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# DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #33ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO2 • 24.07.2023.

## THIEM TO FACE FIRST-SEEDED PLAYER, ČILIĆ SAYS GOODBYE TO UMAG




## MAIN DRAW SINGLES



STATUS	NAT		
1	CZE	<b>LEHECKA, Jiri</b>	<b>J. LEHECKA [1]</b>
2		BYE	
3	AUT	THIEM, Dominic	D. THIEM
4	Q	ARG BAGNIS, Facundo	64 75
5	CRO	CILIC, Marin	F. COBOLLI
6	Q	ITA COBOLLI, Flavio	64 63
7	Q	NED DE JONG, Jesper	
8	7	ITA <b>ARNALDI, Matteo</b>	
9	3	<b>AUT OFNER, Sebastian</b>	<b>S. OFNER [3]</b>
10		BYE	
11	AUS	POPYRIN, Alexei	A. POPYRIN
12	FRA	BONZI, Benjamin	64 75
13	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	D. PRIZMIC
14	WC	CRO PRIZMIC, Dino	61 62
15	HUN	PIROS, Zsombor	
16	5	<b>AUS O'CONNELL, Christopher</b>	
17	6	<b>SUI WAWRINKA, Stan</b>	
18	Q	AUT MISOLIC, Filip	
19	SUI	HUESLER, Marc-Andrea	
20	ARG	CORIA, Federico	
21	JPN	DANIEL, Taro	T. DANIEL
22	WC	ESP LANDALUCE, Martin	16 75 62
23		BYE	
24	4	<b>ESP CARBALLES BAENA, Roberto</b>	<b>R. CARBALLES BAENA [4]</b>
25	8	<b>ESP RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert</b>	
26	ESP	MUNAR, Jaume	
27	HUN	MAROZSAN, Fabian	
28	ARG	CERUNDOLO, Juan Manuel	
29	ITA	CECCHINATO, Marco	
30		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander	
31		BYE	
32	2	<b>ITA SONEGO, Lorenzo</b>	<b>L. SONEGO [2]</b>

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	GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADION	GRANDSTAND	COURT 1	COURT 2
	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm
1	[Q] J. de Jong (NED) vs [7] M. Arnaudi (ITA)	Z. Piros (HUN) vs [5] C. O'Connell (AUS)	R. Arneodo (MON) / S. Weissborn (AUT) vs R. Jebavy (CZE) / J. Lehecka (CZE)	[1] S. Bolelli (ITA) / A. Vavassori (ITA) vs A. Golubev (KAZ) / D. Molchanov (UKR)
	Not Before 6:00 pm	followed by:	Not Before 5:30 pm	
2	M. Cecchinato (ITA) vs A. Shevchenko	F. Marozsan (HUN) vs J. Cerundolo (ARG)	[8] A. Ramos-Vinololas (ESP) vs J. Munar (ESP)	
	Not Before 9:00 pm	followed by:	followed by:	
3	[6] S. Wawrinka (SUI) vs [Q] F. Misolic (AUT)	[WC] B. Rola (SLO) / N. Serdarusic (CRO) vs M. Bortolotti (ITA) / S. Verbeek (NED)	M. Huesler (SUI) vs F. Coria (ARG)	

