

**FIVB**  
  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
**MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**POLAND 2014**

**STATISTICAL PREVIEWS**  
**DAY 12 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2014**

**Pool E: Serbia - France (September 13)**

**Head-to-Head**

- France have won both matches against Serbia at the World Championships, in 1956 and in the bronze medal match in 2002, when France won their only medal at the World Championships.
- Serbia have won seven of their last nine encounters with France in major tournaments, including the last time they met, in the quarterfinals of the 2011 European Championship, when Serbia went on to win gold.

**Serbia**

- Serbia have lost their first and their latest match at these championships, winning five matches in between.
- They will reach 200 set wins at the World Championships if they win this match. This includes Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro and Yugoslavia.
- They have not lost two matches in a row since the 2010 first round.

**France**

- France can win six matches in a row for the first time. They also had a run of five wins in 1970.
- With six wins so far in Poland, France need two more to equal 2006 when they won a total of eight matches at a single World Championship. They had seven wins in 1970 and 2002.
- Antonin Rouzier is the 2014 top scorer having scored 139 points.



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## **Pool E: Argentina - Italy (September 13)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- Both teams can no longer progress to the next round.
- Italy have won two of their three World Championship matches against Argentina, in 1990 and in 2002 (5/6th place). They lost a group stage match against them, also in 2002.
- Italy have won 20 of their 26 matches in all major competitions, including the last three at the 2011 world cup, the 2012 Olympic Games and the 2013 World League.
- Argentina's last win came at the 2011 World League: 3-1.

### **Argentina**

- Argentina can lose four matches in a row for the first time since 1998.
- They can suffer back-to-back defeats in straight sets for the first time since three losses by a 3-0 scoreline in 1978.
- Argentina have a 44-43 win-loss record at the World Championships and are balanced in set wins-defeats: 165-165.
- Argentina coach Julio Velasco was coach of Italy from 1989 until 1996, winning two World Championship gold medals, in 1990 and 1994, five World League titles, one World Cup, three European Championships and a silver medal at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.

### **Italy**

- Triple gold medal winners Italy will finish outside the top six for the first time since 1986, when they were ranked 11th.
- They can lose five matches in a row for the first time since five in 1986.
- Italy have lost five matches so far in Poland. The last time they lost more matches at a single World Championship was in 1970: eight defeats.
- Italy (and China) can record their 60th defeat at the World Championships, equal to Japan and Venezuela. Only France have suffered more defeats, 66.



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## Pool E: Poland - Iran (September 13)

### Head-to-Head

- Poland defeated Iran in their only previous World Championship match in 1998.
- They also met in the 2014 World League with both sides claiming a 3-0 and 3-1 win.
- Iran won their only other encounter in a major competition 3-2, at the 2011 World Cup.

### Poland

- With six wins so far in 2014, Poland have already doubled their number of wins from 2010. The last time they had more than six wins at a single World Championship was in 2006 (10).
- Poland will complete their 'set of continents' as opponents at these championships by playing against Iran. They have already faced teams from Europe, Africa, North & South America and Oceania (note: this is not according to confederations, but by geographical continents.)
- The only teams to have played against all continents were Chile, Tunisia and Finland, all in 1982.

### Iran

- Iran have won four consecutive matches, already a team record.
- Their six wins in seven matches at the 2014 World Championships are more than the five wins in all 22 matches at previous editions.
- They have lost their previous two matches against World Championship hosts, 3-0 against Bulgaria in 1970 and 3-2 against Italy in 2010
- Seyed Eraghi leads all players in Poland on stuff blocks (40) and average per set (1.48).
- Mir Saeid Marouflakrani leads all players on 10.52 setups per set.
- Farhad Ghaemi leads all receivers with 55.68% efficiency.



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## **Pool E: Australia - United States (September 13)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- This will be the first match between Australia and United States at the World Championships.
- USA have won all three encounters at major competitions, most recently a 3-1 victory in their gold medal winning campaign in the 2014 World League.

### **Australia**

- Australia have won two matches so far at the 2014 World Championships. They had a total of two wins at the World Championships in all of their previous 23 matches.
- They can lose three matches in a row for the second time these World Championships after consecutive defeats against Poland, Serbia and Argentina.

### **United States**

- USA can win four consecutive matches at the World Championships for the first time since eight in 1998-2002.
- They have won their last three matches by a 3-1 scoreline. The last time they won four matches in a row by the same scoreline was in 1982, when they won four matches in a row in straight sets.
- Taylor Sander (129) and Matthew Anderson (123) only trail France's Antonin Rouzier as top scorers at the 2014 championships. Australia's Thomas Edgar has scored 122 points.



