



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

Pool G2: Australia - Japan (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- These teams met in the World League earlier this season. On 4 June, Japan triumphed 3-1 over Australia in Poprad, Slovakia.
- That was the first ever World League meeting between these countries.
- Australia's only victory in four matches against Japan on a major stage came at the World Cup, in November of 2007 (3-0 in Japan).

Australia

- Australia are ranked fifth in Group 2. Although they are just outside the top 4, they are already guaranteed to appear in the Final Four, as tournament hosts.
- After losing two of three in Week 1, Australia responded by winning all three of their matches in Week 2.
- Australia can win four World League matches in a row for the second time ever in the World League after 2013 when they defeated Canada twice and won against Netherlands and France.
- While Australia lost all first sets in the first weekend, they claimed a win in all first sets in the second weekend.
- Throughout the first two weeks, Nathan Roberts has emerged as the second best spiker in Group 2, at a 59.83% success rate, only trailing opponent Masahiro Yanagida (60.58%).

Japan

- Japan are currently ranked fourth in Group 2, but must move up at least one spot in the table to be guaranteed access to the Final Four in Australia.
- After losing their first two World League matches this season, Japan have rebounded by posting four victories in a row.
- Japan can win five in row for the first time since a run of eight in 2014.
- In the last 11 matches, the result of Japan's first set resulted in the same as the match. If they lost, they lost the match and if they won, they won the match.
- After two weeks of play in Group 2, Masahiro Yanagida leads all players in this group in the categories Best Spiker and Best Server.



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Pool G2: China - Turkey (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Earlier this season, these teams met in the World League with Turkey emerging victorious in five sets in front of a home crowd in Malatya.
- This was their second meeting in the World League following a 3-0 win for visiting Turkey in Xuancheng last year.
- China's only victory over Turkey in a major competition came at the 1966 World Championship, where China triumphed in straight sets.

China

- After winning two of their three matches in Malatya, Turkey, in Week 1, China lost all three of their World League matches in Finland in Week 2.
- China have not reached a Final Four stage in the World League since 2015.
- Jiang Chuan is one of two players to have scored at least 100 points in Group 2 so far. His 100 are second only to Netherlands' Wouter ter Maat's 101.

Turkey

- Turkey are coming off three straight defeats in Takasaki, Japan, last weekend.
- The three consecutive defeats are already Turkey's longest losing streak in the World League. Turkey have played 31 matches in the competition.
- Metin Toy (88 points) is in fifth position among top scorers in Group 2. With four Turkish players in the top-20 top scorers, Turkey are represented most in Group 2 in the top 20.



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Pool H2: Egypt - Slovenia (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first meeting between these countries in a major competition.
- They did not meet thus far in Group 2, as Slovenia were featured in Pools A2 and E2 and Egypt were featured in Pools C2 and F2.
- Egypt have won only one of their last nine major encounters with World League opponents.

Egypt

- Egypt have won only one of their first six World League matches this season. Last season, they started with four victories from their first six.
- All of Egypt's last three World League matches have been decided in five sets.
- Egypt have won six of their last seven World League matches in Egypt..

Slovenia

- Just like last season, Slovenia have started their World League campaign by winning five of their first six. Last year, they won promotion to Group 2.
- Slovenia have won 12 of their 14 World League matches since making their debut in 2016.
- Tine Umut and Klemen Cebulj have both contributed 98 points in the World League this season, a figure by which they co-lead their team and rank joint-third in Group 2.
- The total 611 points scored by Slovenia are most in Group 2.



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Pool H2: Portugal - Finland (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- All of the 15 meetings on a major stage between Portugal and Finland took place in the World League. Portugal won five, while Finland were victorious 10 times.
- Portugal won only one of their last five against Finland and it was the most recent meeting between these sides, played last season (3-2)
- All previous 15 World League meetings between these sides were played either in Portugal or in Finland.

Portugal

- Portugal have won only one of their six World League matches this season and have lost each of their last four.
- This is Portugal's longest losing streak in the World League since 2015-2016, when they lost eight on the trot.
- Portugal have not suffered back-to-back defeats in straight sets in the World League since 2012.

Finland

- After losing all three of their World League matches in the opening weekend this season, Finland bounced back by winning two of three in Week 2.
- All of Finland's last four victories in the World League came in front of a home crowd. Their last victory in the competition prior to that came in Egypt.
- In Group 2, Tommi Sirilä ranks as the best blocker, averaging 0.88 per set.



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Pool I2: Korea - Netherlands (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands have won 20 of their 23 World League encounters with Korea.
- Korea, however, have won their most recent World League encounter, which took place in Seoul, Korea, last year.
- Each of the last three World League meetings between these countries have gone to five sets.

Korea

- In their six matches in this World League campaign, Korea have alternated victories and defeats. If this trend continues, they will win this match.
- This trend of inconsistency follows a winning streak of three, with which Korea concluded last season.
- Korea have not played a World League match taking place in Europe since July 2015.

Netherlands

- Netherlands won each of their three World League matches in Czech Republic last season and will now attempt to stretch their winning run to four, something they last achieved last season.
- Netherlands have won six of their last eight World League matches in front of a home crowd, but have lost their most recent one.
- Several Dutchmen lead Group 2 in a statistical category. Wouter ter Maat is the best scorer, Dirk Sparidans and Ter Maat are the leading diggers and Robbert Andringa is the most prolific receiver.



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Pool I2: Slovakia - Czech Republic (16 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- This will be only the second major encounter by the countries that once were part of the same country, Czechoslovakia.
- In the World League last season, Czech Republic defeated their neighbours in five sets.

Slovakia

- For the first time, Slovakia have started a World League campaign with at least four victories from their first six matches.
- In Week 1, Slovakia won nine sets and conceded only one. In Week 2, they met with more resistance, winning only three and dropping seven.
- Peter Ondrovic ranks second among blockers in Group 2, averaging 0.80 per set.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic have not claimed back-to-back victories, or suffered back-to-back defeats in their last seven World League matches. Should this trend continue, they will lose this match.
- Last season, Czech Republic missed out on the Final Four, after losing two of three in Week 3.
- Czech Republic have yet to win a World League match that takes place in the Netherlands.