



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

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #33ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO6 • 28.07.2023.

UNBEATABLE WAWRINKA, PRIŽMIĆ FAILS TO MAKE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS



MAIN DRAW SINGLES



STATUS	NAT				
1	CZE	LEHECKA, Jiri	J. LEHECKA [1]		
2		BYE		J. LEHECKA [1]	
				63 75	
3	AUT	THIEM, Dominic	D. THIEM		
4	Q	ARG BAGNIS, Facundo	64 75		
					M. ARNALDI [7]
5	CRO	CILIC, Marin	F. COBOLLI		36 62 64
6	Q	ITA COBOLLI, Flavio	64 63		
					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			
				A. POPYRIN	
11	AUS	POPYRIN, Alexei	A. POPYRIN		64 61
12		FRA BONZI, Benjamin	64 75		
					A. POPYRIN
13	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	D. PRIZMIC		76(2) 75
14	WC	CRO PRIZMIC, Dino	61 62		
					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		
					S. WAWRINKA [6]
21		JPN DANIEL, Taro	T. DANIEL		64 75
22	WC	ESP LANDALUCE, Martin	16 75 62		
					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		
26		ESP MUNAR, Jaume	63 36 63		
					J. MUNAR
27		HUN MAROZSAN, Fabian	F. MAROZSAN		64 63
28		ARG CERUNDOLO, Juan Manuel	63 62		
					L. SONEGO [2]
29		ITA CECCHINATO, Marco	M. CECCHINATO		36 61 62
30		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander	46 76(0) 63		
					L. SONEGO [2]
31		BYE			61 76(7)
32	2	ITA SONEGO, Lorenzo	L. SONEGO [2]		

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GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADION

Matches Start At 4:30 pm

1

Simone BOLELLI (ITA)
 Andrea VAVASSORI (ITA)
 vs.
 Blaž ROLA (SLO)
 Nino SERDARUŠIĆ (CRO)

Not Before 6:30 pm

2

Matteo ARNALDI (ITA)
 vs.
 Alexei POPYRIN (AUS)

Not Before 9:00 pm

3

Stan WAWRINKA (SUI)
 vs.
 Lorenzo SONEGO (ITA)

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

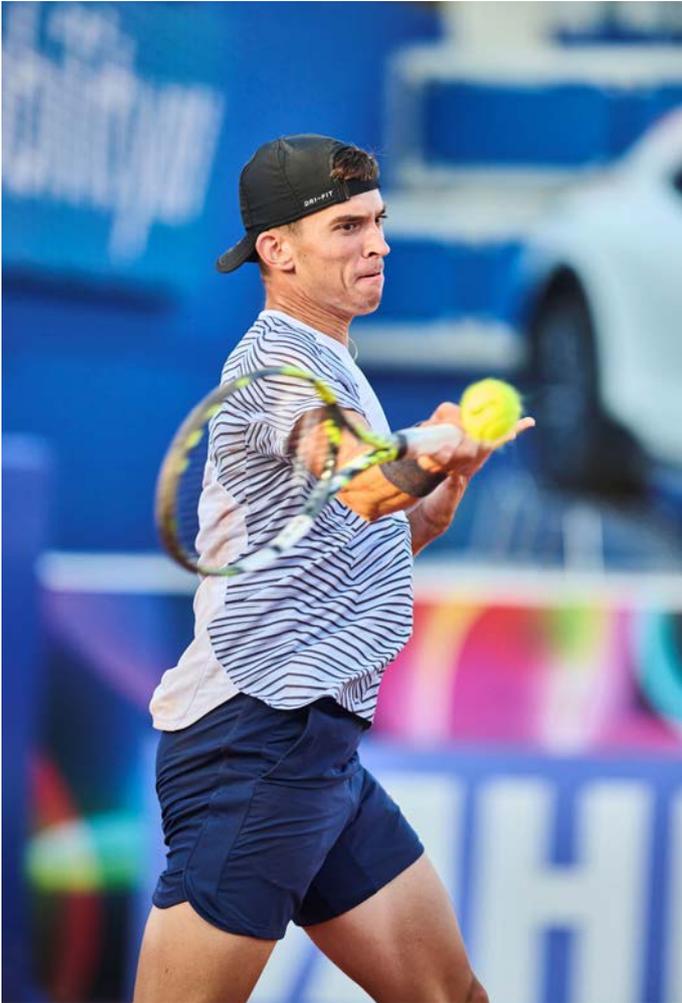
25.7. **CRVENA JABUKA** 26.7. **VIDA LOCA** 27.7. **FEDDE LE GRAND**

