



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

Pool D1: Belgium - Argentina (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- Belgium and Argentina have met once before in a major competition.
- That match was played in the World League in 2015. Argentina won 3-2 in a match played in Varna, Bulgaria.
- Belgium have beaten opponents from South America only once in a major international competition. At the 1968 Olympic Games, they defeated Brazil 3-1.

Belgium

- Belgium's last four World League defeats have all been in five sets, including against Canada and Iran in this year's competition.
- Belgium have lost 11 of their 16 World League five-setters, including each of the last five.
- Belgium dropped only one set in their two World League victories this year, 3-0 against Serbia and 3-1 versus United States.
- Belgium could equal their final number of victories from last year's World League (3).

Argentina

- Argentina have lost three of their four 2017 World League matches, with all three of those defeats coming in straight sets.
- Only once before have Argentina lost three consecutive World League matches in straight sets in a single year (2013).
- Cristian Poglajen (47) is Argentina's leading scorer in Group 1, fewer than Belgium's Bram Van Den Dries (77) and Sam Deroo (53).



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Pool D1: Iran - Serbia (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- Last season, these teams met twice in the World League and both secured a home victory. First, Serbia won 3-1 in Novi Sad and the next weekend, Iran won 3-2 in Tehran.
- They also split victories in the World League in 2013, their only other two meetings in the competition. Both those matches took place in Tehran.
- In major competitions Serbia have beaten Iran four times and Iran have defeated Serbia two times.

Iran

- Iran have won consecutive World League matches against Poland and Belgium, after beginning the 2017 campaign with defeats versus Italy and Brazil.
- Iran could win three consecutive World League matches for the first time since a run of five in a row in June 2015.
- Iran have won each of their last five World League five-setters.
- Iran have lost the opening set in eight of their last 10 World League matches.

Serbia

- Reigning champions Serbia have won three of their four 2017 World League matches, also suffering a straight sets defeat against Belgium.
- Serbia opened their 2016 World League campaign with six consecutive victories, a run that was ended in five sets by Iran.
- Since the beginning of 2015, Serbia have been involved in 13 World League matches that have gone to a fifth set, more than any other country in that time period.
- Of those 13 five-set matches, Serbia won six and lost seven.



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

Pool E1: Brazil - Poland (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil started their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-2 defeat against Poland in Pesaro, Italy.
- This means that Poland have now won five of their last seven major encounters with Brazil and three of their last five in the World League.
- Brazil last triumphed over Poland in the World League last season. The South Americans beat Poland in straight sets in Nancy, France.
- Brazil have only won more World League matches against United States (29) than against Poland (24).
- Poland have only record more wins against Argentina (19) in the World League than against Brazil (11).

Brazil

- Brazil (99) are one short of 100 World League defeats. Their first loss in the competition was 3-1 against Italy on 29 April 1990.
- Brazil have won three consecutive World League matches by a 3-1 scoreline after opening their 2017 campaign with a five-set defeat versus Poland.
- Since the beginning of 2016, Serbia are the only other team to beat Brazil in a World League match, recording victories in last year's group stage and final.
- Brazil have lost the opening set in four of their last five World League matches.

Poland

- Poland have lost consecutive World League matches (versus Iran and Bulgaria), after beginning their 2017 campaign with wins against Brazil and Italy.
- Poland had a four-match losing streak in last year's World League, which included a straight-set loss versus Brazil.
- Poland's last match was the 3-2 defeat versus Bulgaria. They had won each of their previous three World League fixtures that had gone to a deciding set.
- In Poland's last 17 World League matches, they have won the opening set only four times. They won two and lost two of those four fixtures in that run they took the first set.



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Pool E1: Canada - Bulgaria (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria have won four of their seven major encounters with Canada, but Canada have won three of the five meetings between these sides this century.
- Their last four meetings all came in the 2015 World League. They split the series one win apiece in Varna, Bulgaria, before doing the same in Summerside, Canada.
- They also met in the group stage at the 2014 World Championship. Canada pipped Bulgaria 3-2 in that match.

Canada

- Canada have lost consecutive World League matches 3-1, against last year's finalists Serbia and Brazil. They had started their 2017 campaign with five-set victories versus Belgium and United States.
- Canada could lose three consecutive World League matches for the first time since June 2015 (versus Cuba and Argentina twice).
- Canada could lose three consecutive World League fixtures (versus three different opponents) for the first time since June 2012 – Finland, Brazil and Poland.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria have won consecutive World League matches, both in five sets (against Russia and Poland), after beginning their 2017 campaign with two defeats.
- Of Bulgaria's last five World League matches, four have gone to a deciding set (W3-L1).
- Bulgaria could win three consecutive World League matches for the first time since June to July 2015.
- Bulgaria recorded only one win in the 2016 World League, their final fixture (3-2 against Australia) after losing the first eight.



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

Pool F1: France - Italy (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be a replay of last season's World League bronze medal match, when France beat Italy in straight sets (25-23, 25-21, 25-20).
- In total, these nations have met 40 times in World League history, with France claiming 16 and Italy 24 victories.
- France have won their last five World League matches against Italy since the 3-1 intercontinental round defeat on 19 May 2012.
- These nations most recently met at world level on 7 August 2016, when Italy recorded a straight-set victory over Italy in the 2016 Olympic Games preliminary round.

France

- France have won all four World League matches in 2017, dropping only two sets (both against Russia).
- The second of France's 3-1 victories versus Russia in this year's competition was their 150th World League victory, the sixth team to achieve this.
- France also won the bronze medal match in last year's World League. Their current five-match winning streak in the competition is their best since they were victorious in their first 15 fixtures of the 2015 edition.
- Stephen Boyer (67), Trevor Clevenot (53) and Julien Lyneel (51) have all scored more than 50 points in Group 1. Italy's top scorer is Luca Vettori (43).

Italy

- Italy began their 2017 World League campaign with a straight-set victory against Iran, but have lost all three matches since.
- Italy could lose four consecutive World League matches for the first time since 2015, when they were beaten twice by both Brazil and Serbia.
- Italy could lose four of their opening five matches of a World League campaign for the first time. They also lost three of their first four in 2009, but won their fifth fixture in a deciding set versus Netherlands.
- Italy have never suffered consecutive straight-set World League defeats (419 matches).



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

Pool F1: United States - Russia (10 June)

Head-to-Head

- United States have won 10 of their last 11 major encounters with Russia, including each of their last seven.
- Their current seven-match winning streak against Russia is Team USA's longest ever in major encounters with these opponents.
- Russia's last victory over United States dates back to 28 June 2014, when they defeated the visiting US in straight sets in Kaliningrad.

United States

- United States (149) could become the seventh team to win 150 World League matches. France became the sixth country to achieve this on 9 June with a 3-1 victory against Russia.
- United States recorded a straight-set win against Italy in their last match, ending a run of five consecutive World League defeats.
- United States' last three World League victories have all been in straight sets, including one versus Russia in July 2016.
- United States have won at least one set in each of their last 23 World League matches, since the 3-0 loss versus Iran on 21 June 2015.

Russia

- Russia (399) will become the third country, after Brazil (436) and Italy (419) to play 400 World League matches (Russian total includes Soviet Union and Commonwealth of Independent States).
- Russia began their 2017 World League campaign with a straight-set victory against Argentina, but have lost all three matches since.
- It is Russia's worst World League losing streak since losing their final match of the 2014 edition and their first 11 fixtures of the 2015 competition.
- Only three of Russia's last 26 World League matches have gone to a deciding set. They lost all three.