

Third round teams confirmed on final day of FIVB Men's World Championship second round

Milan, Italy, October 2, 2010 – Two-time defending champions Brazil have been grouped with the Czech Republic and Germany in the FIVB Men's World Championship Italy 2010 third round Pool R after suffering a 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-25) defeat to Bulgaria in Ancona on Saturday. Bulgaria, the bronze medalists from 2006, broke a five-game losing streak against Brazil to beat the world No. 1 and seal top spot in the group, with Brazil, who had already confirmed their spot in the next phase, finishing second. Other teams to advance to the third round include Italy, Spain, Russia, Serbia, Cuba, Argentina, France and USA.

The second round consisted of six pools of three teams, with the top two in each pool advancing to the third round, which takes place from Oct 4-6, followed by the semifinals from Oct 8-9 and the finals from Oct 9-10.

Pool I in Catania

Spain beat Egypt 3-1 (25-20, 28-30, 25-16, 25-19)

Spain claimed the top spot in Pool I ahead of Russia advancing to the third round at the 2010 Men's FIVB World Championship following a convincing win over Egypt, their fourth in as many matches against the African champions. Scoring heavyweights Ahmed Abdelhay (EGY) and Iban Perez (ESP) top scored with 23 and 22 points respectively. "I think that today we played like in the whole tournament and from now on we will try to win as many matches as possible," Spain captain Julian Garcia Torres said. "We have to continue with our mentality of winning every game or at least make the opponent to work harder for the win."

Pool G in Catania

Italy beat Puerto Rico 3-1 (25-22, 25-16, 18-25, 25-21)

More than 5,000 watched Italy defeat Puerto Rico at the PalaCatania to win Pool G and qualify for the third round. Germany also advanced to the next phase having finished second in the group with a win and a loss while winless Puerto Rico's third ever World Championships is over. Italy's Alessandro Fei charted 20 points to lead the scorers while captain Hector Soto topped the scorers for Puerto Rico with 18. "We had a good start but then we lost our focus and our play was unbalanced," Italy captain Valerio Vermiglio said. "I think we need to concentrate better in the upcoming matches but we are happy about going to Rome."

Pool M in Milan

Argentina beat Japan 3-1 (25-22, 16-25, 25-14, 25-19)

Milan said farewell to the FIVB Men's World Championship as Argentina beat Japan in the last second round Pool M match on Saturday to go straight into the third round Pool P with Serbia and Russia. Japan and especially match top-scorer with 20 points Kunihiro Shimizu displayed impressive willpower but sadly, to no avail as they exit in the tournament having finished third in the group with two defeats. Japan's defeat left the door open to France to finish second in the group and consequently advance to the third round Pool O together with Italy and USA. Argentina's top scorer was Facundo Conte with 19 points. "I am so happy to have maintained first place," Argentina captain Rodrigo Quiroga said. "It's been our goal since the first round. We're now looking ahead where we will face two tough matches."

Pool H in Milan

Serbia beat Mexico 3-0 (25-23, 25-18, 25-19)

As expected Serbia beat Mexico in straight sets in the first ever match in an FIVB competition between the two nations to finish top of Pool H and leave Cuba second in the pool, subsequently confirming both teams a place in the third round. The defeat left Mexico at the bottom of the group but with smiles on their faces as they reflected on a wonderful journey through the FIVB Men's World Championship Italy 2010. Serbia, ranked 4th in the world, will now travel to Florence for the third round where they will face the winner of Pool M and the second-placed team in Pool I. Serbia's super scorer Ivan Miljkovic top scored with 19 points. "We're thrilled to have got through to the third round," Serbia coach Igor Kolakovic said. "You never know what the outcome of a match will be, even though it looked like an easy tie in theory."

Pool N in Ancona

Bulgaria beat Brazil 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-20)

After beating Poland for the first time five games on Friday, Bulgaria did the same against Brazil on Saturday in front of 6,050 fans at the PalaRossini to finish top of Pool N ahead of Brazil and Poland in third. Bulgaria and Brazil had already secured a third round spot so the final match in the pool simply determined which pool the two powerhouse teams would play in in the third round. Bulgaria was led in scoring by Tsvetan Sokolov's 15 points on 13 spikes and two aces while Brazil captain Giba recorded a team-high eight points. "We are happy because we won against Brazil," Bulgaria captain Vladimir Nikolov said. "We want to win all the games."