28.7. **NERVO** 29.7. **LUDOVICA PAGANI** **RESIDENT DJ ANTONIO PREN**

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG** **ATP 250** OFFICIAL EVENT

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PRIŽMIĆ DEFEATED AFTER THE SIXTH MATCH POINT, WAWRINKA CONVINCING



Dino Prižmić, the young Croatian player who is yet to turn 18 in early August, could not find a way past the excellent Australian Alexei Popyrin. After a huge and evenly fought battle between two winners of the Junior Roland Garros (Prižmić won the title this year and Popyrin back in 2017), the more experienced player ended up winning 7:6 (2), 7:5. In the semi-finals on Saturday, Popyrin faces Italian Matteo Arnaldi, while the other match will be the clash between Swiss Stan Wawrinka and Italian Lorenzo Sonego.

Dino played an excellent match, but the sixth match point proved to be decisive. The Australian's first match point came at a 5:4 lead, and the rest at 6:5, when he managed to bring the match to an end. In the first part of the match, Popyrin had a 5:3 lead, but Prižmić won a tie break, and in the second set Dino bounced back after losing 1:3. Sadly, he wasn't able to turn the match around.

"This has been a great experience for me. I want to use this match as an opportunity to learn how to play against this calibre of player. I'm a bit disappointed because I had a chance to take a step further, but I played the best that I could," said Prižmić, adding: "If I want to achieve good results here, I need to improve some parts of my game. There's place for

improvement everywhere, but I'd say that what I'm lacking right now is some decisiveness."

Arnaldi made it to the first semi-finals match in an ATP tournament in his career by defeating top seeded Jiří Lehečka 3:6, 6:2, 6:4.

"Matteo deserved to win. My serve was not as good as when I played against Thiem. The tipping point in the match came in the first point in the second set, when I made an unforced error and then started making some very bad decisions. Mistakes were coming one after another, and I couldn't find my way back into the match" said Lehečka. He lost his serve in this game and didn't win a single game at his opponent's serve after that.

On the other hand, Wawrinka managed to defeat Roberto Carballes Baena without losing a set (6:4, 7:5). The Spaniard made a break in the first game, and later even had a 3:1 lead, but then only one additional game by the end of the set. In the second set, the decisive moment was a breakpoint in the 12th game.

"I expected a great fight, Roberto is an amazing player, especially in conditions like these, and I am overall happy with how I played. The crucial moment was when I got back the break point in the second game to get to a 3:3 draw in the first set," said Wawrinka.

Now he faces Italian Sonego, whose match against Jaime Munar started very badly. He was losing 0:5 but then he came back in style. Although he was losing by too much to rescue the first set, he only lost three games in the remaining two sets.

OSKAR'S CORNER

Highlight of today's matches on the Umag courts was the doubles match of the Croatian-Slovenian combination - Nino Serdarušić and Blaž Rola. After a great game against the French, Sadi Doumbia and Fabien Reboul, they won 7:6, 6:4.

We will have the opportunity to watch them in the doubles final against the Italian combination of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, and on Saturday we hope for the victory of the Slovenian-Croatian pair, and them getting the title "the competition's best" in Umag.

In the first quarter-final match in the singles competition, Matteo Arnaldi made it to the semi-finals by defeating the Czech Jiří Lehečka, won in the third set. We wish Matteo Arnaldi, who is playing for the first time at the Umag ATP tournament, to make it to the finals.



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WHAT A SEASON FOR MATTEO ARNALDI! AND HE'S STILL NOT DONE!

