



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUN 15-18, 2017

Pool G1: Argentina - Serbia (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Argentina and Serbia (including as Serbia and Montenegro) have met 19 times in the World League with Argentina winning seven times versus 12 Serbia victories.
- Six of the last seven World League matches between these teams, including the last three, finished in straight sets, with Argentina winning four and Serbia two.
- Serbia won the previous encounter between these teams in the 2017 World League (3-0). They can win consecutive World League matches against Argentina for the first time since a run of three in 2009-2011.
- These sides also met at each of the last three World Championships (2006, 2010, 2014), with Serbia winning 3-1 on each occasion.

Argentina

- Argentina have lost their last four World League matches and can lose five in a row for the first time since their 13-match losing streak in 2013-2014.
- Argentina lost their last two matches both after five sets. They can play three five-setters in a row in the World League for the first time since five consecutive in 2009 (W3-L2).
- Argentina and Italy are the only teams with only one victory in Group 1 of the 2017 World League. Their 17 conceded sets are most in the Group.
- Cristian Poglajen has scored a team high 86 points in this year's World League.

Serbia

- Serbia are currently on a four-match winning streak and have won five of the first six matches in the 2017 World League.
- En route to their victory last year, they started with a winning streak of six matches.
- After their straight set loss against Belgium on 3 June, Serbia have dropped only two sets in four matches.
- They won the first set of the match in each of those four matches.
- Of all players in Group 1, only Julien Lyneel (58.89%) and Evandro M. Guerra (57.27%) have a higher successful spike rate than Marko Ivovic (54.21%).



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Pool G1: Brazil - Bulgaria (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won 19 of their 23 World League encounters with Bulgaria.
- No other team have won more matches against Bulgaria in the World League than Brazil (Russia next 16).
- In their first encounter this year, Bulgaria won 3-1, ending a losing streak of eight World League matches against the *Canarinhos*.
- Bulgaria could now win consecutive World League fixtures against Brazil for the second time, after 2006-2007.
- In 1994, these teams met in the World League third-place match with Brazil winning 3-2.
- In 2013, these teams met in the World League semifinal. Brazil won 3-1 and eventually lost the final against Russia in straight sets. Bulgaria lost the bronze medal match against Italy in five sets.

Brazil

- Last year's finalists Brazil have lost their last World League match (3-1 against Bulgaria) and could lose consecutive matches within the same season for the first time since 2015 when they lost against Italy and France.
- Last season, the only opponents they lost back-to-back World League matches against were Serbia (group stage and final).
- Bruno Mossa Rezende is the best setter in Group 1 with 5.08 average per set.
- Thales Hoss is the best receiver in Group 1 with an efficiency of 62.28%, ahead of teammate Mauricio Borges Almeida Silva (59.76%).

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria are currently in sixth place in Group 1 coming into this weekend of play. With final round hosts Brazil currently in third place, a sixth place would be enough to qualify for the next round.
- Bulgaria are one win shy of their 150th World League victory, becoming the eighth team to reach this landmark.
- Bulgaria have conceded at least one set in each of their last 18 World League matches since their straight set win over Argentina on 4 July 2015.
- Nikolay Nikolov is the best blocker in Group 1 with an average of 0.86 per set.
- Tsvetan Sokolov (100 points) is one of the two players who have already scored 100 points in the World League Group 1 this season, besides France's Stephen Boyer (106).



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Pool I1: Belgium - Canada (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Belgium and Canada have met five times in the World League and have exchanged victories with defeats against each other. After Canada won the first, Belgium won the second, etc.
- The last match was won by Canada in the first weekend of the 2017 World League.
- Belgium's two victories over Canada in the World League were both by 3-1, while Canada won twice in five sets and once in straight sets.

Belgium

- Belgium lost their last match against Serbia in the World League, in straight sets.
- Belgium have yet to lose two consecutive World League matches in straight sets.
- They have won three matches in the 2017 World League, the same amount of matches as last year in the World League.
- Bram Van Den Dries is two points shy of becoming the first Belgian player to reach the 100 points in Group 1 this season.

Canada

- Canada are perfectly balanced after six matches; three wins and three losses.
- Canada suffered all three defeats by a 3-1 scoreline.
- Canada have scored most points in Group 1 (585) but also conceded most (603).
- Cameron Bann Blair is the best digger in Group 1 with an average of 2.45 per set. His total 54 digs are also most in the Group.



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Pool I1: Italy - France (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met 41 times in the World League. Italy have won 24 times and France 17.
- Only Russia - Cuba (43) has been played more often in the World League than Italy - France.
- These 24 losses are most for France against a single opponent, while they only won more often against Japan (21) than the 17 against Italy.
- France won the last six matches in the World League between these teams. Only once, there was a longer streak between these teams as Italy won their first eight World League encounters.
- Last year, these teams contested the World League bronze medal match with France winning in straight sets.

Italy

- Italy started the 2017 World League with a straight sets victory against Iran but lost all other five matches.
- They can lose six World League matches in a row for the first time since the Intercontinental Round of 2014.
- Italy failed to win a set against United States, grabbed one in the next against France and two against Russia in their most recent match. If the streak continues they will win three against France and win the match.
- Giulio Sabbi is the Italian top scorer in this World League. His 60 points are inferior to the total of three France players and almost half the amount of France's and Group 1 top scorer Stephen Boyer (106).

France

- France are the only remaining team in the World League without a loss and are already guaranteed to play the Final Round.
- In their six wins they conceded only four sets and failed to win the first set in only one match (the previous one against Italy).
- Since USA's defeat to France in straight sets in June 2013, France have won at least one set in all 58 World League matches they played since.
- Stephen Boyer has scored 106 points and is the top scorer of the 2017 World League Group 1.