



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 5 – JULY 13-17, 2016

Group 1 Final: Serbia - Brazil (17 July)

Head-to-Head

- Serbia and Brazil will meet in the World League final for the fourth time.
- Brazil won all three previous finals between these teams: 3-2 in 2003, 3-1 in 2005 and 3-2 in 2009.
- These teams previously met this season on 23 June when Serbia beat Brazil 3-1. Serbia have never beaten Brazil in consecutive World League matches.
- In their previous meeting this season both team's top scorers managed 18 points: Ricardo Lucarelli Santos De Souza for Brazil and Srecko Lisinac for Serbia.
- In total this will be the 24th World League match between these teams. Brazil have won 18, Serbia five.

Serbia

- Serbia can win the World League for the first time in team history.
- They have won eight medals in the World League - one as Yugoslavia (B1), three as Serbia and Montenegro (S2-B1) and four as Serbia (S3-B1) - but never managed to win the competition.
- Serbia have claimed a joint-record five silver medals in the competition, alongside Brazil, Russia and Cuba. They can now set an outright record of six silver medals.
- No team has won as many World League medals as Serbia without ever winning the competition.
- Last year Serbia lost the final against France in straight sets after beating United States in the semifinals (3-2).
- This year they beat Italy 3-2 to reach the final of the World League. Uros Kovacevic became Serbia's top scorer in that match with 20 points.

Brazil

- Brazil can become the first team to win the World League 10 times.
- Their current nine gold medals are already a competition record. Italy follow with eight gold medals.
- Brazil can win the competition for the first time since 2010. They lost the 2011 and 2013 final to Russia and the 2014 final to United States. Last year they finished in fifth place.
- Brazil's last World League win dates back to 2010, when they beat Russia 3-1 in the final.
- Brazil have claimed a joint-record five silver medals in the competition, alongside Serbia, Russia and Cuba. They can now set an outright record of six silver medals.
- Brazil beat last year's champions France 3-1 in the semifinal, with the fourth set finishing 33-31. Wallace De Souza scored a match-high 29 points.



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Group 1 Third-place final: Italy - France (17 July)

Head-to-Head

- Italy and France will go head-to-head for the 40th time at the World League. Italy won 24 of the previous matches, France 15.
- France won their last four World League meetings with Italy. They last lost to the Italians in 2012, 3-1 in the Intercontinental Rounds.
- Earlier this season, on 17 June, France beat Italy in straight sets. Kevin Tillie and Nicolas Marechal scored a match-high 13 points for France, while Ivan Zaytsev scored a team-high 12 points for Italy.
- Italy have only won more World League matches against China (30) and Cuba (26) than versus France (24). France's 24 losses to Italy are a team record in the competition against a specific opponent.

Italy

- Italy lost their semifinal 3-2 to Serbia on Saturday.
- Since their last gold medal in 2000 the Italians have claimed two silver and three bronze medals.
- Italy claimed the bronze medal at two of the last three World League seasons (2013 and 2014). In 2015 they finished fifth.
- They have won their last three matches for the bronze medal, beating Czech Republic in 2003 (3-1), Bulgaria in 2013 (3-2) and Iran in 2014 (3-0).
- They last lost the bronze medal match in 2002, when they were beaten 3-1 by Serbia (then competing as Serbia and Montenegro).
- Only Brazil (18, G9-S5-B4) have won more total medals at the World League than Italy (15, G8-S3-B4). Brazil are already sure of a 19th medal as they have reached the final.
- Ivan Zaytsev finished as their top scorer in their semifinal against Serbia, scoring 21 points.

France

- France failed to defend their World League title as they were beaten 3-1 in the semifinal by Brazil on Saturday.
- They have a chance to complete their World League medal set as they previously won the tournament in 2015 and claimed the silver medal in 2006 when they lost the final to Brazil.
- This will be the first time France play in the bronze medal match.
- France can equal Netherlands (G1-S1-B1) on three World League medals.
- Antonin Rouzier scored a team-high 27 points in France's semifinal against Brazil.