



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool D2: Finland - China (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These nations are set to meet for the first time in the World League since 1993, when China won all their four intercontinental round matches against Finland, dropping just one set.
- On 19 June 1993, China beat Finland 3-0 in the World League, their first ever straight-set victory in competition's history.
- These nations most recently clashed at a major tournament on 13 September 2014, when China recorded a five-set group stage victory over Finland at the 2014 World Championship.

#### Finland

- Finland recorded a straight-set victory against Slovakia in their opening D2 fixture after losing their opening three matches of the 2017 World League.
- Finland's three defeats have already equalled the total number of losses they sustained in last year's World League.
- Only once before have Finland won consecutive World League matches in straight sets - versus Portugal in 2006.
- Finland have won the opening set in 11 of their last 12 World League matches, winning seven and losing four of those 11 fixtures they took the first set.

#### China

- Of China's last seven World League defeats, five have been in straight sets, including the 3-0 loss against Australia in their opening D2 fixture.
- China have not had consecutive straight-set World League defeats since 2010, both against Italy.
- Only one of China's last 13 World League matches has gone to a fifth set, the 3-2 defeat against Turkey in their opening fixture of this year's edition.
- Jiang Chuan (76) has scored almost double the points in this year's World League than his nearest teammate (Chen Longhai 39).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool D2: Slovakia - Australia (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Last week on 3 June, Slovakia recorded a 3-1 World League victory over Australia in these nations' first ever meeting at world level.
- Slovakia have won four of their last five World League matches against AVC opposition, including each of their last three.
- Australia have lost eight of their last nine World League matches against CEV nations, with last week's five-set victory over Portugal as the only exception.

#### Slovakia

- Slovakia's 3-0 defeat against Finland in their first D2 fixture came after they had won their opening three 2017 World League matches for the loss of only one set.
- Slovakia could claim four wins in a single World League edition for the first time. They recorded exactly three victories in each of their previous three participations.
- Matej Patak (53) is Slovakia's leading scorer in this year's World League, 23 more than next best Emanuel Kohut (30). Australia have four players to have amassed more than 30 points in the 2017 edition.

#### Australia

- Australia have already beaten Portugal and China in the 2017 World League. They could win more than two matches in a single edition for the second time, after 2014 (7).
- Australia's 2014 World League campaign included a run of four victories in a row. That is the only previous occasion they have won consecutive World League matches.
- Australia have provided the best scorer in all four of their 2017 World League matches – Paul Carroll (v Japan and China), Nathan Roberts (v Portugal) and Lincoln Williams (v Slovakia).



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool E2: Japan - Turkey (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Turkey won both previous matches against Japan in the World League, beating them 3-2 and 3-0 in 2016.
- Turkey also won their two previous World League matches against China (in 2016 and 2017), meaning they have a perfect 4-0 record against AVC teams.
- Japan have lost their last six World League matches against CEV teams, since their straight sets victory over Finland last season (17 June 2016).

#### Japan

- Japan won their most recent World League match, beating Australia 3-1 on 4 June.
- That win ended an eight-match losing streak for the Japanese in the World League.
- Japan can now win consecutive World League matches for the first time since June 2015, when they beat Korea 3-0 in successive matches.
- Japan have been unable to win any of their last six five-setters in the World League, since their 3-2 win over Germany on 29 June 2014.
- After the first weekend, Fujii Naonobu is the best setter in Group 2 (10.17 average by set).

#### Turkey

- Turkey started their 2017 World League campaign with victories over China, Egypt and Netherlands.
- In 2016, they kicked off with five successive wins in the competition, before losing 3-1 to Egypt.
- Turkey's last three defeats in the World League came against teams from three different confederations: Egypt (CAVB), Canada (NORCECA) and Netherlands (CEV). They can now lose to an AVC team.
- After the first weekend, Metin Toy is the top scorer in Group 2 with 67 points.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool E2: Slovenia - Korea (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Slovenia and Korea meet for the second time in the World League, after their match last weekend which Slovenia won 3-1.
- Slovenia's Tine Urnaut was the top scorer in that match with 23 points. For Korea, Choi Hong-Suk scored a team-high 14 points.
- Slovenia are unbeaten against AVC teams in the World League. Apart from last weekend's victory over Korea, they beat Qatar twice in 2016 (3-1 and 3-0).

