



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

### Pool D2: China - Slovakia (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- For the fourth successive season, these teams will meet at least once in the World League.
- Their only World League run-in last season was won 3-0 by China, who improved their record in the competition to five wins and two defeats against Slovakia.
- Slovakia won their only two home encounters with China, but lost all five other meetings that took place outside of Slovakia.

#### China

- China have lost both D2 matches after recording two wins out of three in the opening weekend of the 2017 World League.
- Only one of China's last 14 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 (99) is China's leading scorer in this year's World League, 55 more than this nearest teammate (Chen Longhai 44).

#### Slovakia

- Slovakia have lost both D2 matches in straight sets, having won their opening three 2017 World League fixtures for the loss of only one set.
- Slovakia suffered three straight-set defeats in their first three participations in the World League (including one against China in 2016).
- 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.



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### Pool D2: Finland - Australia (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These teams have met four times previously in the World League.
- All of these encounters took place in 2014 and each won twice and recorded one win and one defeat on home court.
- Their only other meeting in a major competition came at the 1982 World Championship. Finland won that match in straight sets.

#### Finland

- Finland have won both their D2 fixtures 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.
- Finland have won the opening set in 12 of their last 13 World League matches, winning eight and losing four of those 12 fixtures they took the first set.

#### Australia

- Australia have won both D2 matches in straight sets. They had only two straight-set victories in their previous four World League participations combined.
- Australia also beat Portugal in the opening weekend of the 2017 World League. They could win more than three 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 other occasion they have won consecutive World League matches.
- Australia have two players that have scored more than 60 points in Group 2 this year (Nathan Roberts 76 and Paul Carroll 64), a feat also achieved by Finland (Elviss Krastins 71 and Antti Ropponen 61).



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

### Pool E2: Japan - Slovenia (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Japan will meet Slovenia for the first time in a major international competition.
- Yesterday, Japan ended a six-match losing streak against European opposition in the World League by defeating Turkey.
- Slovenia have won all of their four previous encounters with opponents from Asia, all matches in the World League.

#### Japan

- Japan recorded back-to-back World League wins by defeating Australia (3-1, 4 June) and Turkey (3-1, 9 June).
- Japan could win three successive matches at the World League for the first time since 2008.
- 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.
- In Japan's last World League match against Turkey, five players reached double figures in scoring - Issei Otake (17), Masahiro Yanagida (13), Akihiro Yamauchi (12), Yuki Ishikawa (12) and Haku Ri (12).

#### Slovenia

- Slovenia played their first five-setter in the World League on Friday, beating Korea 3-2.
- They are now on their longest winning streak in the competition (6).
- Slovenia have lost only one of their 12 World League matches, the 3-1 defeat to Greece on 26 June 2016. Their 92% win percentage is the highest of any team in the competition.
- Slovenia have lost only 11 sets in their 12 World League matches so far. They are the only team to have conceded less than a set per match in the competition.
- Tine Urnaut scored 23 points in Slovenia's last match against Korea, at least 12 points more than any of his teammates.



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

### Pool E2: Turkey - Korea (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These sides have met once before in a major competition. At the 1956 World Championship, Korea triumphed in five sets.
- Turkey have won four of their five World League meetings against opponents from Asia, with the exception of their 3-1 defeat to Japan yesterday.
- Korea have won four of their last six World League matches against European opposition, only losing to Slovenia.

#### Turkey

- Turkey lost their first match at the 2017 World League on Friday, 3-1 against Japan.
- On two previous occasions Turkey recorded back-to-back defeats in the competition. They lost the first two matches in their debut year, 2014, and the last two matches of last year's campaign.
- Turkey's last four defeats in the World League came against teams from four different confederations: Egypt (CAVB), Canada (NORCECA), Netherlands (CEV) and Japan (AVC).
- Turkey have only once failed to win a single set in a World League match, the 3-0 defeat to Canada on 9 July 2016.
- Metin Toy, who was top scorer in Group 2 last weekend with 67 points, was again Turkey's top scorer against Japan with 14 points.

#### Korea

- Korea have won two and lost two matches so far at the 2017 World League. Last year they started their campaign with six successive defeats.
- Five of Korea's last six World League matches were five-setters, the exception being their 3-1 loss to Slovenia last weekend.
- Korea have won at least one set in each of their last eight World League matches, their longest such streak since a run of eight in 2012.
- The last time they won at least one set in more consecutive World League matches was in 2008-2009 (13 matches).
- Kang-Won Lee scored 16 points in Korea's last match against Slovenia, at least five more than any of his teammates.



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

### Pool F2: Netherlands - Czech Republic (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won five of their previous six World League meetings with Czech Republic.
- Czech Republic's only victory over the Dutch came in last year's edition. The Czechs triumphed 3-2 over Holland in neighbouring Slovakia on 23 June.
- A week later, Netherlands won the most recent major encounter between these two, their 3-1 World League win over the Czechs in Seoul, Korea.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands have lost the opening set in each of their last three World League matches. They went on to lose against China and Turkey, but came back to beat Portugal 3-1.
- Netherlands' opening World League fixture this year was the straight sets win against Egypt.
- Netherlands have won at least one set in 21 of their last 22 World League matches. The only exception in that run was the straight-set defeat versus Turkey last year.

#### Czech Republic

- Czech Republic began the 2016 World League L-W-L-W. They have started this year's competition in exactly the same manner.
- Czech Republic went on to win all three World League matches in the second week of competition last year, all in a deciding set (including one versus Netherlands).
- Czech Republic have lost the opening set in all four of their 2017 World League matches.



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

### Pool F2: Portugal - Egypt (10 June)

#### Head-to-Head

- These sides have never met in a major competition.
- For Portugal, it will be their first major encounter with opponents representing Africa.
- Egypt have lost seven consecutive major encounters with CEV opposition.

#### Portugal

- Portugal have lost three of their four matches in the 2017 World League. The only exception was the five-set victory against Japan.
- It took Portugal until their seventh fixture of last year's World League to record their second victory.
- Portugal have won the opening set in three of their four matches in this year's World League, only failing to do so in the straight sets defeat versus Slovakia.
- The Ferreira brothers Alexandre (65) and Marco (59) are Portugal's leading scorers in this year's World League. Egypt's top scorer has 52 points (Ahmed Abdelhay).

#### Egypt

- Egypt have lost all four matches in the 2017 World League, and are on a seven-match losing streak overall in the competition.
- This is Egypt's longest World League losing streak since a run of 10 in a row in 2010.
- Egypt lost all of their matches in the 2006 and 2007 World League. They are the only previous occasions they have started the competition with four consecutive defeats.
- Egypt took Czech Republic to a deciding set in their last fixture, after losing their first three matches of the 2017 campaign in straight sets.