If there is one player we can say is constantly improving, and in huge strides, it is undoubtedly the 22-year-old Matteo Arnaldi. Exactly one year ago he broke into the top 200 in the ATP rankings for the first time, he came to Umag as the 76th player in the world, and now he's a semi-finalist of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament. He will be fighting for a spot in the finals against Australian Alexei Popyrin, and even if he loses, his ranking on Monday will be his best yet, somewhere around the 62nd spot. And who knows what will happen if he makes it to the finals or wins the tournament...

"Of course I'm happy with the situation. I've been feeling good from the start of the tournament, but I did get a bit nervous today, although I improved later on," said Arnaldi after eliminating the first seeded player, Czech Jiří Lehečka, from the tournament.

Arnaldi won 3:6, 6:2, 6:4, making another step further in a tournament where he's playing for the first time. Before Umag, he's never played in the quarter-finals (let alone the semi-finals) of an ATP tournament, and now he might go all the way to the finals!

For a player who up until recently only played ATP Challengers it is very impressive to see what he has accomplished, this spring alone. In Barcelona (ATP 500), he made it through the qualifying tournament and the first round of the main tournament, and the next week he played an ATP

Masters 1000 tournament in Madrid, where he once again made it through the qualifying tournament and got to the third round. He made it to the second round at the same type of competition in Rome, as well as at French Open in Roland Garros.

However, we can't talk about his successes without mentioning a very important detail from Madrid. The player whom he defeated in the first round. It was Norway's Casper Ruud, at the time the fourth best player in the world. He defeated him 6:3, 6:4, his biggest professional victory yet.

This is probably why Goran Ivanišević kept mentioning him in his Daily News column this week as a player capable of surprising everyone.

"I didn't know that, but it's so nice to hear. Goran is a true legend, and if he compliments someone, it's a big deal," said Arnaldi.



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KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK (MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ)



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A THRILLING TABLE TENNIS MATCH TAKES PLACE AT THE SOCIAL ARENA

Nikolina Brnjac, the Minister of Tourism, and the Croatian tennis legend Goran Ivanišević, played a table tennis match in the Social Arena as a way to announce today's semi-finals matches at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.



ATP Umag 2023

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF TENNIS

Unexpected and different isn't necessarily bad, especially if you have a good partner – as proven by Triglav in a tennis match played on SUPs.

This interesting match was played by a young Slovenian tennis player Kaja Juvan and a German player, Marc Majdandzic, on a "court" that might require a tad bit more coordination.

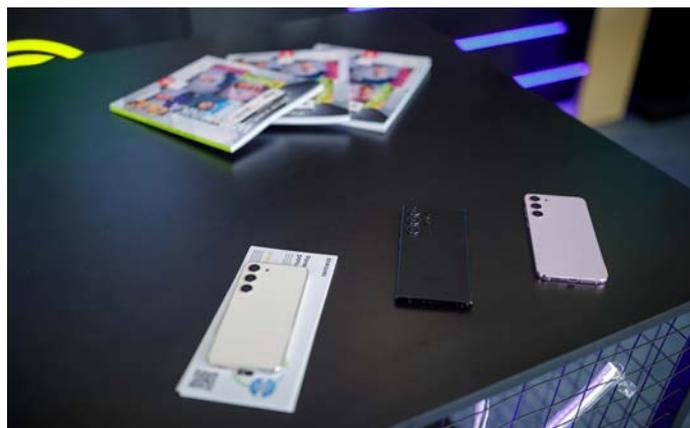
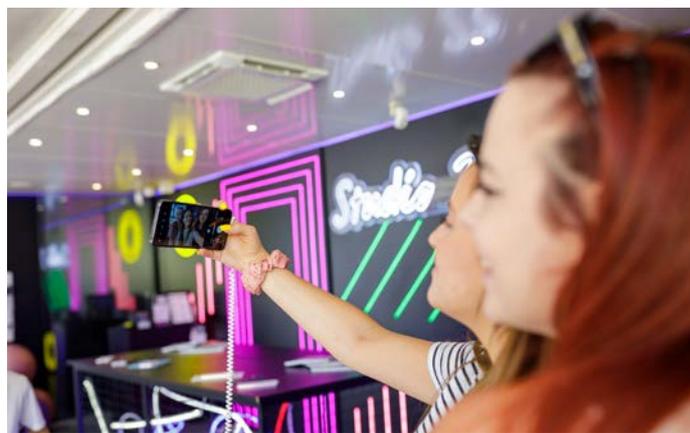
Although the fun was undeniable, they agreed that tennis on a court that's been tried and tested is the real deal.