#### Slovenia

- Slovenia can win six World League matches in a row for the first time.
- Their last World League loss was the 3-1 defeat to Greece on 26 June 2016. That is also Slovenia's only loss in 11 World League matches.
- Slovenia's 91% win percentage is the highest of any team in the World League. Brazil follow with 77% (336 wins in 435 matches).
- Slovenia have never played a five-setter in the World League.
- Slovenia have won their last four matches all by a 3-1 scoreline (against Germany, Finland, Korea and Czech Republic).

#### Korea

- Korea have won five of their last six World League matches. Their only defeat in that run was the 3-1 loss to Slovenia last weekend.
- Korea have started their 2017 World League campaign with two wins from three matches.
- Only in 1993 and 2011 did Korea win three of their opening four matches of a World League campaign.
- Four of Korea's last five World League matches were five-setters, the exception being their 3-1 loss to Slovenia last weekend.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool F2: Czech Republic - Egypt (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Czech Republic and Egypt will meet for the third time in the World League. Both previous encounters came in last year's competition.
- Egypt won their first meeting, a five-sets victory on 17 June 2016, while Czech Republic emerged victorious two weeks later, a 3-0 win.
- Egypt are hoping to end a four-match losing streak against European sides in the World League.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic started their 2017 World League campaign with two defeats and one victory, just like they did in 2016.
- Last year, they won all three World League matches in the second week of the competition.
- Michal Finger is Czech Republic's top scorer so far in the competition with 45 points scored.
- Finger is also the third best blocker in Group 2 as he averaged 0.77 points from blocks per set in the first weekend.

#### Egypt

- Egypt failed to win a single set in the first weekend of the 2017 World League.
- Egypt could lose five successive World League matches in straight sets for the first time since a run of six 3-0 defeats in 2007.
- Ahmed Shafik is Egypt's leading scorer so far in the competition this season with 36 points. Ahmed Abdelhay is not far behind, as he scored 30 points in the first weekend.
- Omar Hassan is currently the fourth-best receiver in Group 2 of the competition with an efficiency of 60%.



## FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – JUNE 08-11, 2017

### Pool F2: Netherlands - Portugal (09 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won seven of their previous 12 World League meetings with Portugal.
- These nations played each other twice in last season's World League. Netherlands won the first meeting in straight sets, after which Portugal bounced back with a 3-1 victory.
- Portugal could win six World League matches against a specific opponent for the first time. They have now won five against Japan, Netherlands, Finland and Argentina.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands opened their 2017 World League campaign with a straight set win against Egypt, but failed to win their following matches against China (3-1) and Turkey (3-2).
- Netherlands have not lost three successive World League matches since a run of seven defeats in 2010.
- Netherlands have won at least one set in each of their last 11 World League matches, since the 3-0 defeat to Turkey last year.
- Wouter Ter Maat is currently the fourth-best spiker in Group 2 of the competition with a success rate of 60%. Ter Maat has also scored most points for Netherlands so far this World League season (38 points).

#### Portugal

- Portugal won one of their three World League matches last week, a 3-2 win against Japan. They failed to beat Australia (3-2) and Slovakia (3-0).
- Portugal have already won as many matches this year as they did in their first six matches in last year's edition.
- Three of Portugal's last five World League victories have come in five sets, including a 3-2 win against Netherlands.
- Brothers Alexandre (51) and Marco Ferreira (50) are both in the top five of the Group 2 top scorers list.
- Alexandre Ferreira has scored a joint-high five aces so far in Group 2, alongside Turkey's Arslan Eksi and Finland's Sauli Sinkkonen.