



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

Pool G1: Argentina - Bulgaria (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Argentina and Bulgaria prepare for their 29th major encounter and their second one this year after a 3-2 win by Argentina in the opening weekend of the World League.
- Bulgaria won 19 of the previous 28 major encounters between these teams.
- Argentina won three of the last four major encounters between these teams, each in the World League, by 3-0, 3-1 and 3-2. Bulgaria won the other in straight sets.

Argentina

- Argentina's 3-1 win against Brazil ended a run of five consecutive World League defeats. Their only other victory in this year's competition was versus Bulgaria (3-2).
- Argentina lost their other three five-setters in the 2017 World League, in consecutive matches against Belgium, Iran and Serbia.
- Argentina won three of their nine matches in last year's World League.
- Argentina have lost the opening set in 13 of their last 17 World League fixtures.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria's five-set win against Serbia in their last match was their 150th World League victory.
- Bulgaria have won four and lost four of their eight 2017 World League matches.
- Bulgaria have won eight of their last nine World League matches that have gone to a deciding set. The only team to beat them in a fifth set in that run was Argentina.
- Bulgaria have a superior win to loss record in World League five-setters (W33-L32).



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Pool G1: Serbia - Brazil (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- This will be a replay of the 2016 World League final when Serbia won in straight sets.
- These teams also met in the 2003, 2005 and 2009 World League finals. All three were won by Brazil.
- In total these teams have met 24 times in the World League, with Serbia winning only six of these.
- Serbia won both previous encounters (2016 World League) and can win three times in a row against Brazil in the World League for the first time.
- Nine of the previous 12 matches between these teams in the World League were decided in five sets.

Serbia

- Serbia have already qualified for the Group 1 final round.
- Serbia have won six of their eight 2017 World League matches, only losing against Belgium (3-0) and Bulgaria (3-2).
- Serbia lost consecutive matches once during their 2016 World League winning campaign (against Argentina and Iran). They lost three fixtures in total during that edition.
- Serbia have won each of their last nine World League matches when they have won the opening set, since the 3-2 defeat against Iran on 1 July 2016.

Brazil

- Brazil have already qualified for the Group 1 final round as they are hosting the event in Curitiba.
- Brazil have won five of their eight 2017 World League matches, losing against Poland (3-2), Bulgaria (3-1) and Argentina (3-1).
- Serbia (twice, including the final) were the only team to beat Brazil in the 2016 World League.
- Of Brazil's last nine World League losses, eight have come against CEV opposition, including three versus Serbia.
- Only four of Brazil's last 28 World League matches have gone to a deciding set.



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

Pool H1: Poland - United States (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Poland and United States will meet for the 24th time in the World League. With a win Poland will level the balance between these teams 12-12.
- In 2012, these teams met in the World League final. Poland won in straight sets.
- In their most recent World League meeting these teams played the bronze medal match in 2015. United States won in straight sets.
- These teams most recently met in a competitive match at the Olympic Games when United States won the in straight sets in the quarterfinals.

Poland

- Poland beat Iran 3-0 on Saturday to improve to four wins and four defeats for the World League season.
- Poland can now win back-to-back World League matches for the first time since winning the first two of this campaign.
- For the first time in 34 World League matches, Poland recorded a straight-sets win.
- Three players reached double figures in scoring in Poland's 3-0 win against Iran: Michal Kubiak (15), Dawid Konarski (12) and Rafal Buszek (10).

United States

- United States have won three and lost five in this year's World League.
- United States lost in five sets to Russia on Saturday. Team USA have now lost their last three World League matches that went to five sets.
- Their last five wins in the competition came in straight sets.
- Taylor Sander's massive total of 28 points (24 spikes, 3 kill blocks, 1 ace) was not enough to give USA the win over Russia.



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Pool H1: Russia - Iran (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- These teams met seven times in the World League, with Russia owning a slightly positive balance 4-3.
- Russia won the last encounter on 4 July 2015, ending a three-match losing streak against Iran.
- In their first four World League encounters, Iran managed to win one more set with every next match. They started with a straight sets defeat, then lost 3-1, and 3-2 before winning 3-1.

Russia

- Russia improved their 2017 World League record to four wins and four defeats after a hard fought 3-2 victory over United States on Saturday. Both USA and Russia scored 115 points in a thriller.
- Russia have now won three World League matches in a row for the first time since winning four straight in June-July 2014.
- Egor Kliuka was Russia's top scorer against United States with 22 points, while Ilyas Kurkaev recorded six kill blocks.

Iran

- After their 3-0 defeat against Poland, Iran have won three and lost five World League matches in 2017.
- Iran have lost both matches this weekend in straight sets. They can now suffer three straight-set defeats in a row for the first time within a single campaign.
- Iran are in danger of losing three straight matches within a single World League campaign. This has not happened to them since they lost the first four in the 2015 season.
- Nine Iranian players contributed in the team's 57-point effort on Saturday, however no one registered more than eight points.



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Pool I1: Belgium - France (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Belgium and France have met three times in the World League. France have a slight advantage over their neighbours, winning two of the three matches.
- The first encounter between these teams in the World League came in the 2014 semifinals when France proved too strong in straight sets.
- In 2016, the teams met twice with Belgium winning the first match in five sets before suffering another straight sets defeat.

Belgium

- Belgium beat Italy by a 3-1 scoreline on Saturday. This brought their World League record for this season to four wins and four defeats.
- With that win, Belgium surpassed their win total of last season, when they were victorious in three matches and suffered six defeats.
- This was Belgium's 25th win in the World League. They have 20 defeats.
- Bram Van Den Dries scored 20 points against Italy: 16 spikes, 2 kill blocks and 2 aces.

France

- France beat Canada 3-0 on Saturday, conceding only 52 points. France was the first team in 34 matches to keep Canada from claiming at least one set.
- This was a nice rebound for France after their only defeat in the competition this season, 3-2 against Italy on Friday.
- France now have seven wins and one defeat in the 2017 World League.
- Stephen Boyer (25 points) scored one-third of all French points (75) against Canada.



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

Pool I1: Canada - Italy (18 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Canada and Italy have met four times in the World League.
- All four meetings came in 2000 and all four ended in a 3-1 win for Italy.
- Their most recent meeting at world level came at the 2016 Olympic Games when Canada won 3-1.
- In 1984, these teams played the bronze medal match for the Olympic Games, with Italy winning in straight sets.

Canada

- Canada come off a straight set defeat against France, a match in which they scored only 52 points.
- For the first time in 34 matches, Canada failed to win a set in a World League match. The last time this happened to them was in June 2014, when they lost 3-0 against Finland.
- Canada's 2017 World League record is now even: four wins and four defeats.
- Stephen Timothy Maar led his team in scoring on Saturday with 12 points, all spikes. John Gordon Perrin is still his team's leading scorer in the tournament with 85 points.

Italy

- On Saturday against Belgium, Italy suffered a sixth defeat in this season's World League. They won two matches.
- Italy have always won at least four matches in a World League campaign. They have won two so far this campaign.
- Luca Vettori was the most prolific scorer in the match against Belgium with 22 points. Iacopo Botto (14) was Italy's only other player in double figures.