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PLAVA LAGUNA OPEN **UMAG**
CROATIA 24.-30.7.2023.

DAILY NEWS

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SONEGO'S DEBUT A SUCCESS, LEHEČKA AND WAWRINKA VICTORIOUS



MAIN DRAW SINGLES



STATUS	NAT			
1	CZE	LEHECKA, Jiri	J. LEHECKA [1]	
2		BYE		J. LEHECKA [1]
3	AUT	THIEM, Dominic	D. THIEM	63 75
4	Q	ARG BAGNIS, Facundo	64 75	
5	CRO	CILIC, Marin	F. COBOLLI	64 63
6	Q	ITA COBOLLI, Flavio		M. ARNALDI [7]
7	Q	NED DE JONG, Jesper	M. ARNALDI [7]	63 76(5)
8	7	ITA ARNALDI, Matteo	63 62	
9	3	AUT OFNER, Sebastian	S. OFNER [3]	
10		BYE		
11	AUS	POPYRIN, Alexei	A. POPYRIN	64 61
12	FRA	BONZI, Benjamin	64 75	
13	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	D. PRIZMIC	61 62
14	WC	CRO PRIZMIC, Dino		D. PRIZMIC
15	HUN	PIROS, Zsombor	Z. PIROS	62 63
16	5	AUS O'CONNELL, Christopher	63 64	
17	6	SUI WAWRINKA, Stan	S. WAWRINKA [6]	
18	Q	AUT MISOLIC, Filip	63 62	S. WAWRINKA [6]
19	SUI	HUESLER, Marc-Andrea	F. CORIA	75 61
20	ARG	CORIA, Federico	64 62	
21	JPN	DANIEL, Taro	T. DANIEL	16 75 62
22	WC	ESP LANDALUCE, Martin		R. CARBALLE BAENA [4]
23		BYE		63 61
24	4	ESP CARBALLE BAENA, Roberto	R. CARBALLE BAENA [4]	
25	8	ESP RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert	J. MUNAR	63 36 63
26	ESP	MUNAR, Jaume		J. MUNAR
27	HUN	MAROZSAN, Fabian	F. MAROZSAN	64 63
28	ARG	CERUNDOLO, Juan Manuel	63 62	
29	ITA	CECCHINATO, Marco	M. CECCHINATO	46 76(0) 63
30		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander		L. SONEGO [2]
31		BYE		61 76(7)
32	2	ITA SONEGO, Lorenzo	L. SONEGO [2]	

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	GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADION	GRANDSTAND
	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm
1	Jiri LEHECKA (CZE) [1] vs Matteo ARNALDI (ITA) [7]	Simone BOLELLI (ITA) Andrea VAVASSORI (ITA) [1] vs Sander ARENDS (NED) David PEL (NED)
	Not Before 6:00 pm	Not Before 6:00 pm
2	Alexei POPYRIN (AUS) vs [WC] Dino PRIZMIC (CRO)	[WC] Blaz ROLA (SLO) / Nino SERDARUSIC (CRO) or Gonzalo ESCOBAR (ECU) / Aleksandr NEDOVYESOV (KAZ) vs Sadio DOUMBIA (FRA) Fabien REBOUL (FRA) [2]
	Not Before 9:00 pm	Not Before 7:30 pm
3	Stan WAWRINKA (SUI) [6] vs Roberto CARBALLE BAENA (ESP) [4]	Jaume MUNAR (ESP) vs Lorenzo SONEGO (ITA) [2]

