



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

Pool G1: Argentina - Brazil (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won all 23 encounters with Argentina in the World League.
- No other teams have played each other more than 13 times (Bulgaria vs Korea) with only one team winning each encounter in the World League.
- Argentina suffered straight set defeats in the last four encounters with Brazil in the World League.
- The last win for Argentina in any competition against Brazil was the Final of the 2015 Pan American Games when Argentina prevailed in five sets.

Argentina

- In front of a home crowd in Cordoba, Argentina lost their fifth consecutive World League match on Friday: 3-2 against Serbia.
- This is Argentina's longest losing streak since a run of 13 matches in 2013-2014.
- Each of Argentina's last three defeats came in five sets. The last time they played more consecutive World League five-setters was in 2009 (five), when they claimed three wins and lost two.
- Argentina's only win in this season's World League came against Bulgaria, the team they will face again on Sunday.
- Four Argentinian players scored 13 points or more against Serbia on Friday, but none scored more than 18 in the five-setter. Martin Ramos led the squad with 18.

Brazil

- Brazil claimed a straight-set win against Bulgaria in this weekend's first encounter, conceding only 56 points.
- These 56 points conceded were the fewest for them in the World League since 25 June 2016, when they conceded 47 points, also against Bulgaria.
- Brazil have now won five and lost two of their World League matches this season. Their four previous wins until their straight-set win over Bulgaria came by a 3-1 scoreline.
- Wallace de Souza scored 15 of Brazil's 75 points on Friday to become the team's top scorer in the match.



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Pool G1: Bulgaria - Serbia (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Serbia (including Serbia and Montenegro) have faced each other 13 times in the World League, with Serbia winning nine and Bulgaria four.
- The last time Bulgaria won was in 2006, when they defeated Serbia in straight sets in the World League group stage.
- Serbia have won the last six World League encounters between these teams, only suffering three lost sets in those six matches.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria have won three and lost four of their seven World League matches this season.
- This is a big improvement over last season, when they lost their first eight matches in Group 1.
- In their first match of this weekend of play, Brazil proved too strong in straight sets. The last time they lost consecutive World League matches in three sets was in June 2014, when they lost twice against today's opponents Serbia.
- Bulgaria could win their 150th World League match - they have 149 wins and 121 defeats thus far.
- Jani Jeliakov (11 points) was the only Bulgarian player to reach double figures against Brazil on Friday. 10 different Bulgarians scored at least one of Bulgaria's 56 total points in that match.

Serbia

- Serbia pulled off a 3-2 win against hosts Argentina on Friday, improving their 2017 World League record to six wins to one defeat and qualifying for the Final Round in Group 1.
- In their winning campaign of last year, Serbia also started off with six wins and one defeat. They lost their eighth encounter in straight sets against Argentina.
- Serbia could win six consecutive World League matches for the first time since their start of six straight victories in 2016.
- In the last eight World League matches involving Serbia, the team winning the first set also won the match. Serbia won seven times in these eight matchups, Belgium took the other.
- Against Argentina, five Serbs reached double figures in scoring, with Drazen Luburic evolving as top scorer with 19 points.



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

Pool H1: Poland - Iran (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Poland and Iran are gearing up for their 10th encounter in the World League. From the previous nine, Poland won five and Iran four.
- The last four meetings in the World League have seen neither side able to secure back-to-back victories.
- In the first week of the 2017 World League, Iran defeated Poland 3-1.

Poland

- Poland have lost four of their last five World League matches, after beginning the 2017 tournament with consecutive victories.
- Poland lost four matches in straight sets in the 2016 World League. The first two of those came in back-to-back fixtures versus Russia and Serbia, and the other two came in back-to-back matches against France and Brazil.
- Poland have lost six World League matches in straight sets since the last time they won a fixture in the tournament by a 3-0 scoreline, versus Russia on 28 May 2015.
- In Poland's last 20 World League matches, they have won the opening set only five times.

