



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

### Pool G2: China - Japan (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the 28<sup>th</sup> match between China and Japan in the World League. Japan won 17 and China 10, including the last two, in 2008 and 2016
- Last year China won 3-0 in Xuancheng.
- China have won six of their last seven encounters with Japan, at Asian Championships, Asian Games, Olympic Qualifying tournament and World League.
- Japan's win in this run of seven matches was a 3-0 victory at the 2014 Asian Games.

#### China

- After their 3-1 win over Australia on Saturday, China now have collected four victories and four defeats in the 2017 World League.
- China have won their last two fixtures in the World League and could win three in a row for the first time since seven straight in 2014-2015.
- China could suffer their 150<sup>th</sup> defeat in the World League. They have 64 wins and 149 defeats thus far.
- Chuan Jiang, China's top scorer in the 2017 World League, improved his tournament total to 140 points after his 23-point effort against Australia.

#### Japan

- Japan have won five of their last six World League matches, including a 3-2 win over Turkey on Saturday.
- They 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 never booked six victories in a stretch of seven consecutive World League matches.
- They could play three consecutive five-setters in the World League for the first time.
- Yuki Ishikawa was Japan's top scorer against Turkey with 22 points, while Masahiro Yanagida produced five aces.



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

### Pool G2: Turkey - Australia (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- These countries have met once before in a major competition.
- At the 1998 World Championship, Australia defeated Turkey in five sets.
- This season, Australia have won three of their four World League matches against teams from the CEV federation.

#### Turkey

- On Saturday, Turkey suffered their fifth straight World League defeat in a 3-2 encounter against Japan.
- This extended their longest losing streak in the competition. Until this five-match run, Turkey had never lost more than two World League matches in a row.
- In none of the last 11 World League matches of Turkey, they had the same result in consecutive fixtures since their double straight-set win over Japan and China in July 2016.
- Serhat Coskun scored 26 of Turkey's 93 points against Japan (28%). The only other Turkish player with double figures in scoring was Mert Matic (14).

#### Australia

- Australia's four-match winning run in the World League was ended by a 3-1 defeat against China on Saturday. It was their joint-longest run of victories in the competition, after piling up four straight in 2014.
- Back then in 2014, their four-match winning run was followed by a six-match losing streak.
- Australia have won at least one set in nine consecutive World League matches, an outright record for them.
- Lincoln Alexander Williams and Samuel Walker both scored at least once from a spike, a block and an ace versus China.



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

### Pool H2: Egypt - Finland (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- Egypt and Finland have met five times before at a major competition, with all five encounters taking place in the World League.
- Finland have won three of those five, including the most recent one, a 3-0 triumph in Cairo last season.
- Egypt's last World League victory over Finland dates back to 8 July 2010, when the home side triumphed 3-0 in Cairo.

#### Egypt

- Egypt have won one and lost seven matches in the 2017 World League.
- After losing the first three matches of the campaign in straight sets, Egypt have won seven sets in their following five encounters.
- Ahmed Abdelhay (13 points) was the only player reaching double figures for Egypt against Portugal.

#### Finland

- Finland suffered a third successive World League defeat on Saturday, in straight sets against Slovenia. For the first time since June 2015, they could lose four in a row.
- Their straight-sets defeat against Slovenia ended a 15-match streak of World League matches with at least one set won by Finland. Their previous 3-0 defeat came against Japan in the 2016 season opener.
- Finland have won two and lost six World League matches in Group 2 this season.
- Eight different players contributed with at least one point in Finland's 66-point effort against Slovenia on Saturday, Urpo Sivula came closest to double figures with nine points.



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

### Pool H2: Slovenia - Portugal (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- These sides have never before met at a major competition.
- Slovenia have won their last six World League matches against European sides since the 3-1 defeat against Greece on 26 June 2016.

#### Slovenia

- After their 3-0 win against Finland on Saturday, Slovenia now have back-to-back straight-set successes in the tournament. They can claim three straight-set World League wins in a row for the first time ever.
- Slovenia now have 14 World League wins and only two defeats in the competition.
- In the 2017 World League, Slovenia have seven wins and one defeat, exactly the same as they had in their entire 2016 campaign.
- Alen Sket outscored Slovenia's tournament top scorer Tine Urnaut (126 total points) by 15 to 13 points against Finland.

#### Portugal

- Against Egypt on Saturday, Portugal booked their third win in the 2017 World League, They lost five matches.
- With their win against Egypt, Portugal rebounded off their defeat against that same team last weekend. That is still Egypt's only win in the World League in 2017.
- Portugal have won their last two World League matches. They can now equal their team record of three wins in a row, set on two occasions, in June 2005 and in June 2014.
- Valdir Sequeira, on Friday good for six aces against Finland, led his team in scoring against Egypt with 23 points. Portugal scored 12 serve winners as a team on Saturday.



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

### Pool I2: Korea - Slovakia (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- This is the first meeting between these teams in a major competition.
- Slovakia have won four of their last five World League encounters with opponents representing Asia, including both of their fixtures in 2017 (3-0 v Japan, 3-1 v China).

#### Korea

- Korea have won four and lost four in the 2017 World League.
- For the first time since 1995 (6 wins), Korea could win more than four matches in a single World League season.
- Korea have won the first set in three of their eight matches this season. All three eventually ended in Korean victories.
- Hong-Suk Choi steered his team to victory against Czech Republic with 17 points scored (15 spikes, 2 aces).

#### Slovakia

- Slovakia suffered four defeats in their last five World League encounters, all in straight sets. They beat China 3-1 last Sunday.
- Slovakia are now in danger of losing three consecutive matches in straight sets for the first time in the World League.
- Slovakia's record in the 2017 World League is now four wins and four defeats.
- For the first time this year, Slovakia could lose three World League matches in a row. This also happened to them once in each of their past three World League seasons, in 2014, 2015 and 2016.



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

### Pool I2: Netherlands - Czech Republic (18 Jun)

#### Head-to-Head

- Since the start of 2014, Netherlands have won seven of their last eight encounters with Czech Republic in the World League and 2015 European Championship.
- The Dutch have won six of their seven World League encounters, their only defeat in that span coming in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 23 June 2016.
- They also met last weekend, with visiting Netherlands cruising to a straight sets victory in Ceske Budejovice.

#### Netherlands

- Netherlands have fared well in front of a home crowd in The Hague, beating both Korea (on Friday) and Slovakia (on Saturday) in straight sets.
- This earned them qualification for the Group 2 Final Round in Gold Coast next weekend.
- For the first time since June 2010, Netherlands have avoided dropping a set in back-to-back World League matches. Back then, they managed this in three straight matches.
- Netherlands have now won five straight World League matches for the first time since 2001.

#### Czech Republic

- After their 3-0 defeat against Korea, Czech Republic's record in the 2017 World League is four wins and four defeats.
- The last four matches involving Czech Republic ended in straight sets. Two of those ended in Czech wins, two in wins for the opposition.
- Last season, Czech Republic won five and lost four World League matches.