STATUS	NAT.	MAIN DRAW DOUBLES	
1	ITA	ITA BOLELLI, Simone ITA VAVASSORI, Andrea	S. BOLELLI A. VAVASSORI [1] 64 61
2	KAZ	GOLUBEV, Andrey UKR MOLCHANOV, Denys	S. BOLELLI A. VAVASSORI [1] 64 36 10-2
3	MON	ARNEODO, Romain AUT WEISSBORN, Sam	R. JEBAVY J. LEHECKA 64 76(4)
4	CZE	JEBAVY, Roman CZE LEHECKA, Jiri	S. ARENDS D. PEL 64 46 10-5
5	3	POR CABRAL, Francisco BRA MATOS, Rafael	F. CABRAL R. MATOS [3] 62 76(5)
6	FRA	OLIVETTI, Albano ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David	S. ARENDS D. PEL 36 63 10-5
7	NED	ARENDS, Sander NED PEL, David	B. ROLA N. SERDARUSIC 46 63 10-8
8	BRA	DEMOLINER, Marcelo AUT OSWALD, Philipp	G. ESCOBAR A. NEDOVYESOV 63 46 10-3
9	WC	SLO ROLA, Blaz CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino	B. ROLA N. SERDARUSIC 62 36 10-8
10	ITA	BORTOLOTTI, Marco NED VERBEEK, Sem	S. DOUMBIA F. REBOUL [2] 75 67(2) 10-7
11	ECU	ESCOBAR, Gonzalo KAZ NEDOVYESOV, Aleksandr	N. BARRIENTOS G. DURAN 62 61
12	4	URU BEHAR, Ariel CZE PAVLASEK, Adam	S. DOUMBIA F. REBOUL [2] 60 63
13	WC	CRO BABIC, Zvonimir CRO MIKRUT, Luka	
14	COL	BARRIENTOS, Nicolas ARG DURAN, Guillermo	
15	IND	BALAJI, N.Sriram IND NEDUNCHEZHIAN, Jeevan	
16	2	FRA DOUMBIA, Sadio FRA REBOUL, Fabien	

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UMAG

22.7. **JELENA ROZGA**

23.7. **MAMBO KINGS**

24.7. **LET 3**

25.7. **CRVENA JABUKA**

26.7. **VIDA LOCA**

27.7. **FEDDE LE GRAND**

28.7. **NERVO**

29.7. **LUDOVICA PAGANI**

RESIDENT DJ ANTONIO PREN

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

ATP 250

OFFICIAL EVENT

FREE ENTRY



SONEGO'S SUCCESSFUL FIRST MATCH AGAINST THE 2018 UMAG CHAMPION

Two of the highest seeded players, Czech Jiří Lehečka and Italian Lorenzo Sonego, placed into the quarter-finals of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open ATP tournament, without a single set lost. The day also ended in success for Swiss player Stan Wawrinka and the fourth-seeded Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena, so Friday's programme looks very promising.

Lehečka won 6:3, 7:5 against the winner of Umag in 2015, Austrian Dominic Thiem. A single break point was enough in the first set, and in the second, after falling behind to 2:4, he lost only one more game. Sonego won 6:1, 7:6 (6) against his fellow Italian Marco Cecchinato, winner of Umag 2018, and he particularly dominated the first part of the match. He won the first 13 points and showed everyone he was in a good mood. However, it

was a close match, as Sonego had to work hard to win in the end. He had a 6:1, 3:1 lead, and a 5:3 lead in the tie-break, and then an amazing forehand saved his set point at 5:6 before he could take the win. "I had to stay aggressive. It's always hard to play against another Italian, let alone one who's already won this tournament once. I absolutely loved the atmosphere, it was amazing," said Sonego.

In his début in Umag (as one of the four top seeded players, he didn't have to play the first round), he showed everyone why he is one of the main favourites in the tournament. This is the third time this season that he made it through to the quarter-finals, after already doing so in Dubai and Montpellier. However, his best results this season were the round of 16 in Roland Garros (he defeated Andrey Rublev,

who currently holds the 7th spot in the ATP rankings) and the round of 16 (fourth round) at the Masters 1000 tournament in Miami.

Wawrinka defeated Argentinian Federico Coria 7:5, 6:1, further improving his stats in Umag: he now has 8 wins and 3 losses. It was at Stella Maris where he won his first ATP title ever (in 2006), out of 16. "I am satisfied. There were some ups and downs in the first set, but the second set was great," said the 38-year-old Swiss player, who was once the third best player in the world, and currently holds the 72nd spot.

Carballes Baena lost only four games (6:3, 6:1) against Taro Daniel from Japan, but the match lasted an hour and 43 minutes! This Spaniard is precisely whom Wawrinka faces next. On Friday, the first match at the central court is between Lehečka

and Arnaldi, followed by the battle between 17-year-old Dino Prižmić and Australian Popyrin.

