



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

### Pool A2: Korea - Finland (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Korea and Finland have met 11 times before in the World League.
- The Koreans won the first three matches - all in 1993 - without dropping a set. Since those three wins they have lost all eight encounters.
- In 2016, Finland beat Korea 3-2 (19-17 in the final set).
- Their most recent meeting outside of the World League came at the 2014 World Championship in Poland (first round), also won by the Finnish team (3-0).

#### Korea

- Korea have started their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-2 victory over Czech Republic on Friday, followed by a 3-1 defeat against Slovenia on Saturday.
- Jung Jiseok has been the hosts' most prolific attacker so far this weekend, amassing 31 points through both matches, with 27 of those points coming off spikes.
- Korea have won four of their last five World League matches.

#### Finland

- Finland have started this World League campaign with back-to-back 3-1 defeats, against Slovenia on Friday and against Czech Republic on Saturday.
- In two of the previous three World League seasons (2014 and 2015), Finland started their campaign with three straight defeats.
- Antti Ropponen tallied 33 points for his team in its opening two matches, with all 33 points coming off spikes.



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### Pool A2: Slovenia - Czech Republic (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Slovenia and Czech Republic will face each other for the first time in the World League.
- They met once before at a major tournament - Czech Republic won 3-1 in the group stages at the 2001 European Championship.

#### Slovenia

- With their victories on Friday and Saturday, Slovenia have improved their World League track record to nine wins in 10 matches.
- Slovenia have yet to play a fifth and decisive set in a World League match.
- Last season, Slovenia won each of their first five matches in the competition, before suffering their only World League defeat so far, a 3-1 against Greece.

#### Czech Republic

- On Saturday, Czech Republic rebounded from a 3-2 defeat against Korea on Friday, by dismissing Finland 3-1.
- Petr Michalek led the way with 14 points, as five Czech players finished with double figures.
- Czech Republic is looking for a victory to complete a winning weekend, the last of which they enjoyed in the World League 23-25 June of last year, when they won all three of their matches.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

### Pool B2: Australia - Japan (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams have met twice at world level competitions (OG, WCh, World Cup, World League).
- At the 2007 World Cup, Australia triumphed over Japan in straight sets.
- At the 2015 World Cup, Japan emerged victorious, winning by 3-1.
- Last year, they met at the World Olympic Qualification Tournament in Japan in June: Australia won in straight sets, but both teams failed to qualify for Rio 2016.
- Their last encounter at regional level came at the 2015 Asian Championship, with Australia winning 3-1 in a competition which was ultimately won by Japan.

#### Australia

- Australia started their World League campaign with a five-set win against Portugal on Friday, but they were not able to follow up against Slovakia, who beat them 3-1.
- Australia could win their second match in this year's competition, equalling their total wins in 2015 and 2016 combined.
- They have never claimed two victories in their first three fixtures of a World League season.
- Lincoln Alexander Williams outscored all players (of both sides) against Slovakia with 19 points.

#### Japan

- Japan fell 3-2 against Portugal on Saturday, after losing 3-0 against Slovakia on Friday.
- Japan have lost eight in a row in the World League, their longest such rut in the competition since 13 in a row in 2013-2014.
- Japan's last World League victory dates back to 19 June of last year, when they beat Korea 3-0 in Osaka.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

### Pool B2: Slovakia - Portugal (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Slovakia's only previous encounter with Portugal came in the World League last year, when Slovakia won in five sets.

#### Slovakia

- Slovakia have won both of their encounters in the 2017 World League: 3-0 against Japan on Friday, 3-1 against Australia on Saturday.
- They could now win three World League matches in a row for the first time ever.
- With 15 points, Peter Ondrovic paved the way for Slovakia's win against Australia. Against Japan, Milan Bencz was their top scorer with 18 points.

#### Portugal

- Portugal defeated Japan in five sets on Saturday to avenge a defeat against Australia on Friday, in a match that also went the distance.
- Portugal are in search of back-to-back World League victories for the first time since 2014, when at one point, they won three in a row.
- Against Japan, Marco Ferreira led the way for Portugal with 21 points (18 spikes and three kill blocks).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

### Pool C2: Egypt - China (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Egypt have won three of their last four major encounters against China.
- Egypt have won their last two World League matches against China, both in straight sets.
- China's last World League victory over Egypt came on 11 July 2008, when they won by a 3-0 scoreline.

#### Egypt

- Egypt are coming off successive defeats to open their 2017 World League season, 3-0 against Netherlands on Friday and again by straight sets against Turkey on Saturday.
- Egypt have not lost each of their opening three matches in a World League season since 2007, a campaign in which they lost all of their 12 matches.
- Only once, they have failed to win a set in their first three fixtures, on their debut in 2006.
- In total, Egypt have lost their last five WL matches since the 3-1 win over Turkey last year, their longest losing streak in the competition since 10 in a row in 2010.
- Ahmed Shafik scored 14 points in the defeat against Turkey, joint-most of all players in the match.

#### China

- China bounced back from a 3-2 defeat against Turkey on Friday by defeating Netherlands 3-1 on Saturday.
- China are looking to close out the weekend with two victories and one defeat, something they achieved in each of their previous two World League weekends.
- The last time they won two of their opening three fixtures of a WL campaign was in 2015 (three wins).
- Jiang Chuan led the way against Netherlands with 20 points (18 spikes), most of all players on the field.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

### Pool C2: Turkey - Netherlands (04 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Turkey and Netherlands have met three times before at world level.
- In the World League last season, these teams split victories between them.
- Their only previous major encounter came at the 1966 World Championship, when Netherlands won in straight sets.
- These nations also met at the 1958, 1963 and 1967 European Championships, with Turkey winning on all three occasions.

#### Turkey

- Turkey have started their 2017 World League campaign with back-to-back victories, 3-2 facing China on Friday and 3-0 against Egypt on Saturday.
- Last season, Turkey started their World League campaign with five successive triumphs, before falling to Saturday's opponents, Egypt (3-1).
- In World League pool phase matches, Turkey have won 13 of their last 14.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands have started their 2017 World League campaign with a win and a defeat. On Friday, the Dutch beat Egypt 3-0 and on Saturday lost 3-1 against China.
- Last season, Netherlands managed to win two out of three in their opening weekend. That weekend also included a match against Turkey, which was the only one they lost back then (3-0).
- Thijs ter Horst contributed 19 points in the 3-1 defeat against China, eight more than any of his teammates.