



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 4 – JUNE 24-25, 2017

Final Four Group 2: Australia - Japan (24 June)

Head-to-Head

- Australia and Japan will meet for the third time in the World League, all in 2017.
- On 4 June, in their first ever meeting in the competition, Japan won 3-1. Almost two weeks later on 16 June, Australia triumphed in five sets.
- Paul Carroll scored more than 50 points against Japan in those matches (24 and 27 points).
- Australia can record multiple World League victories against a fellow AVC team for the first time. They only beat Canada and Finland on multiple occasions (both 3).

Australia

- Australia did not rely on the automatic qualification for the Group 2 Final Four in Gold Coast, as they finished in third place after the preliminary round.
- Australia won the Group 2 Final Round in 2014, when they were also the hosts, in Sydney.
- Australia have won six of their nine World League matches this campaign. They have only won more in the 2014 World League (7).
- Australia have won at least one set in each of their last 10 matches in the competition, an outright record for them.
- Only Chuan Jiang (164) and Wouter Ter Maat (151) scored more points in Group 2 than Paul Carroll (133).

Japan

- Japan could win at least six World League matches in a single season for the second time, after 1993 (10) when they finished in sixth place.
- Japan have played three consecutive five-setters in the World League for the first time (W1-L2).
- Japan have won at least two sets in each of their last eight World League matches, an outright record for them.
- Masahiro Yanagida is the best spiker (58.33%) and server (0.51 average by set) in Group 2. He is the only player in Group 2 to have scored 20 points from aces (next Chuan Jiang with 15).
- Japan also have the best setter of Group 2 as Naonobu Fujii averaged 10.15 per set.



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Final Four Group 2: Slovenia - Netherlands (24 June)

Head-to-Head

- Slovenia and Netherlands will meet for the first time in the World League.
- At the European Championship, these teams have met on three occasions. Netherlands won their first two encounters, 3-0 in 2001 and 3-1 in 2013, both in the group stage.
- Slovenia prevailed in 2015, a 3-0 win in a playoff for the quarterfinals. They eventually finished as runners-up to France in the competition.
- Slovenia's sole World League defeat against a fellow CEV team came against Greece on 26 June 2016 (3-1). They won their other seven encounters with European sides.

Slovenia

- Slovenia won the Group 3 Final last year on their debut in the competition.
- Slovenia have won 15 of their previous 17 World League matches, only losing 3-1 to Greece (26 June 2016) and 3-2 to Japan (10 June 2017).
- Slovenia have won at least two sets in 16 of their 17 World League matches, including in each of their last 11.
- Slovenia have lost the opening set in only one of their 15 World League wins, 3-1 against Venezuela on 19 June 2016.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have won their last six World League matches, their longest such streak since a run of 11 wins in 1996-1997. Part of that winning run led to their only World League victory in 1996.
- This will be Netherlands' 300th match in the World League. They are the fifth team to reach this number, after Brazil (441), Italy (424), Russia (404, including predecessors) and Cuba (374).
- Netherlands have won their last three World League matches in which they lost the opening set - 3-1 against Portugal, 3-2 versus Egypt and 3-1 against Czech Republic.
- Only Chuan Jiang (164) has scored more points in Group 2 than Wouter Ter Maat (151).