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## **Pool F: Brazil - Canada (September 13)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- Brazil and Canada have met twice before at the World Championship. Brazil won both encounters in straight sets (1994 and 1998).
- In their most recent match-up in 1998 in Japan, Canada only managed to win 18 points (15-6, 15-9, 15-3).
- Brazil have won nine of their last 10 matches against Canada in World Cup and World League.

### **Brazil**

- Brazil can equal their team record of 12 consecutive wins at the World Championship, previously set in 1956-1960 and 1994-1998. They did not win the title in any of these editions.
- They are still some way off from equalling the all-time championship record: 29 successive wins by the Soviet Union (1974-1986).
- Brazil's last loss came on 2 October 2010, 3-0 against Bulgaria in the second round.
- They have won 31 of their last 34 World Championships matches, only losing to France, Cuba and Bulgaria.

### **Canada**

- Whereas Brazil can equal their team record of successive wins, Canada have won six in a row and are already enjoying their best ever winning streak at the World Championship. Previous best: four in 1974.
- Their only loss at the 2014 World Championship so far was their opener, 3-0 against Russia.
- They have lost only four sets in the six matches after that defeat against Russia.



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## Pool F: Finland - China (September 13)

### Head-to-Head

- This will be the second match between Finland and China at the World Championship. Their previous encounter was in the first group stage in 1982 and ended in a 3-0 win for China.
- They also met four times in the 1993 World League with China winning all matches and losing only one set.
- Both Finland and China are unable to still qualify for the third round.

### Finland

- After winning their two opening matches of the 2014 World Championship, Finland have gone on to lose four of their last five.
- They suffered back-to-back straight set losses against Russia and Canada. They have not lost three consecutive matches in straight sets in 48 years, since losing four in a row by a 3-0 scoreline in 1966.
- Finland have won three of 12 World Championship matches against AVC-teams, including their most recent match-up with Korea Republic on 3 September (3-0).

### China

- China can equal a team record of six successive losses, set previously in 1956, 1986-1994 and 1998.
- They have failed to win a single set in their last five matches, losing 3-0 to Bulgaria, Russia, Canada, Germany and Brazil respectively.
- A defeat would mean China's 60<sup>th</sup> loss at the World Championship. Only France (66), Japan (60) and Venezuela (60) have already reached this mark. Italy are also on 59 losses.



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## **Pool F: Germany - Russia (September 13)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- Germany and Russia have played each other five times. Germany won once, Russia four times.
- All of Germany's losses against Russia were straight set defeats.
- It is only the second time these teams meet after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, after a 3-0 win for Russia in 1994. In 1966, 1970, 1974 and 1978 they faced each other as German Democratic Republic and Soviet Union.

### **Germany**

- Germany are on a six-match winning streak, their longest at the World Championship since competing as Germany (since 1994) and their longest since GDR won nine in a row in 1970.
- Only one of their last four losses was against a European team, 3-0 against Bulgaria in 2010.
- Germany have played all of their seven matches so far in Katowice and will play there again versus Russia. The only other team still in the tournament to have played all its matches in the same city is Brazil, also in Katowice. For opponents Russia, Katowice will be their third city after Gdansk and Wroclaw.

### **Russia**

- Russia have won their last 10 matches, their best ever winning streak since competing as Russia (1994). Their previous best was six wins in a row in 2002 and 2006.
- Their last loss came on 5 October 2010, a 3-1 defeat against Serbia.
- Russia's last five defeats at the World Championship (since 2006) have all come against European teams: Serbia (as SCG), Poland, Italy, Spain and Serbia.



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## **Pool F: Cuba - Bulgaria (September 13)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- This will be the seventh World Championship match between Cuba and Bulgaria. Cuba have won four matches, Bulgaria two.
- Since the start of the century, Cuba have won 11 of their 19 matches against Bulgaria in major competitions, including their last two matches; in the third round of the 2010 World Championship and the bronze medal match in the 2012 World League.
- Both these last two encounters were decided in the fifth set.

### **Cuba**

- Cuba have lost their last three matches and can no longer progress to the third round.
- Cuba have won two matches at this World Championship so far. Only in 2002 did they win fewer (1). In 1956 they also won just two.
- Cuba are one shy of winning their 250<sup>th</sup> set at the World Championships. They can become the eighth team to reach this mark.

### **Bulgaria**

- As well as opponents Cuba, Bulgaria are unable to qualify for the third round.
- They have lost their last three matches and can lose four in a row for the first time since 2002.
- Bulgaria have lost 230 sets and can go outright second on the list of teams with most sets lost at the World Championships. They are currently tied with Japan on 230. Only France have lost more sets, 247.