STATUS	NAT.	MAIN DRAW DOUBLES	
1	<b>ITA BOLELLI, Simone</b> <b>ITA VAVASSORI, Andrea</b>		
2	KAZ GOLUBEV, Andrey UKR MOLCHANOV, Denys		
3	MON ARNEODO, Romain AUT WEISSBORN, Sam		
4	CZE JEBAVY, Roman CZE LEHECKA, Jiri		
5	<b>POR CABRAL, Francisco</b> <b>BRA MATOS, Rafael</b>		
6	FRA OLIVETTI, Albano ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David		
7	NED ARENDS, Sander NED PEL, David		
8	BRA DEMOLINER, Marcelo AUT OSWALD, Philipp		
9	<b>wc</b> SLO ROLA, Blaz CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino		
10	ITA BORTOLOTTI, Marco NED VERBEEK, Sem		
11	ECU ESCOBAR, Gonzalo KAZ NEDOVYESOV, Aleksandr		
12	<b>4</b> URU BEHAR, Ariel <b>CZE PAVLASEK, Adam</b>		
13	<b>wc</b> CRO BABIC, Zvonimir CRO MIKRUT, Luka	N. BARRIENTOS G. DURAN 62 61	
14	COL BARRIENTOS, Nicolas ARG DURAN, Guillermo		
15	IND BALAJI, N.Sriram IND NEDUNCHEZHIAN, Jeevan		
16	<b>2</b> FRA DOUMBIA, Sadio <b>FRA REBOUL, Fabien</b>		

ATP Tour © Copyright 2014





## ČILIĆ DEFEATED IN HIS COMEBACK APPEARANCE, THIEM ONCE AGAIN SUCCESSFUL IN UMAC

Marin Čilić wasn't successful in his first match since recovering from his knee injury. At the start of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open tournament in Umag, he was defeated 6:4, 6:3 by Italian Flavio Cobolli, 148th in the ATP rankings, and who managed to snatch his first victory in Umag's main tournament after losing in the qualifiers in two previous instances.

"I must say my knee held up really well, which is a positive thing. But Umag has always been a difficult tournament, physically very demanding, and today was no different. Conditions were demanding, with a lot of humidity, which doesn't suit players like myself, who play more offensively. Cobolli was very good on his feet, athletically strong, so I got no points for free, I had to work hard for every single point. The positive thing is that I physically made it through the match," said Marin. In his only other match played this year, back in January in Pune, he made it through the first round, before forfeiting in the second round without starting the match.

Playing against Cobolli, last year's winner of the Zadar ATP Challenger, he didn't win a single game at his opponent's serve, missing all three chances: at 4:5 in the first set, and at 1:2 and 2:3 in the second. At one point, around a half hour after it started, the match was suspended due to rain, when Cobolli had a 6:4, 3:1 lead. After returning to the court, Marin kept his serve, threatened with a break point in the game, but that's where it ended.

When it comes to other matches, we should point out that Austria's Dominic Thiem had his fifth victory in five matches played at the Umag ATP tournament. The 2015 winner defeated Argentinian Facundo Bagnis 6:4, 7:5, and a crucial moment came around when the Austrian player saved two set points at 4:5 in the second set. He won a break point in the following game, and soon thereafter finished the match against the player who played twice in the quarter-finals of Umag, and made it through the qualifiers this year.

"I enjoyed being back at central court. Conditions are different here, with long rallies, and quite slow, just like 8 years ago, when I played here last," said Thiem. When reporters mentioned that he has yet to be defeated in Umag, he said: "At the ATP tournament, yes, but I've played here a few times as a junior, and I wasn't always successful."

In the second round, Thiem faces against Czech player Jiří Lehečka, which will surely be a treat for any tennis fan.

### OSKAR'S CORNER

*On the first day of the 33rd Croatia Open in Umag, the prime time match on the central court was played by Marin Čilić and Flavio Cobolli. The Italian celebrated his first victory in the main tournament in Umag, defeating Čilić 6:4, 6:3 after a fierce game where he came out on top. He couldn't even be stopped by the rain which suspended the match.*

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PHOTOS: TELAŠĆICA NATURE PARK (DAMIR ZURUB); NORTHERN VELEBIT NATIONAL PARK (PREDRAG VUČKOVIĆ / AVANTURA ŽIVOTA); TRAKOŠĆAN (DOMAGOJ BLAŽEVIĆ)



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## DINO PRIŽMIĆ TAKES HIS FIRST VICTORY IN AN ATP TOURNAMENT

Winner of this year's Roland Garros for junior players, Dino Prižmić, scored his first win at an ATP tournament. In a match in the first round of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, a battle between two Croatian players who arrived with an invitation, he defeated Duje Ajduković 6:1, 6:2, breaking the ice in professional tournaments of the highest level.

