



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

Pool D1: Iran - Argentina (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- Their most recent major encounter took place at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Argentina beat Iran 3-0 in the pool phase.
- Earlier that year, they played their only two World League encounters with each other so far. Iran won both matches in five sets.
- Argentina have won three of seven major encounters with Iran, but have yet to record back-to-back victories against them.

Iran

- Iran started their 2016 World League campaign L-L-W-W-L. They have the exact same record from their opening five matches of this season's competition.
- Last year, they went on to lose their sixth match 3-1 against Serbia.
- Iran have won each of their last five World League five-setters.
- Iran have lost the opening set in nine of their last 11 World League matches.

Argentina

- Argentina (149) could become the fourth team, after Japan (221), Korea (176) and Cuba (150), to lose 150 World League matches.
- Argentina have lost four of their five 2017 World League matches. The exception was the 3-2 victory against Bulgaria.
- Of those four defeats, three came in straight sets. They took Belgium to a deciding set in their last match.
- Argentina could lose five of their opening six matches of a World League campaign for the first time since 2013.



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Pool D1: Serbia - Belgium (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams also met last weekend, in their first ever World League meeting. Visiting Belgium won that match 3-0 in Novi Sad.
- These nations also met on 8 January 2016, when Serbia beat Belgium 3-1 in a Rio 2016 Olympic Games qualifier.

Serbia

- Reigning champions Serbia have won four of their five 2017 World League matches, also suffering a straight-set defeat against Belgium.
- Russia in 2014 were the last team to record two straight-set victories against Serbia in a single World League campaign.
- Serbia began their successful 2016 World League campaign with six consecutive victories, for the loss of only three sets.

Belgium

- Belgium have won three of their five 2017 World League matches. They recorded three victories in their entire 2016 World League campaign.
- Of Belgium's last seven World League matches, five have gone to a deciding set. They finished on the winning team in only one of those five-setters (v Argentina in their last fixture).
- Bram Van Den Dries (88) and Sam Deroo (72) have both scored more than 70 points in Group 1.



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

Pool E1: Brazil - Bulgaria (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won 10 of their last 11 major encounters with Bulgaria, including each of their last five.
- Bulgaria's only triumph over Brazil in that run was their 3-0 pool phase victory at the 2010 World Championships in Italy.
- It is nearly 10 years since Bulgaria last beat Brazil in the World League (11 July 2007). Brazil won each of their next eight encounters in the competition.
- Bulgaria have only played more World League matches against Cuba (28) than versus Brazil (22).
- Bulgaria have lost 19 matches against Brazil in the World League, at least three more than versus any other country (16 against Russia).

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 four 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.
- Each of Brazil's last seven World League defeats have been against CEV opposition.

Bulgaria

- Both of Bulgaria's 2017 World League victories came in a deciding set, versus Russia and Poland.
- Bulgaria had recorded only one win in their entire 2016 World League campaign, 3-2 versus Australia in their final fixture after losing the first eight matches.
- Bulgaria's last World League win without requiring a deciding set came on 10 July 2015, 3-1 against Belgium.



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Pool E1: Poland - Canada (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- Poland have won all 10 of their previous major encounters with Canada.
- In those 10 victories, Poland were never pushed to a fifth set by Canada. All 10 went either 3-0 or 3-1.
- Their last meeting in a major competition came at the 2015 World Cup. Poland defeated Canada 3-1 in a match played in Japan.
- Poland have won all their four World League matches against Canada, dropping just one set.

Poland

- Poland have lost three consecutive World League matches, having started their 2017 campaign with two victories.
- Poland had a four-match losing streak during last year's World League.
- In Poland's last 18 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.
- Poland have not won a World League match in straight sets since their opening fixture of the 2015 campaign against Russia. They have suffered five straight-set defeats in the competition since then.

Canada

- Canada have lost only three of their last 16 World League matches, with two of those defeats coming in this year's competition – 3-1 against last year's finalists Serbia and Brazil.
- All five of Canada's 2017 World League matches have gone to at least four sets. They beat both Belgium and United States in five-setters and recorded a 3-1 victory versus Bulgaria.
- Canada could lose against multiple CEV opposition in a single World League campaign for the first time since 2014, when they were beaten by Finland and Belgium.



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

Pool F1: France - United States (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- These nations last met at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, when United States triumphed 3-1 in the preliminary round.
- The year before, they last met in the World League and the result was the same, a 3-1 United States win.
- France's last major victory over United States came at the 2014 World Championship (3-1).
- United States have won five of their last six World League matches against France, with the five-set defeat on 30 June 2012 as the only exception.

France

- France have won all five 2017 World League matches, dropping only three sets.
- France are the only remaining team with a 100% winning record in the 2017 World League. Spain and Slovenia also won their first four fixtures but both lost their fifth match.
- France also won the bronze medal match in last year's World League. Their current six-match winning streak in the competition is their best since they were victorious in their first 15 fixtures of the 2015 edition.
- France won only one of their four five-setters in the 2016 World League.

United States

- United States lost their opening three matches of the 2017 World League, but have beaten both Italy and Russia in straight sets in the second week.
- United States have not won three consecutive World League matches in straight sets since 2012. The first of those victories was against France.
- United States' last four World League victories have all come in straight sets.
- United States have won at least one set in each of their last 24 World League matches, since the 3-0 loss versus Iran on 21 June 2015.



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

Pool F1: Italy - Russia (11 June)

Head-to-Head

- Italy and Russia have not met in the World League since 2013, when Russia won the last two of three World League meetings that year.
- These nations most recently met at world level on 21 September 2015, when Italy triumphed in straight sets at the 2015 World Cup.
- Russia have won six of their last seven meetings with Italy in the World League.
- Russia (incl. CIS and Soviet Union) have only lost more World League matches against Brazil (20) and Cuba (20) than against Italy (17).
- Italy's tally of 19 World League defeats against Russia (incl. CIS and Soviet Union) is their joint-most against a specific opponent in the competition. They are also on 19 World League defeats against Brazil.
- This fixture is a repeat of the 2000 World League final, when Italy claimed their eighth trophy after beating Russia 3-2 in the final.

Italy

- Italy began their 2017 World League campaign with a straight-set victory against Iran, but have lost all four matches since.
- Italy could lose five consecutive World League matches for the first time since a run of six in a row in 2014.
- This is the first time Italy have lost four of their opening five matches of a World League campaign.
- Only two of Italy's last 19 World League matches has gone to a deciding set. Both of those ended in defeat against Serbia.

Russia

- Russia began their 2017 World League campaign with a straight-set victory against Argentina, but have lost all four 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.
- Russia could lose consecutive World League matches in straight sets for the first time since 1997 (both against Cuba).
- Only three of Russia's last 27 World League matches have gone to a deciding set. They lost all three.