Ilia Vlasov are the best blockers in Group 1, with an average of 0.92 by set.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool F1: Italy - United States (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Italy and United States have met each other 25 times in the World league. Italy just have the upper hand: 13 wins to 12.
- United States' 12 wins against Italy are third-most for the team against a specific opponent. They have only won more World League matches against Japan (16) and Russia (14).
- Italy won nine of their first 10 World League matches against United States, but managed to win only four of their following 15 meetings.
- Last season the teams met twice in the group stages. United States beat Italy 3-0 on 26 June, while Italy won 3-1 on 14 July.

#### Italy

- Italy started their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-0 win over Iran, but then lost 3-1 to Poland and Brazil.
- They can now lose three successive World League matches for the first time since a run of four in 2015 (two versus Brazil and two versus Serbia).
- The last time Italy lost three of their first four matches of a World League season was 2009, when they started with a win over China but subsequently lost to China and twice versus their forthcoming opponents United States.
- After the first weekend, Simone Giannelli was the best setter in Group 1 with an average of 6.91 per set.

#### United States

- United States have lost their last five World League matches. They can suffer six successive defeats for the first time since their record losing streak of 13 from 1993-1994.
- Their last nine losses in the World League were no straight set defeats. The last time a team beat United States 3-0 was Iran on 21 June 2015.
- United States' last win in the World league was the 3-0 against Russia on 3 July 2016.
- United States (148) are two shy of claiming their 150<sup>th</sup> win in the World League (276 matches).