This was his third overall match in an ATP tournaments, after having debuted in Umag last year, and making it through the qualifiers in Banja Luka this season. He may have been defeated in those two matches of the main tournaments, but this time he scored a dominant victory over his opponent. This made him one of five Croatian players who scored victories in an ATP tournament before their 18th birthday. The list includes Croatian greats, such as Goran Ivanišević, Ivan Ljubičić, Marin Čilić and Borna Ćorić.

"I am happy that I won, this is a very big deal. Last year, I was thwarted by an injury, but now I feel much better and I'm playing much better. I always want to play as best I can, and today was no different," said Prižmić. When asked which was easier, starting this match or the final match at Roland Garros, he added: "The Paris match, for sure. I played against a junior player, I was the favourite, he hadn't played in matches like the ones I've played in... Duje received an invitation, he had something to prove, it was much harder," said Prižmić, currently the 287th player in the singles ATP rankings, who turns 18 years old on August 5th. Of the players who are cur-

rently among the top 300, the only one with a higher rank than him is Jakub Menšík from Czechia (200th).

Dino didn't lose a single serve, and he faced only one break point.

"He played very well, with no mistakes. He did everything right, and I didn't. It was one of those days where things just aren't going the way they should," said Ajduković after the match.

In the second round, Prižmić will face the winner of the match between O'Connell and Piros.



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## TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

## WE HAVE CURRENT AND FUTURE TENNIS STARS



Following the spectacular 2022 and a tournament we will remember for a very long time, we are finally here at the 33rd Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. The entire team did an amazing job, and we took a little left turn when it comes to players and "rounded up" three big tennis stars.

We recognised the situation on the market and brought three big names: Marin Čilić, Dominic Thiem and Stan Wawrinka. These are all players who have won Grand Slam singles tournaments, players who have won the Umag tournament, but also players who haven't played here in a while. There is no better calling card than their results, and I am certain that all true tennis fans will be able to list their greatest achievements with no difficulty.

Throughout the years, we've had many Grand Slam winners play in Umag, many of them ranking at number one, and this trio achieved great titles after achieving great results at our tournament. In any case, and regardless of their current standing in the ATP ranking, all three of them deserve their stardom.

As always, we have once again opened our tournament to young players. Every season, Umag is where the most talented young players get their chance to compete in a great professional setting,

and this year is no different. I am especially proud of invitations we have been able to award to Dino Prižmić and Martín Landaluze. A few seasons will have to pass before we can see if they are the future stars of tennis, but they are certainly extremely talented players. I believe they will prove themselves in professional rankings as they did as junior players. Prižmić won Roland Garros this year, and Landaluze won last year's US Open, and was the world's best junior player this year. Every young player wishes for these results, and they are about to face even bigger challenges in a professional setting. We have agreed on a long-term cooperation, which makes us, and I'm sure the Umag audience, very happy. I hope they will become well-known faces in Umag in years to come.

We were, of course, disappointed when Holger Rune had to withdraw on Friday before the tournament. We were sad to see his message, but we wish him a fast recovery and hope to see him back in Umag next year. With an injury like his, it might be better that he withdrew before the tournament than to have played and made it worse.

I would like to give a warm welcome to all of our guests who will join us in Umag, and I'm sure they will enjoy some fantastic tennis!

## COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

## FOR PRIŽMIĆ, TENNIS IS LIFE, AND HE IS SURE TO BANK ON THIS INVESTMENT



The first day of the tournament is behind us, with several matches that deserve to be commented on. Dino Prižmić joined the club with a victory in an ATP tournament. He is still very young, not even 18, although it should be noted that he didn't have much of a challenge as Duje Ajduković played very badly, not even close to what he is capable of. All in all, we have one player in the second round.

