



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

Pool A3: Spain - Qatar (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- Spain and Qatar will meet for the first time at a major competition.
- Spain have a W11-L7 record against Asians teams in the World League, losing against Chinese Taipei in winning against Kazakhstan in last year's edition.

Spain

- Spain have won their World League opening match for the third consecutive season. In 2015 and 2016 they also won their second match of the campaign.
- Spain could win back-to-back World League matches in straight sets for the first time since 2015, when they beat Venezuela and Kazakhstan.
- The last time Spain were hosts in the World League, in 2008, they won their first three matches.
- Andres Villena scored 17 points against Mexico, at least twice the amount of any of his teammates.

Qatar

- Qatar opened their 2017 World League campaign with a 3-0 win over Greece.
- It marked their third win in a row in the competition, all in straight sets. The last time they lost a set was in their 3-0 defeat against Slovenia last year.
- Bojan Djukic scored 14 points against Greece, at least five more than any of his teammates. Four of those points came from blocks.



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Pool A3: Greece - Mexico (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- Greece and Mexico have met twice before in the World League, in 2015, when Greece won 3-2 and 3-0.
- Against no other opponents have Greece played more World League matches without ever losing (also two victories and no losses against Chinese Taipei, Puerto Rico and Slovakia).

Greece

- Greece have lost their World League opener for the first time since 2004 by losing to Qatar in straight sets.
- Greece have not lost back-to-back World League matches since losing their last three of their campaign in 2005.
- Rafail Koumentakis was Greece's leading scorer in their match against Qatar with 14 points, at least six more than any of his teammates.

Mexico

- Mexico failed to win their opening match at the 2017 World League, losing in straight sets to Spain.
- The straight set defeat against Spain marked the first time in nine World League matches Mexico failed to win a single set, since a 3-0 defeat against Greece.
- Mexico are hoping to win their first World League match away from home. Their three wins in the competition all came in front of a home crowd in Mexico City.
- Daniel Vargas (12) and Jorge Barajas (11) both reached double figures in scoring against Spain.



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Pool B3: Estonia - Tunisia (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have never met in a major competition.
- Tunisia have lost eight of their nine World League matches against European opponents, only winning against Montenegro in 2016.

Estonia

- On their World League debut, Estonia edged Chinese Taipei for the win in five sets. Both World League debutants have won their opener, albeit Austria did it without playing.
- Estonia had four players scoring double-digit points against Chinese Taipei: Andrus Raadik (19), Kristo Kollo (15), Renee Teppan (12) and Andri Aganits (12).
- Especially the block was very effective for Estonia, who outscored Chinese Taipei 13 to 4 in this department.

Tunisia

- Tunisia lost their World League opener against Montenegro: 3-2. This was Tunisia's first defeat in a five-set match in the World League,
- This defeat broke a run of three wins for Tunisia, their longest ever streak in the competition and the first time they managed to win consecutive matches.
- Two of Tunisia's last three World League matches have gone to a fifth set (W1-L1). Of their previous 16 encounters, only one went the distance (W1).
- After 19 World League matches (W5-D14), Tunisia are still in search of a first straight set victory.
- Tunisia are one shy of 50 sets lost in the World League. They have won 23 and lost 49 thus far.





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Pool B3: Chinese Taipei - Montenegro (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have never met in a major competition.
- Montenegro have won their only previous World League encounter with Asian opponents as they beat China 3-1 in the 2015 group 3 semifinals.
- Chinese Taipei have lost their last three World League matches against CEV sides since their 3-1 win over Germany last season.

Chinese Taipei

- Chinese Taipei opened their 2017 World League with a 3-2 defeat against debutants Estonia.
- They have now lost three World League matches in a row, their longest losing streak in the competition.
- This streak comes immediately after registering three victories on the trot, their longest winning run in the tournament.
- Chien-Chen Chen was their most prolific scorer against Estonia with 17 points (14 spikes, 3 blocks).

Montenegro

- In front of a home crowd in Bijelo Polje, Montenegro won their opener against Tunisia: 3-2.
- Of their first 15 World League matches, Montenegro have won 11. Their winning percentage is 73.3%. Of all teams with at least 10 matches played, only Brazil have a higher winning rate: 77.1% (433 matches, 334 wins, 99 defeats).
- Seven of Montenegro's last 10 World League matches have gone to a fifth set and none of those 10 ended in straight sets.
- All of the losses Montenegro suffered in the World League (4) were sealed in a fifth set.



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Pool C3: Austria - Germany (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first encounter at a major competition between Austria and Germany since the German reunification in 1990.
- Austria have met German opposition twice at the World Championships: most recently, they ran into East Germany at the 1962 World Championship. The Germans won in straight sets. They also met at the 1956 World Championship, when the Austrians also lost 3-0 to East Germany.
- Besides those encounters, they also met six times at European Championships, with East or West Germany winning five times and one win for Austria, over West Germany in 1958 (3-1).

Austria

- Austria claimed an awarded 3-0 win against Venezuela on Friday in what should have been their debut match in the competition.
- With that administrative win in the bag, the Austrians will make their playing debut in the World League.
- They are one of two debutants in this season's competition, alongside Estonia, who won their opener 3-2 against Chinese Taipei.

Germany

- Germany beat Kazakhstan by a 3-0 scoreline in their opener. They conceded only 55 points.
- On the day Austria will play their first World League match, Germany will play their 150th match in the competition.
- Germany have now won four of their last six World League matches.
- For the first time since 2012, when they did it three times, Germany could win back-to-back matches in straight sets within a single campaign.
- Simon Hirsch led his team in scoring with 19 points against Kazakhstan (12 spikes, 4 blocks, 3 serves).





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Pool C3: Kazakhstan - Venezuela (03 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met three times this century, of which two encounters came in the World League.
- In the 2015 World League, they split victories in two pool matches. Both these matches were decided in five sets.
- Their other encounter came in qualifying for the 2004 Olympic Games in May 2004, with Venezuela winning in straight sets. Both sides failed to qualify for Athens.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan lost their opener in straight sets. This was their fifth consecutive loss in the competition, of which four came in straight sets.
- This is only one shy of their longest losing streak in the competition, six matches between 2015 and 2016.
- Last year, Kazakhstan lost their opener 3-0 against Greece, before countering with a straight set win over Chinese Taipei in match two.
- The other of Kazakhstan's two victories thus far in the World League came in their debut match: 3-2 against Venezuela in 2015.

Venezuela

- Venezuela suffered an administrative 3-0 defeat against Austria on Friday.
- Venezuela can now lose for the second time in 2017, which would equal already their number of defeats from last season (W4-L2).
- Venezuela are one set shy of 100 sets won in World League play.