OSKAR'S CORNER

The biggest match on Thursday was the one between Stan Wawrinka and Argentinian Federico Coria. Wawrinka won the tournament in 2006, but many say that the way he played today was remarkable. The Argentinian wasn't even close to winning. The next match was an interesting Italian face off: Marco Cecchinato vs. Lorenzo Sonego, a battle for the quarter-finals. This was Sonego's first time in Umag, and the match wasn't easy for the 43rd best player in the world. However, he managed to win 6:1, 7:6 after about an hour and a half of a very close match, and made it through to the quarter-finals.



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LEHEČKA: WINNING MY FIRST TITLE IN UMAG? SURE, WHY NOT!

The first seeded player at this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, Czech Jiří Lehečka, enjoyed a bye round at the start of the tournament since he was one of the four top seeded players. In his first match he faced the former third best player in the world and winner of the US Open, Austrian Dominic Thiem. This was also his first singles match on a clay court after a season played on grass courts (he reached the round of 16 at Wimbledon), but he managed to win despite all of this. He won 6:3, 7:5 and moved on to the quarter-finals, where he will face Italian Matteo Arnaldi, who keeps getting better and better.

"I played a good match. It was my first after playing on grass courts, and my opponent was really tough. What helped me was the doubles match I'd already played in Umag," said Lehečka, who is at the 33rd place in the world rankings this week, his career best. Moreover, it's his first time as the top seeded player at an ATP tournament. When asked if this contributed to the pressure, he said: "There is always pressure, whether you're seeded or not, because you always want to win. Of course, it's great starting as the top seeded player because your road is somewhat easier, but it wasn't like that for me this time: in the second round I had to play against Dominic Thiem, a tremendous player."

The 21-year-old Lehečka has already had some excellent results this year, including the semi-finals in Doha (where he won against the fifth best player in the world, Andrey Rublev)

and the quarter-finals of Australian Open (where he defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime, seventh in the ATP rankings). Asked about his goals, he said:

"Goals are a funny thing in my case. Last year I said I wanted to get into the top 50, and I did it in February in Rotterdam. This year I said I wanted to get into the top 50, and I did it straight after the Australian Open. What's important is that I'm making a progress, and taking it one step at a time."

Despite all of his accomplishments, Lehečka still hasn't played in the finals of a single ATP tournament. However, his continuous progress shows that this could happen very soon. Not just making the finals, but winning the whole tournament.

"Winning my first title in Umag? Sure, why not!" said Lehečka.



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ZAGREB (JULIEN DUVAL / ZTB)



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ANOTHER TOURNAMENT TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE TENNIS WEEK IN UMAG – THE EDEL SPORT UMAG PADEL TOURNAMENT



Another novelty in an already bustling sports offer during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag is the international Edel Sport Umag padel tournament. The global popularity of this sport is on the rise, and it is slowly but surely spreading to the Croatian sports market. Now, this international padel tournament will, for the first time, take place during the tennis week at the Stella Maris tennis centre. “Alongside the best Croatian pairs, we also have registered pairs from Slovenia, Hungary, Belgium, Italy, and even Chile. We currently have 41 registered pairs for

the male and female categories, and since today is the last day for registration, we believe we will have a total of over a hundred participants. There are no limitations for registration – you can play even if you are unlicensed or recreational play or even a tourist. Moreover, anyone interested in this sport can come to the Stella Maris court and try padel for free – you will get a racket and ball, and our experts will tell you all the rules”, says Tomislav Margeta, president of the Croatian Padel Association.

A part of the matches will

be played at the Umag Padel Centre, in close proximity to the Umag ATP zone, while the final matches in both categories (male and female) will take place just a few steps from the Goran Ivanišević Stadium. For this purpose, the organisers and the Edel Sport company, as the main sponsor of the tournament, have installed a special padel court which has a steel structure and a special turf. The sport is played on a type of artificial grass mixed with a certain amount of quartz sand. Just like a tennis court, the padel court has spotlights, perfect for night-time matches,

which certainly makes this already attractive sport even more interesting.