Pool L in Ancona

Czech Republic beat Cameroon 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 25-17)

The Czech Republic continued their spectacular play in the 2010 FIVB Men's World Championship while shattering the dreams of Cameroon with a straight sets victory to conclude the second round Pool L Saturday evening in front of 5,100 spectators at the Palarossini. The Czechs finished 2-0 in Pool L and 4-1 overall in the World Championship. Cameroon ended Pool L with a 0-2 record, but gained a newfound respect among the international Volleyball community. Cameroon leaves a fantastic memory, touching the heart as they greeted their cheering fans, dancing even after they had been served a hard defeat. The United States will also advance to the third round with a 1-1 Pool L record. Cameroon captain Jean Patrice Ndaki Mboulet tallied a match-high 22 points with 19 spikes, two aces and a block to top the tournament's scoring charts. "We have waited 20 years to play against the 12 best teams in the world and we're happy to be in this place," Czech coach Jan Svoboda said.

Standings

Pool G (Catania): **Italy 4, Germany 3**, Puerto Rico 2

Pool I (Catania): **Spain 4, Russia 3**, Egypt 2

Pool H (Milan): **Serbia 4, Cuba 3**, Mexico 2

Pool M (Milan): **Argentina 4, France 3**, Japan 2

Pool L (Ancona): **Czech Republic 4, USA 3**, Cameroon 2

Pool N (Ancona): **Bulgaria 4, Brazil 3**, Poland 2

Teams in bold qualified for third round

Third Round Pools

Pool O (Rome): France, USA, Italy.

Pool P (Florence): Serbia, Argentina, Russia.

Pool Q (Florence): Spain, Bulgaria, Cuba.

Pool R (Rome): Czech Republic, Brazil, Germany.

Match Schedule

Pool O (Rome): 4/10 France-USA 17:00; 5/10 USA-Italy 17:00; 6/10 Italy-France 17:00.

Pool P (Florence): 4/10 Serbia-Argentina 17:00; 5/10 Russia-Serbia 17:00; 6/10 Argentina-Russia 17:00.

Pool Q (Florence): 4 /10 Spain-Bulgaria 21:00; 5/10 Cuba-Spain 21:00; 6/10 Bulgaria-Cuba 21:00.

Pool R (Rome): 4/10 Czech Republic-Brazil 21:00; 5/10 Germany-Czech Republic 21:00; 6/10 Brazil-Germany 21:00.

Highest Scorers By Day

Day 1: 28 points by Antonin Rouzier (FRA) in France's 3-2 win over the Czech Republic in Turin

Day 2: 27 points by Maxim Mikhaylov (RUS) in Russia's 3-1 win over Australia in Modena

Day 3: 28 points by Fernando Hernandez (CUB) in Cuba's 3-2 win over Brazil in Verona

Day 4: 24 points by Gyrgy Grozer (GER) in Germany's 3-0 win over Puerto Rico in Catania

Day 5: 30 points by Iban Perez (ESP) in Spain's 3-2 win over Russia in Catania

Day 6: 23 points by Ahmed Abdelhay (EGY) in Egypt's win against Spain in Catania

Highest Set Score

34-32 (EGY v JPN in Pool A) (CUB v BRA in Pool B) Both matches played on September 27.

Tournament Top Scorers

116 Jean Patrice Ndaki Mboulet (CMR)

98 Kunihiro Shimizu (JPN)

97 Hector Soto (PUR)

96 Facundo Conte (ARG)

93 Clayton Stanley (USA)

Birthdays on October 3

Vladimir Nikolov (BUL) turns 33

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Coming soon

The FIVB Women's World Championship Japan 2010 (October 29 - November 14, 2010)

The FIVB Club World Championships (December 14-21, 2010) in Doha, Qatar

FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships (June 17-26) Rome, Italy