



FIVB
VOLLEYBALL
MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
POLAND 2014

STATISTICAL PREVIEWS
DAY 8 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

Pool A: Argentina - Australia (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- These sides have met once before at the World Championships. Argentina won 3-1 in 2002.
- They also met at the 2007 World Cup, where Argentina triumphed by the same score.
- Their most recent competitive meeting came at the 2012 Olympic Games. Argentina took that preliminary round match in straight sets.

Argentina

- Argentina won their last match in straight sets, beating Cameroon 3-0.
- Argentina have not won back-to-back World Championship matches in straight sets since 1990.
- Argentina have won four of their last five World Championship matches.

Australia

- After starting out with a victory over Cameroon, Australia lost their next two matches at the 2014 World Championship.
- Australia have lost 13 of their last 14 matches at World Championships.
- In 10 of their last 13 defeats in the competition, Australia managed to win precisely one set.



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Pool A: Venezuela - Serbia (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- This is the first match between these teams at the World Championship.
- They did meet four times in the 2008 World League with Venezuela winning their first ever encounter 3-1.
- Serbia won the next three, outscoring Venezuela 9-1 in sets.

Venezuela

- Venezuela have started this World Championship with a defeat, a win and another defeat.
- Venezuela have lost five of their last six matches at World Championships. All of those five losses were straight set defeats.
- None of Venezuela's last 22 matches at World Championships have gone to five sets.

Serbia

- After losing the opening match of this tournament, Serbia have responded by recording back-to-back victories, against Argentina and Australia.
- In each of their last five World Championship victories, Serbia needed four sets to finish off their opponents.
- Only one of Serbia's last 15 matches at World Championships was won in straight sets by the Serbs.



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Pool A: Cameroon - Poland (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- This is the first meeting between these teams at the World Championship.
- For Cameroon, this is the first meeting at the World Championship with the host nation.
- Poland have met African opposition in three previous world cup matches. The Poles won all three without conceding a single set.

Cameroon

- Cameroon have not yet picked up a single point at the 2014 World Championship. They suffered defeat against Australia, Venezuela and Argentina.
- Cameroon have lost their last five matches at World Championships.
- Cameroon have won only one of the 10 sets they have played at this tournament.

Poland

- Hosts Poland have maintained a perfect record through three matches in this tournament.
- Poland have yet to drop a set at the 2014 World Championship.
- In 2006, Poland started their World Championship campaign with seven successive straight sets victories.



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Pool B: Cuba - Tunisia (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met twice before at the World Championship (1970 and 2010), with Cuba winning both matches in straight sets.
- Cuba have won all eight world level matches they have played against Tunisia. This includes four meetings at the world cup and two in the World League.
- Earlier this year, they met twice in the World League. Cuba won by 3-1 (in Mexico) and 3-0 (in Tunisia) respectively.

Cuba

- Cuba started the tournament with two defeats. Their third match ended in a 3-1 victory over Korea Republic.
- Cuba have won all World Championship matches against African sides in straight sets. This includes two matches against Tunisia.
- Outside the World Championship, Cuba have never lost a set against African sides at world level.

Tunisia

- Tunisia have lost their last six World Championship matches and can lose seven in a row for the first time since 1974-1982, when they recorded 19 consecutive defeats.
- Their last win was against Puerto Rico in the second group stage in 2006.
- They can lose their 50th match in World Championship history. They have won 12.



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Pool B: Finland - Germany (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- Finland have met opposition from Germany in two previous World Championship matches. In the consolation round in 1962, they lost 3-0 to East Germany.
- In the consolation phase in 1966, Finland beat West Germany 3-2.
- They have also run into each other in several matches at the European Championship, most recently in 1993, when Germany won 3-2.

Finland

- Finland lost against Brazil after a five-match win streak. They can now lose two matches in a row for the first time since 1982.
- They can lose by a 3-0 scoreline two times in a row for the first time since a run of four defeats in 1966.

Germany

- Germany can win three matches in a row at the World Championship for the first time since 2006, when they won the first four matches of their campaign.
- They have not played a five sets match in their last 10 encounters at the World Championship. They had a run of 11 matches without any five-setter in 1994-2006.
- Germany have gifted 77 points from errors to their opponents in their three matches so far.



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Pool B: Korea Republic - Brazil (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met three times previously at the World Championship (1956, 1990 and 1998).
- Brazil won all of those encounters in straight sets.
- Their last encounter at a world level came in the 2010 World League. Brazil won. After losing their first ever match against Korea in the World League in 1992, Brazil reeled off 13 successive wins in that competition.
- Remarkably and for all of their futility against Brazil, Korea hold the upper hand over them at the Olympic Games (four wins and two defeats).

Korea Republic

- Korea Republic started this tournament with a win against Tunisia. After that there were back-to-back losses against Finland and Cuba.
- Korea Republic have now lost four of their last five World Championship encounters.
- Korea Republic have won only one World Championship match (out of six) against South American countries. In 1990, they defeated Venezuela (3-0).

Brazil

- Brazil can win five straight set matches in a row at the World Championship. They last achieved this in 2006.
- They can clinch their 70th straight sets win at the World Championship.
- Brazil have conceded only one set in their last six matches.



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Pool C: Bulgaria - Egypt (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the second meeting at the World Championship between these two teams. In 1986 Bulgaria defeated Egypt in straight sets.
- Bulgaria and Egypt were drawn in the same Pool at the 2006 World League. All four matches in the Intercontinental Round were won by Bulgaria in straight sets.
- Their most recent meeting at a great tournament came at the 2007 World Cup with Bulgaria beating Egypt 3-1. This was only the second set Egypt took against Bulgaria at a great tournament. Their first won set came back in 1958 at the European Championship.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria have won all four matches against African sides at the World Championship. This includes one encounter against Egypt.
- In their four matches against African countries at the World Championship, Bulgaria have lost just a single set. In 2002, Tunisia won the first set, but lost the match (3-1).
- Bulgaria can record their 50th straight set win at the World Championship.