“The atmosphere of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag and everything surrounding it, as well as the height of the tourist season, are sure to contribute to the promotion and popularisation of our sport, which is why we are truly grateful to Plava Laguna as organisers,” adds Margeta.

This will be the second edition of this tournament, it is included in the calendar of the Croatian Padel Association and the points go towards the national rankings. All pairs are guaranteed at least two matches because the pairs who lose their first round matches have another shot in the repechage. This will be the first padel tournament in Croatia with not just prizes awarded by sponsors and trophies, but also a money prize in the amount of EUR 1,000. The favourites of the tournament are the current Croatian champions in outdoor padel, Luka Belić and Roko Glasnović, as the first seeded pair, as well as the indoor padel champions, Boran Poljančić and Artur Vašarević, as the second seeded pair.

The matches kick off on Friday. Saturday (from 5 p.m.) is reserved for the quarter-finals at the Stella Maris court, the same place where the Sunday morning (10 a.m.) semi-finals and afternoon (4.30 p.m.) final match will take place.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

WE HAVE AMAZING SERVICES AND WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK



The weather in the first part of the week made our lives pretty difficult. I think I have never seen as much rain in total in my 16 years in different roles in Umag as I have these past few days. This proved to be a great challenge for everyone, as these were exceptional circumstances. It is normal for rain to fall during a tournament and to postpone matches for the next day, and it never leads to any real consequences for the tournament if it happens at an early stage, but what we were witness to was far beyond normal situations. Of course, we are extremely grateful to all services who reacted in no time, with the highest level of dedication and effort, enabling us to continue the tournament and clearing out the issues at an incredible speed. Given that I am mostly connected to the tennis part of the entire story, I would like to thank to our court services team, Elvis and everyone else who takes care of our court. This year hasn't been easy, but in any case, and this wasn't just rain but a flood, they reacted so quickly and took care of all issues in a highly dedicated manner.

When it comes to other services employed at the tournament, I would also like to thank everyone who is taking care of

the remaining zones. I am certain our guests can feel safe and comfortable here. Another great thanks to our umpires, and especially our ball boys and girls. This year most of the matches ended at a very late hour due to the rain, and these are all children who should be going to bed earlier. This shows how much sacrifice they've put into this as well. I would like to thank Bodo and Sanita, their leaders, for the way they do their tasks and the effort they put into it all. Only a small part of everything that takes place during the tournament is seen on TV and the stands. However, in the background, hidden from the spotlight, are many very important people who take care of a lion's share of the work. In both Plava Laguna, and at the very tournament, where so much goes on. This year was a real challenge, mostly due to heavy rain and storms, so we all had to put some extra effort into repairing the damage. I am pleased to say that we did so very quickly, and I hope these issues are now in the past, and that the only thing we'll need to worry about from now on is enjoying some fine tennis.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

A DAY WITH NO RAIN AND LOTS OF AMAZING TENNIS



We finally had a day without rain, and it also proved to be a day of fantastic tennis. All of the central court matches had amazing moments, but the grandstand didn't disappoint either, and this was an overture into what we can expect as of Friday, when the final part of the tournament kicks off. Lorenzo Sonego played an amazing first set, as well as the end of his match against Marco Cecchinato. His first set was on a very high level, and he would be hard to beat if he could maintain that rhythm throughout the match.

Cecchinato couldn't come near him for a long time, but once he did, the situation shifted. However, the last two points played by Sonego were top-notch.

Thiem had some moments against Lehečka that I couldn't understand, the way he lost his serve so easily after finally making a break. The Czech player played really well, showed what he can do, but as the first seeded player he can't say that he had it easy. Facing Thiem in the second round, then Arnaldi in the quarter-finals...

Wawrinka played another good match, and when he's good, Coria is no match for him, and this was evident today. Once again, I really love the way Stan plays, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. It's

clear that the spectators love him as well, I think everyone appreciates him as a player who's had a great career and played some beautiful tennis. I was somewhat surprised when Carballes Baena won with such ease, but we know how good he is on clay courts, just like Munar who will put Sonego to the test on Friday. The Italian is definitely the favourite, but the Spaniard's skills on clay courts could give him some issues.