STAY ACTIVE WITH SAMSUNG

Samsung reminded us of the importance of staying physically active and monitoring the state of your body as you pursue an activity in its travelling pavilion.

Technology buffs had a chance to learn about the special promotional offers for Samsung products, and those regularly involved in physical activities could check the rhythm of their heartbeat and use the most advanced health monitoring options offered by Samsung's smart watches.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

THE STADIUM IS ALWAYS SOLD OUT, IT'S FANTASTIC



This year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag already seemed promising months before it started, when we saw how quickly tickets were going back then. We were really happy and motivated to come to agreements during the final preparations and negotiations with players so as to make the tournament the best yet. In other words, to line up players who will make sure that the ticket buyers get to see some truly exceptional tennis.

At the start of the tournament, we were pretty much convinced that this will happen, that we will have a sold-out court at the Stella Maris for seven days straight. I know people sometimes think that the stadium isn't sold out just because they see an empty seat here and there, but the programme lasts five, six, or even seven hours and no one can expect ticket holders to spend every minute on the stands.

This year has definitely been one to view as a blueprint for the future. Back in 2022, we already started insisting on a wide player line-up, not to invite only the big names, but to include a larger number of players who will draw in the audience. We had a full stadium on a Monday, which I

don't think has ever happened before, and this was no coincidence, as we had two Grand Slam winners playing on the first day. One started at 6 p.m., the other at 9, and we could see our audience's good reaction to it.

On Friday night, Italian fans watching Lorenzo Sonego play against Jaume Munar on the grandstand court created an awesome atmosphere, filling every last seat. I should point out – this wasn't at the central court, but at the second largest court, which was also full.

This is such good news for everyone who participates in organising this tournament. If the interest from the audience is this good, then it shows us that we're on the right path. There are many Croatian fans, but our audience is clearly international, which means that the tourist offer in Umag and our tournament are intertwined in the best possible way. This is obviously the winning combination at its finest.

We hope this nice weather continues throughout the final two days and that the stands stay full, in line with the tickets sold.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

PRIŽMIĆ JUST NEEDS TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK



The quarter-finals in the singles competition are now behind us, and everyone who came to Stella Maris on Friday left more than satisfied. Amazing tennis and an awesome atmosphere went hand in hand. Stan Wawrinka received a standing ovation, and the atmosphere at the grandstand was, to quote Lorenzo Sonego, "crazy".

We sadly had to say goodbye to our top-seeded player Jiří Lehečka, and given that I haven't been able to shut up about Matteo Arnaldi and his potential, this wasn't surprising to me, let alone a sensation. Ever since the tournament started, I've seen him as a dark horse with a chance to make something big happen. No one was talking about him at the beginning, but now he's in the semi-finals, and there could possibly be still more to come.

Lorenzo Sonego won after three sets and will play in the finals, but I don't know what happened to him in the first set when he lost the first 5 games. He managed to recover in time, so all's well that ends well.

Stan played just like he was supposed to against a very tricky opponent who keeps his cards close to his chest, and can easily kick it into high gear. He's playing well, the audience loves him, everything is coming up Stan in

this year's tournament. He has already won the title in Umag once, and I'm sure he'd love to do it again. The way he's playing, I don't see why not, but the biggest challenges are still ahead of him.