Egypt

- Egypt can lose eight matches in a row at the World Championship for the first time. They also lost seven in a row in 1998-2006.
- Their last win came against Iran (3-0) in 2010.
- Egypt can suffer consecutive straight set defeats for the first time since 2002 (vs Venezuela and Brazil).



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Pool C: Mexico - Canada (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- Mexico have never played Canada at the World Championship.
- Mexico are on a four-match losing streak against fellow NORCECA sides at the World Championship, with their most recent two meetings at the 2010 edition (USA and CUB).
- Their last four meetings at the NORCECA Championship all ended in victory for Canada, with Mexico taking only three sets.

Mexico

- Mexico can lose six matches in a row at the World Championship for the first time since a team record nine in 1978-1982.
- They have won two sets in their last five matches.
- Their only win in their last nine World Championship matches came against a team from the Americas, Venezuela in 2010.

Canada

- Canada can win three matches in a row for the first time since 1978. They have played 51 matches in between that streak of three and their first win in 2014, against Bulgaria on 3 September.
- Canada can clinch two straight set wins in a row for the first time since 1978, against Tunisia and Belgium.
- Once before have Canada won three matches in a first round group phase, three wins in 2006.



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Pool C: China - Russia (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- Russia (including URS and CIS) won all four meetings with China at the World Championship. Their most recent World Championship meeting was in 1998 with Russia winning 3-1.
- In 33 meetings at World Cups, World Championships and World Leagues, China succeeded to win only once from Russia (including URS and CIS). At the 1995 World League China beat Russia in five sets.
- Their most recent meeting at a great tournament came at the 2011 World Cup. Russia defeated China in straight sets.

China

- China have started the tournament with two victories followed by a straight sets loss against Bulgaria.
- China's last match, the one against Bulgaria, was their 100th match at the World Championship. Their first match was back in 1956 when they defeated Brazil (3-1).
- China lost their third match at this World Championship. Only in 1982 China won at least their first three World Championship matches. They then built a five-match winning streak from the beginning of the tournament.

Russia

- Russia can win seven matches for the first time since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- The URS won 29 matches in a row from 1974 until 1986.
- Russia have dropped only one set in their last six matches, against Bulgaria in 2010.



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Pool D: United States - France (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- United States and France have met eight times at the World Championship. Their very first meeting in 1956 ended in a 3-1 victory for France.
- After France's victory in 1956, United States had a winning streak of five matches against France between 1960 and 1982.
- Their most recent meetings came in 2006 and 2010. In 2006 France grabbed their first World Championship win (3-2) over United States since 1956 before losing again in their 2010 meeting.
- In the World League these teams played 15 matches against each other (1990, 2007, 2012 and 2013). United States won on eight occasions, France won the other seven.

United States

- United States are now on a W-L-W-L-W-L-W record in their last seven matches at the World Championship.
- The last time they won two matches in a row was vs Cameroon and France in 2010.
- They have not won two matches in a row by a 3-0 score at the World Championship since 2002.

France

- France can win two matches in a row at a single World Championship for the first time since three in the first group phase in 2010.
- France have a 49% win percentage in all of their World Championship matches. A win vs USA would lift their percentage to 50%. USA have a winning percentage of 60%.
- Vaafuti Tavana plays for French team Toac-TUC in Toulouse.



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Pool D: Belgium - Iran (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- Belgium won their only World Championship meeting with Iran in straight sets in 1970.
- This is also their only meeting at a major tournament.
- Belgium's other win in their total of nine World Championship matches against Asian opposition came against China in 1974.
- After losing to France, Iran have won two of their 14 matches against European teams at World Championships, including their 3-1 win against Italy in 2014.

Belgium

- Belgium have won two of their last eight matches at the World Championship.
- Belgium have won two of their seven five-set matches at the World Championship.
- They have won one match in Poland. The last time they won fewer than two matches at a single World Championship was in 1962: zero wins in four matches.

Iran

- Iran can win three matches at a World Championship for the first time since four wins in 1970.
- After six days of competition, Seyed Mohammad Mousavi Eraghi led all players in Poland in stuff blocks: 17. The best Belgium player with most stuff blocks at that juncture was Sam Deroo on six.
- After six days of competition, Mir Saeid Marouflakrani's average of 11 setups per set was the highest at the 2014 World Championship.



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Pool D: Puerto Rico - Italy (September 6)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the third meeting between Italy and Puerto Rico at the World Championship. Four years ago both teams were drawn together in the second round pool phase with Italy winning 3-1.
- Their other World Championship meeting came in 1974: Italy won 3-0.
- Puerto Rico have lost all their 12 World Championship matches against European teams, including 3-0 defeats vs France and Belgium in Poland.
- Italy are unbeaten in their last 10 matches with NORCECA sides at the World Championship and lost only two in their last 20 encounters.

Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico can lose their first four matches in straight sets at the World Championship for the first time since their debut at the World Championship in 1974 (eight matches).
- They can suffer a seventh consecutive defeat at the World Championship, their longest losing streak since 10 in 1974.

Italy

- Italy can win three matches in a row after their opening match defeat against Iran.
- They had a streak of nine wins from 2006 until their semifinal loss against Brazil in 2014.
- They have won 3-2 and 3-1, which would suggest according they will beat Puerto Rico 3-0.
- After six days of competitions and having played three matches, Ivan Zaytsev has scored 62 points.
- Zaytsev had a total of 59 points in four matches in this year's World League Finals.