Friday will be very interesting, and I think that the quality of the players entering the final rounds is evident when we take into account that the second seeded player will be playing at the grandstand. Lehečka is the top seeded player and he belongs at central court, and I don't know who could remove Wawrinka off of that court. We also have Prižmić – you can't kick the local quarter-finalist from the central court. And so Sonego, one of the main favourites to win the title, will play at the grandstand. It's all good, though, as it once again goes to show that we bring quality and can organise a top-tier tournament. Big names, top seeded players and a promising young player. That's Umag.



DINO PRIŽMIĆ VISITS THE KIDS WEEK BY PODRAVKA AND DELIGHTS THE YOUNG PLAYERS

Another Kids Week by Podravka took place during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, drawing in over 60 boys and girls from all over Europe. Participants came from Czechia, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, the Neth-

erlands, and Hungary, among others.

The young players had a chance to show off their skills and put themselves to the test in doubles, in two teams – a kids team against a team led

by Dino. The spectators went wild cheering for the kids, but Dino's team won in the end.

Finally, mascots from the sponsor companies, Pepi from Plava Laguna, Lino from Podravka and Loki

from Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, entered the court and caused a real frenzy among the kids.

CROATIA'S TOP WHEELCHAIR PLAYER JOSKIĆ FACES OFF AGAINST AUSTRALIAN PLAYER POPYRIN IN A FRIENDLY MATCH

In order to kick off the fourth edition of the ITF Croatia Open Umag by HEP, held at the Umag Tennis Academy and Stella Maris courts, one of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag court was

the site of a battle between Croatia's champion in wheelchair tennis, Anto Joskić, and Australian player Alexei Popyrin, who exchanged some friendly racket swings.



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A BREAK FROM TENNIS WITH A NICE CUP OF COFFEE



The best part of the day – a break with the finest cup of coffee – comes courtesy of the best baristas from Franck.

Visitors to the Franck corner had a chance to taste their newest products, such as the Espresso superiore, plant-based cappuccino, or coffee with exciting new aromas.

In the hot summer days everyone wanted to cool themselves off with a nice Franck iced cappuccino with coconut and white chocolate, and the Franck Chococcino proved to be a true hit, as its special recipe was extremely popular with the kids.

Franck continues its tastings in the days to come. Once you smell that well-known fragrance of your favourite beverage, you'll know you're just a few steps away from the Franck corner. Drop in for a nice cup of coffee!



THE HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE EXPLORES ONLY THE BEST

Today was reserved for a competition between mixed red wines or the red cuvee.

It was very tight, but in the end the victory went to sample A. However, the consensus was that all

three wines were excellent.

Zigante presented its 2021 San Stefano cuvee, Cattunar arrived with its Amanti red cuvee (also from 2021), while Laguna presented its proven 2015 Cuvee LV.

Once again, the audience was very satisfied with the knowledge gained, sommelier Lucija selflessly shared her wealth of experience, and everyone agreed that red wines pair perfectly with a brisk summer evening.

The atmosphere is heating up as we draw closer to the very end of our tournament with the grand finale on Saturday. We'll soon find out who will take this flattering title in such a fierce competition.





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ONE OF UMAG'S FAVOURITES, FEDDE LE GRAND, PUTS ON ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE SHOW



Umag has always been known for a flawless line-up of amazing DJs. The first of them took to the stage tonight, and it was the celebrated electronic music trailblazer, one of the most significant performers in today's house scene – Fedde Le Grand. This world-famous Dutch DJ and producer has been among the top 50 DJs according to the British publication DJ Mag for over a decade.

His timeless hits, including “Put Your Hands Up For Detroit” as one of the most famous ones, and spectacular performances in the biggest music festivals, such as the Ultra Music Festival, Tomorrowland or Untold Festival, guaranteed a fantastic and unforgettable spectacle in Umag. Although this wasn't his first time in Umag, the audience loved every bit of it and he played for them late into the night.





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