What can I say about Prižmić: he played just like I expected him to. It's clear that he hasn't played enough matches at this level. You don't get this experience overnight, it needs to happen gradually, but it will happen if he keeps it up. He is fully dedicated to tennis, which is sure to pay out, but his opponent today had what Dino doesn't have – experience – playing matches like these week in and week out.

Maybe Dino could've made it back if he had won the first set, after coming back from 3:5, but he was overly passive in the tie break. You can't expect that a player like Popyrin will miss in situations like these. But, like I said, it was all a good lesson. Prižmić is in the right headspace and he is fully dedicated to tennis, so I expect him to grow into an excellent player.

The doubles finals are also played on Saturday. Nino Serdarušić and Blaž Rola already achieved a tremendous result, and it would be really nice if they won the title.

GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ DELIGHTS THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS OF THE KIDS WEEK BY PODRAVKA

Croatian tennis legend Goran Ivanišević caused a frenzy yesterday when he visited the kids participating in this year's Kids Week by Podravka, taking place during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.

The boys and girls, together with their parents, had the chance to show their idol their best tennis moves and skills. The famous player was thrilled seeing the skilled racket moves of the tiny players and their unadulterated love for tennis.



Over the last few days, the Kids Week by Podravka hosted over 250 kids from all over Europe, including Italy, Slovakia, Denmark, Czechia, England, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Hungary and Germany.

The best among them received prizes from Babolat, in the form of tennis ball boxes, while the kids received some special guests in the form of their favourite mascots – Lino the teddy bear who shared some delicious Podravka snacks with them, Pepi the Plava Laguna mascot, as well as Loki, the ATP tournament mascot.

NINO SERDARUŠIĆ AND BLAŽ ROLA IN DOUBLES FINALS

Croatian Nino Serdarušić and Slovenian Blaž Rola will play in the doubles final match on Saturday! They won 7:6 (5), 6:4 against the second seeded team, French players Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul, moving on to face the first seeded Italian team of Bolelli and Vavassori.

Serdarušić and Rola have never played together before this week, and the best result Nino has had in his previous appearances in Umag was the quarter-finals. He now has a chance to become the first Croatian tennis player to win the doubles title in Umag, and the last time a Croatian player played in the final match was in 2017, in a face-off between Marin Čilić and Tomislav Draganja. At least one Croatian was in the finals in a total of 6 tournaments in Umag so far.

This Saturday, the pair is facing Bolelli and Vavassori, with Bolelli being the reigning champion having won Umag last year with another fellow Italian, Fognini. He also won this tournament in 2011.



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MUSIC PROGRAMME FOR EVERYONE'S TASTE



The Taste Istria zone once again proved how versatile it is. Not only is it presenting the finest delicacies from Croatia's largest peninsula, but it has also been delighting everyone with its choice of music programme.

Last night, the Tom Benzon trio entertained the audience with amazing rockabilly interpretations. These musical notes inspired by a time gone by helped us travel into the past, but we were instantly taken back by an impressive stage dominated by the Nervo sisters.

Performing as Nervo, the twin sisters Miriam and Olivia Nervo are multiple award-winning DJs and producers from Australia.

During their long career they have received many accolades for their song-writing skills, and they have composed hits for performers such as David Guetta, Kylie Minogue, Afrojack...

Thanks to the energetic and enthusiastic style of their music, they have garnered loyal fans, and they have performed at the biggest festivals and clubs all over the world.

Audience in Umag just loved their performance last night, and expectedly, their biggest hits caused a complete frenzy among the spectators. Yesterday's programme once again showed that Umag is about more than just tennis, and judging by the audience last night, it is the absolute place to be.



AGED MALVAZIJA AS THE THEME FOR THE FINAL TASTING EVENINGS

The final three wineries, Roxanich, Franković and Ravalico, presented their contenders at yesterday's Hidden charm of Istrian wine tastings. This final tasting evening was a chance for the visitors to enjoy their aged malvazija wines and evaluate them blindly,

not knowing which winery produced which of the wines. After five successful and interesting evenings, tonight is reserved for the Grand Finale, when participants will find out which of the wines was crowned the ATP wine of the year.





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