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VOLLEYBALL
MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
POLAND 2014

STATISTICAL PREVIEWS
DAY 17 – SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Final 5-6: Iran - Russia (September 20)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first ever World Championship meeting between Iran and Russia.
- These teams recently met in the final round of the 2014 World League, when Russia beat Iran 3-2.

Iran

- Iran are set to better their best ever World Championship result by at least 13 places. They finished in 19th place in 1998 and 2010 and are sure of at least a sixth place finish this year.
- It will also be the best result by an AVC team since Japan finished in fourth place at the 1982 World Championship.
- Iran will end their 2014 World Championship campaign with at least seven wins. That is already more than the five wins they claimed in all of their four previous participations combined.

Russia

- Russia will finish without a medal for the third time in a row, after finishing fifth in 2010 and seventh in 2006.
- It is the first time in team history that Russia finished three consecutive World Championships empty handed (including their participations as Soviet Union). In 1994 and 1998 they finished seventh and fifth respectively, before taking the silver medal in 2002.
- They can equal a team record of four consecutive losses, set previously in 1970.



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Semifinal: France - Brazil (September 20)

Head-to-Head

- France and Brazil will go head-to-head for the eighth time at the World Championship. Brazil won each of their first six meetings, but France claimed victory in their most recent match in 2006 (3-1).
- No match between these teams has ever gone beyond four sets. Four ended in straight set wins.
- Their most recent match-up at a major tournament was at the 2013 World League, when both teams won one of two meetings.

France

- France are making only their second semifinal appearance at the World Championship, after losing 3-2 to Russia in 2002. They eventually beat Yugoslavia in the bronze medal match to claim their only World Championship medal so far.
- Their only two losses at the 2014 tournament so far have come against Italy (3-2) and Poland (3-2).
- France need one more win to reach 10 victories at the 2014 World Championship. Their current nine wins are already a record for the team at a single edition, beating their previous best of eight in 2006.
- France have played 138 World Championship matches, winning just one set more than they have lost (254 against 253).

Brazil

- Brazil have previously reached the World Championship final four times, including the last three (2002-2006-2010) which they all went on to win. In 1982, they lost the final to Soviet Union.
- They are looking to become the first nation to win four consecutive World Championship titles.
- The only other country to win three World Championship titles in a row is Italy (1990, 1994 and 1998), who were then dethroned by Brazil.
- This will be Brazil's eighth semifinal, winning in 1982, 2002, 2006 and 2010 and losing in 1986, 1990 and 1998. No other team has played in the semifinals more than five times (Italy, Cuba and Russia).
- Brazil have won 14 of their last 15 matches, with their only loss coming against Poland (3-2) in this year's third round on 16 September.



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Semifinal: Germany - Poland (September 20)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met six times before at the World Championship. Poland won the last three encounters in 1974 (twice against East Germany) and in 2010.
- Of the three meetings before, Poland won one (1962) and East Germany two (1966, 1970).
- Their most recent meeting at a major tournament was at the 2011 European championship, when Poland beat Germany 3-1 in the group stage.

Germany

- Germany will finish in the top four for the first time since 1974 (East Germany), when they finished fourth.
- They have won the tournament once, in 1970, when competing as East Germany.
- Their best result as unified Germany came at the 2010 World Championship, eighth.
- Germany's last five results have alternated (W-L-W-L-W).
- At the 2014 World Championship, they have won two (vs Finland and Bulgaria) and lost two (vs Russia and France) matches against European teams.

Poland

- Poland are aiming to win their third medal at the World Championship. They won the tournament in 1974 and took the silver medal in 2006.
- They won their only previous semifinal, beating Bulgaria 3-1 in 2006.
- Poland have lost just one match at the 2014 World Championship, 3-1 against United States on 10 September.
- The only other team to have lost only one match at this tournament is Brazil.