Iran

- In all five of Iran's World League campaigns (including 2017), their opening seven matches have produced three wins and four defeats. Only in 2016 did they go on to lose their eighth fixture.
- Iran have not lost consecutive World League matches in straight sets since July 2014 (against United States and Italy).
- Iran have won each of their last six World League five-setters, since they lost the decider against Poland on 6 June 2015.
- Iran have lost the opening set in 10 of their last 13 World League matches.



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Pool H1: United States - Russia (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- United States and Russia (including CIS and USSR) have met 30 times in the World League, with both sides winning 15 matches each.
- United States have won the last six of those matches in the World League, the longest streak for one team against each other between these two.
- Four of these six wins were straight set wins for United States, the other two encounters were both 3-1 victories.
- Russia's last World League win against United States came in straight sets on 28 June 2014.
- In 2007, these teams met in the World League semifinals when Russia won 3-1.

United States

- United States have lost four of their seven 2017 World League matches. They lost only three fixtures in last year's tournament.
- United States' last five World League victories have all been in straight sets.
- United States have lost six of their last nine World League fixtures, having lost six of their 28 matches in the tournament prior to this run.
- United States have won at least one set in each of their last 25 World League matches, since the 3-0 loss versus Iran on 21 June 2015.
- Benjamin Patch (112) is United States' leading scorer in Group 1, with 99 of those points won with spikes.

Russia

- Russia could win three consecutive World League matches for the first time since a run of four in a row in 2014. That streak included their last victory in the tournament against United States.
- Russia have lost four of their seven fixtures in the 2017 World League. They lost four matches in last year's tournament.
- On this exact day last year, Russia were beaten in straight sets by Serbia while United States won 3-1 against Iran.



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Pool I1: France - Canada (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- France and Canada have met four times in the World League, with France winning the first three and Canada the most recent encounter.
- All four encounters between these teams in the World League came in 1991. In Pool A, Canada finished last and France second last.
- Their most recent meeting in a major tournament came in the preliminary round at the 2016 Olympic Games when France won in straight sets.
- In the Qualification Tournament for the Olympic Games, France also beat Canada in straight sets.

France

- France's last match ended in defeat against Italy, 16-14 in the fifth set. It ended France's 100% winning start to the 2017 World League.
- Despite that defeat, France have already qualified for the Group 1 final round.
- Since the beginning of 2014, France have lost consecutive World League fixtures on only one occasion – last year against Brazil and Poland.
- France have won only one of their last five World League matches that have gone to a deciding set.

Canada

- Canada have won four of their seven 2017 World League matches, with three of those victories coming in a deciding set.
- Canada's other four World League matches this year all ended in a 3-1 scoreline (W1-L3).
- Canada have not suffered a straight-set World League defeat since 27 June 2014 (against Finland).
- Canada have won four of their last five World League matches that have gone to a deciding set, directly following a run of seven consecutive defeats in five-setters in the competition.



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

Pool I1: Italy - Belgium (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Italy and Belgium have met twice in the World League. Italy won both encounters, played last year, in straight sets.
- Belgium's last win in a competitive match against Italy came at the 2015 European Games when they prevailed in five sets.
- In 1948, the very first men's European Championship, both teams made it to the final round. Italy won in straight sets and would eventually claim a bronze medal. Belgium finished fifth.

Italy

- Italy (W2-L5) have made their worst start to a World League campaign.
- Italy's five-set win against France ended a run of five consecutive World League defeats.
- Italy's only other win in this year's World League came in their opening fixture, in straight sets versus Iran.
- Italy's last two World League matches have gone to a deciding set (W1-L1), after only two of their previous 19 fixtures in the competition had gone the full distance.

Belgium

- Belgium have won three of their seven 2017 World League matches. They recorded three victories in their entire 2016 World League campaign.
- Of Belgium's last nine World League matches, six have gone to a deciding set. They finished on the winning team in only one of those five-setters (v Argentina).
- Belgium have lost four of their last five World League matches against CEV opposition. The only exception in that run was the straight-set victory against Serbia in their second fixture of this year's edition.