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## Example FIVB Volleyball Penpix 2014

### Captain

*Javier Filardi (ARG) - Argentina M*

Javier Filardi started playing volleyball at the age of nine at the Banco de Cordoba Volleyball club in Argentina. He played with the Argentina national team that finished second at the 2009 South American Championship in Bogota, Colombia, and also the team that finished ninth at the 2010 World Championship in Italy. Filardi was a part of the national squad that finished fifth in both the 2009 and 2010 World League competitions. He played for Argentina in the 2014 World League, where they finished 13th.

In May 2014, the outside hitter was appointed captain of Argentina, despite not having played for his country for over four years. He said it wasn't a responsibility that weighed too heavily upon him, as he has belief in his ability and enough experience to carry the team forward.

### Star Player

*Bram Van Den Dries (BEL) - Belgium M*

Bram Van Den Dries rose through the youth ranks of the national team, and was part of the Belgium side that finished sixth at the 2009 World Junior Championships in Pune, India. He was then part of the senior national team that finished in 13th place at the 2011 European Championship.

Van Den Dries would have a breakthrough year in 2013. He was named Most Valuable Player of the final four stage at the 2013 European League, as he helped Belgium win the title. Later in the year he was part of the team that finished seventh at the 2013 European Championship. Proving 2013 was not a one-off, in 2014 he was named in the Belgium team to make their debut in the World League, and they became the first team debutant since Cuba in 1991 to win their first two matches in the World League.

He was born in Herselt, Belgium, and studied Physical Education at Vrije University of Brussels in Belgium. He speaks multiple languages including Dutch, English, French and Italian.

## Team

### *Brazil*

The Brazilian men's team go into the 2014 World Championship with high expectations, as they look to win a fourth consecutive title and tighten their stranglehold on the competition. Their 2002 world title, sealed with a win over Russia in the final, was their first in the tournament's history after 20 years of near misses. In 1982 they lost 3-0 in the final to the Soviet Union, and over the following four editions finished either fourth or fifth. But having picked up their first win 12 years ago, Brazil have simply kept on winning. In 2006 they defeated Poland in the final, while four years ago in Italy they defeated Cuba.

One threat to Brazil's dominance could be Russia, who have beaten them three times at major international tournaments in the past two years, including in the final of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. They will also be wary of United States, who defeated them in the final of the 2014 World League.

Brazil's recent success has been masterminded by the renowned Bernardo Rezende. Now in his 13th year as head coach, he has led the team to eight World League titles, two World Cups (2003 and 2007), and an Olympic title in 2004. The team have also won every South American championship since he took control in 2001. Before he took charge, Brazil's finest moment was victory at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

## Coach

### *Plamen Konstantinov (BUL) - Bulgaria M*

Plamen Konstantinov was named head coach of the Bulgaria men's team in July 2014, one day after their final game of the World League. Previous coach Camillo Placi resigned midway through the World League campaign, with his assistant taking charge for the remaining matches.

A former captain of the national team, Konstantinov played in the 1996 and 2008 Olympic Games, and won bronze at the 2006 World Championship and 2007 World Cup. He began his coaching career in Turkey before moving to Russia, where he led Guberniya Nizhny Novgorod to silver in the 2014 CEV Cup.