When it comes to Marin Čilić, no one could tell how prepared he really was. I think he himself didn't know if he could play at this level. He had some good moments, but you could tell that he hadn't been active in six and a half months. He made many mistakes, and Cobolli played very well after gaining confidence in the qualifiers.

I'm sorry that the young Spanish player Landaluze didn't make it through. He had his chances, but didn't manage to take advantage of them. But he will be a good player. He didn't make it this year, but this might change next time round.

Dominic Thiem got his victory, but it was evident that this isn't the same Thiem we watched a few years ago. He is facing the first-seeded player Lehečka in the second round, and this could

be an interesting match. The Czech player is the favourite, but this tournament might be a turning point for Thiem, leading him to play like he played before!

In any case, the tournament is once again very interesting, with star players on the one side and young, promising players on the other. I think it will be particularly interesting to watch Prižmić in years to come. I like his approach to tennis. He is fully dedicated to the game, and it means everything to him, it's his whole life. He has his goals, knows what he needs to do, he wants it and he is sure to bank on it. We can't know how much yet, though. I admit it's not the kind of tennis I prefer, but I still think he'll do very well. He's a player who won't hand anything to anyone on a silver platter. You have to play very hard to beat him even now, who knows where he will be in a couple of years. Anyone who wants to beat him will have to play very well. He's a huge fighter, good runner, but there are things he'll need to improve, of course.





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## LORENZO SONEGO AND JIŘÍ LEHEČKA TAKE OVER AS HEAD CHEFS AT THE ZIGANTE TRUFFLE POST



Italian player Lorenzo Sonego and his Czech colleague Jiří Lehečka became temporary head chefs at the Zigante truffle post in the Taste Istria zone at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.

These professional tennis players proved to be excellent chefs as they prepared pasta with truffles. Sonego said it was no challenge for him as he is, after all, Italian. In a humble and friendly way, Lehečka retorted that he still managed to beat the Italian in pasta preparation.

## KIDS DELIGHTED BY ALEXANDER SHEVCHENKO AT THIS YEAR'S FIRST KIDS WEEK BY PODRAVKA

This year's first Kids Week by Podravka, traditionally held during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, drew in over 50 children from all over the country and region. We had participants from Slovakia, Italy, Croatia, Denmark, Czechia, and even England.

The promising young players had a chance to showcase their talent and skills, as well as to test their strength against young player Alexander Schevchenko. The boys and girls delighted everyone there, on and off the court.



In the end, Babolat awarded six major and six minor awards, such as tennis shoes, racket strings, balls, key chains and markers for string personalisation, to the most talented players.

The event culminated with the surprise appearance of Pepi, the Plava Laguna mascot, who gave the kids some temporary tattoos in his own image, while Podravka handed out delicious snacks.



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## DESPITE THE RAIN, GREAT PERFORMANCE BY EUROSONG FINALIST LET3



Last night, the atmosphere at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag was set ablaze by the eccentric band Let 3, who represented Croatia in the Eurovision Song Contest this year.

They played a fantastic concert for the visitors and guests of the ATP tournament in Umag at the Dance Arena, and they caused an unseen euphoria among the spectators when they performed “Mama ŠČ”, currently their biggest hit.

## HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE

Last night’s topic at the Hidden charm of Istrian wine, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, was the fresh Malvazija. The attendance was excellent at the very first night, and the numerous wine lovers got to know the Benčić, Fakin and Fiore wineries.

As visitors were tasting the wines, famous sommelier from the Croatian Sommelier Club, Lucija Matijević, presented the specific characteristics of this famous variety from Istria.

“During our first night, guests had the chance to enjoy various malvazija wines as they learned about Istrian soils and the potential of malvazija, definitely one of the finest white varieties in Croatia,” said Lucija Matijević.

The tastings at the Hidden charm of Istrian wine are free, and you can secure your spot by visiting the cash register of the Taste Istria zone.



# Blizu

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