



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

**STATISTICAL PREVIEWS**  
**DAY 7 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2014**

**Pool B: Korea Republic - Cuba (September 5)**

**Head-to-Head**

- Korea Republic are winless in their five World Championship meetings. Three of those meetings had five sets (1956, 1978 and 1994).
- Cuba claimed their first World Championship medal (bronze) in 1978 by beating Korea Republic 3-1 in the final for third place.
- In 41 matches between Cuba and Korea Republic at World Championships, World Cups, World Leagues and Olympic Games combined, Korea Republic grabbed only one victory (2011 World League, 3-0). Cuba took 120 sets in all of these matches against the 21 of Korea Republic.

**Korea Republic**

- Korea have won only one of their last four World Championship matches (3-1 against Tunisia).
- Korea can win two of their first three matches for the first time since 1982.
- Korea have not won a World Championship match in straight sets since beating Egypt 3-0 in 1998. They have played 16 matches since.

**Cuba**

- Cuba can lose four successive World Championship matches for the first time since 2002-2006.
- Cuba can lose their opening three World Championship matches for the first time since their debut in 1956, when they lost their first six.
- Cuba have won their last nine World Championship matches against Asian teams, since losing against Korea DPR in 1970.



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## **Pool B: Germany - Tunisia (September 5)**

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

- Germany (as East Germany) played only one World Championship match against Tunisia. In 1970 Germany defeated Tunisia in straight sets.
- Their most recent meeting at a major tournament came at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Germany defeated Tunisia in the group phase in straight sets.
- Tunisia's only win at a major tournament was in 1958. At the 1958 European Championship Tunisia beat East Germany in straight sets.

### **Germany**

- Germany's last six World Championship matches finished 3-0. They won two of these matches and lost four.
- Germany can win two of their first three matches for the first time since 2006, when they won the first four matches of their World Championship campaign.
- Germany's only other World Championship match against an African side was a 3-0 victory against Guinea in 1970 (as East Germany).

### **Tunisia**

- Tunisia have lost their last five World Championship matches and can lose six 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.
- Tunisia are yet to win a match against a European side at the World Championships (22 matches).



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## **Pool B: Brazil - Finland (September 5)**

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

- Brazil are unbeaten in their three meetings with Finland at the World Championship, 3-0 in 1962 and 1966 and 3-1 in 1970.
- These teams met each other in the 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2012 World League. In these 16 World League matches, Finland had only one victory (2009), which came in five sets.
- Brazil have only had more victories at the World Championships against Germany without a defeat (6 matches, including four meetings with East Germany).

### **Brazil**

- Brazil have won their last six World Championship matches, losing only three sets in these matches combined.
- They can win their first three World Championship matches without losing a set for the first time since 1998.
- They have won 12 of their last 13 matches against European sides, only losing against Bulgaria in 2010.

### **Finland**

- Finland have won five successive World Championship matches for the first time in team history.
- Their last defeat was against Mexico in the 1982 second group stage. Only four squad members were born before that last defeat.
- Finland have won at least one set in each of their last seven World Championship matches. The last time they failed to win a set was against Italy in 1982.



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## Pool C: China - Bulgaria (September 5)

### Head-to-Head

- China and Bulgaria have met six times at the World Championship, with Bulgaria winning five meetings.
- China's only victory over Bulgaria came in five sets at the 1962 edition.
- Four years ago, Bulgaria beat China in straight sets in the first round.
- Bulgaria was also victorious in their only meeting at the Olympic Games: 3-1 in Beijing 2008 in the group stage.

### China

- China are on a two-match winning streak. They can win three in a row at the World Championship for the first time since 1978-1982 (5 matches).
- They are enjoying their best start to a World Championship campaign since 1998, when they also won their two opening matches. They went on to lose seven of their following eight matches that year.
- Zhi Yuan scored a total of 30 points in China's last match against Mexico, while already having scored 31 points in China's 2014 World Championship opener against Egypt. Fifty-three points came from spikes, eight from serves.
- This will be China's 100<sup>th</sup> match at the World Championship (45 wins, 54 defeats).

### Bulgaria

- Bulgaria have won (3-0 vs Mexico) and lost (3-2 vs Canada) one match so far.
- At the World Championship, they have not been able to follow-up on a single loss with a win since 1998. Since then, they always lost at least one following match after an initial loss.
- Bulgaria's last match was the aforementioned 3-2 defeat against Canada. They have not played back-to-back five-setters at the World Championship since 2002-2006. (3-2 loss vs Japan, 3-2 win vs Italy).



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## **Pool C: Canada - Egypt (September 5)**

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

- The only previous World Championship meeting between these teams came back in 1978 with Canada
- have won their last four World Championship meetings with African teams.
- Their last meeting in a major tournament was in the 2003 World Cup, when Canada beat Egypt 3-0.

### **Canada**

- Canada won their last match against Bulgaria (3-2) and can record back-to-back victories at the World Championship for the first time since 2006 (vs Kazakhstan and Korea).
- That 3-2 win against Bulgaria was only their first victory in a five-setter since a 3-2 win against Argentina in 2006, and only their third since the start of this century.
- Canada currently have a winning percentage at the World Championship of 37% (26 wins, 44 losses). Of all teams with at least 10 appearances, only Venezuela have a worse winning record (24%).

### **Egypt**

- Egypt can equal their record losing streak at the World Championship. They are currently on six consecutive defeats. From 1998-2006, they lost seven matches in a row.
- They can lose back-to-back matches in straight sets for the first time since 2002 (vs Venezuela and Brazil).
- In their last six World Championship matches, they managed to win only four sets.



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## Pool C: Russia - Mexico (September 5)

### Head-to-Head

- This will be the first World Championship meeting between Russia and Mexico.
- Russia (as Soviet Union) won their three meetings with Mexico at major tournaments. They won in straight sets at the 1977 and 1991 World Cup and needed four sets at the 1968 Olympic Games.
- Russia have lost only two of their 20 World Championship matches against North American sides. In 1986, Soviet Union were defeated by United States in the final and in 1990 Soviet Union fell short against Cuba in the semifinal.

### Russia

- Russia have won each of their last five World Championship matches, of which the last three in straight sets. They can record four consecutive straight set victories for the first time since six in 2006.
- Their last match against Egypt was their 50<sup>th</sup> match while competing as Russia. They have also played 114 matches while competing as Soviet Union.
- No player has scored more than 20 points for Russia in a match so far. Against Canada Dmitriy Muserskiy was the team's top scorer with 18 points, while against Egypt Dmitriy Ilinykh amassed a total of 13 points.

### Mexico

- Mexico are on a four-match losing streak, their second-longest at the World Championship after a team record streak of nine from 1978-1982.
- They can lose their first three matches at a World Championship for the first time in team history.
- Mexico's last win against a team from Europe came 32 years ago, as they beat Finland 3-2 on 10 October 1982.