



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

Pool A3: Spain - Greece (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- Spain and Greece have met five times in the World League, once in 2003 and four times in 2004.
- Spain won the first match and the last encounter (both times 3-1), while Greece won the other three ties (3-1, 3-0, 3-2).
- They most recently met at a major tournament in 2009 when Greece won 3-0 in the first group stage at the European Championship.

Spain

- Spain have started the 2017 World League with wins against Mexico (3-0) and Qatar (3-1).
- For the first time since 2014-2015 (6 consecutive), Spain could win three World League matches in a row. That run included their first three matches of the 2015 season.
- In the last five World League matches involving Spain, the winner of the first set also won the match.
- Sergio Noda Blanco was Spain's top scorer against Qatar with 19 points, two more than the most prolific Spanish player on Friday, Andrés Villena (17), who scored 17 points again on Saturday.

Greece

- Greece have started their 2017 World League season with back-to-back defeats, 3-0 against Qatar on Friday and 3-1 against Mexico on Saturday.
- For the first time since 2004, Greece have started a World League campaign with successive defeats.
- The last time Greece lost their first three fixtures at the World League was in 1998.
- In the competition, they have not lost three in a row since June 2005.



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

Pool A3: Qatar - Mexico (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first match between Qatar and Mexico at a major competition.
- At the 2016 World League Qatar beat NORCECA side Puerto Rico 3-0.
- Mexico most recently faced Asian opposition at the 2015 World League, losing both of their matches against China.

Qatar

- After beating Greece in straight sets on Friday, Qatar had to give way to Spain on Saturday (3-1 defeat).
- This defeat ended a three-match winning streak in the World League, their longest run thus far in the competition.
- Qatar's balance in the World League is now even with four wins and four defeats.
- Renan Ribeiro was Qatar's top scorer against Spain with 12 points, a feat Bojan Djukic (14 points) achieved against Greece on Friday.

Mexico

- A 3-1 victory over Greece on Saturday vindicated Mexico's 3-0 loss against Spain on Friday.
- Mexico's only winning streak in the World League were the first two matches they ever played in the competition, victories over Tunisia and Turkey in June 2014.
- Following those two back-to-back victories, Mexico have won only two of their next 18 outings in the competition with both wins coming over European sides (Germany, Greece).
- Daniel Vargas (12, 20) and Jorge Barajas (11, 19) were the leading scorers for Mexico in both fixtures.



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

Pool B3: Montenegro - Estonia (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have never met in a major competition.

Montenegro

- In front of a home crowd, Montenegro followed up Friday's 3-2 victory against Tunisia with a 3-1 win against Chinese Taipei a day later.
- Montenegro have now won 12 of their 16 World League matches. Their winning rate of 75% in the competition is only topped by Brazil with 77% (minimum 10 matches played).
- Montenegro have won at least two sets in all 16 World League matches they played.
- In their last 11 World League matches involving Montenegro, both Montenegro and their opponents claimed at least one set. The last straight set result was a win against Tunisia on 19 June 2015.

Estonia

- Estonia started their debut season in the World League with a 3-2 victory against Chinese Taipei on Friday, before losing 3-1 against Tunisia on Saturday.
- On Friday, Andrus Raadik led four Estonian players that had double figures in scoring. Raadik himself contributed 19 points.
- Raadik added another 13 on Saturday, second only to teammate Renee Teppan, who paced Estonia against Tunisia with 17 points.



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

Pool B3: Tunisia - Chinese Taipei (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have never met in a major competition.

Tunisia

- Tunisia triumphed 3-1 over Estonia on Saturday, after losing 3-2 to Montenegro on Friday.
- This put Tunisia back on their winning track in the World League. They have now won four of their last five in the competition.
- None of Tunisia's last six World League matches have been won in straight sets, neither by Tunisia nor by their opponents.

Chinese Taipei

- Against Montenegro on Saturday (3-1), Chinese Taipei suffered a fourth straight World League defeat, their longest streak in the competition.
- This losing streak comes immediately after their longest ever winning run in the competition, comprising three matches.
- Chinese Taipei's first match in this year's campaign ended in a 3-2 defeat against debutants Estonia.
- Despite losing against Montenegro, Chinese Taipei delivered the top scorer in that match: Chien-Feng Huang registered 22 points.



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

Pool C3: Austria - Kazakhstan (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- Austria and Kazakhstan have never met in a major competition.

Austria

- After getting a regulatory 3-0 win over Venezuela, Austria made their playing debut in the World League on Saturday.
- Austria won the first set in that match, but failed to add, resulting in a 3-1 win for neighbours Germany.
- Paul Buchegger was the outright top scorer in that match against Germany with 22 points.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan have started their 2017 World League campaign with back-to-back defeats, 3-0 against Germany on Friday and 3-1 against Venezuela on Saturday.
- They have won only two of their 14 matches in the competition and Saturday's opponents Venezuela were one of their two victims (3-2 in 2015).
- Kazakhstan have now lost six in a row in the World League following a 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei in June of last year.



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

Pool C3: Germany - Venezuela (04 June)

Head-to-Head

- Venezuela have met German opposition once in a major competition.
- At the 1974 World Championship, East Germany defeated Venezuela in straight sets.

Germany

- Germany have taken full points in their first two World League matches, beating Kazakhstan 3-0 on Friday and Austria 3-1 a day later.
- Germany have now won four of their last five and five of their last seven in the competition.
- For the first time since 2013, Germany could win three straight matches within a single World League campaign. Back then, they beat Cuba (twice) and Serbia consecutively.
- They have never started a World League season with three victories.
- Simon Hirsch was Germany's top scorer on Friday with 19 points, Ruben Schott succeeded him with 17 points against Austria on Saturday.

Venezuela

- On Saturday, Venezuela defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 to make amends for the match they forfeited 3-0 against Austria on Friday.
- Venezuela have won six of their last nine in the World League. Before their current run, they had collected only five victories in a series of 37 matches in the competition.
- Venezuela are looking to make this their third successive World League weekend in which they bow out with two victories and one defeat.