PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG 12.-21.7.2019.

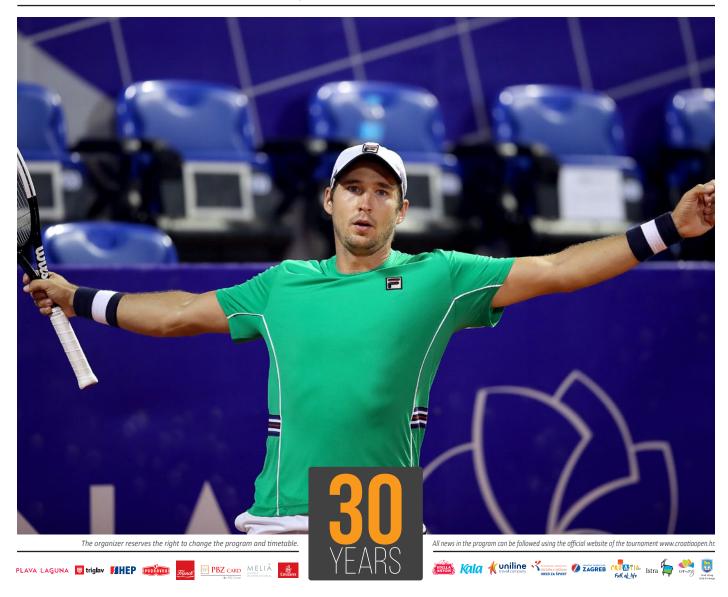


ORDER OF PLAY

GORAN IVANISEVIC STADIUM	GRANDSTAND	22:00		
7:30 Attila Balazs (HUN) vs. Laslo Diere (SRB)	17:00 ITF Wheelchair	Party Nights: Mike Candys		
not before 20:00 Dusan Lajovic (SRB) vs. Salvatore Caruso (ITA) followed by	Guy Sasson (ISR) vs. Joseph Riegler (AUT)	ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL & MUSIC		
	EVENTS	21:00 Wine tasting: aged Malvasia		
DOUBLES FINAL D. Marach (AUT) / J. Melzer (AUT) vs. R. Haase (NED) / P. Oswald (AUT)	10:00 VIP Tournament (Umag Tennis Academy)			

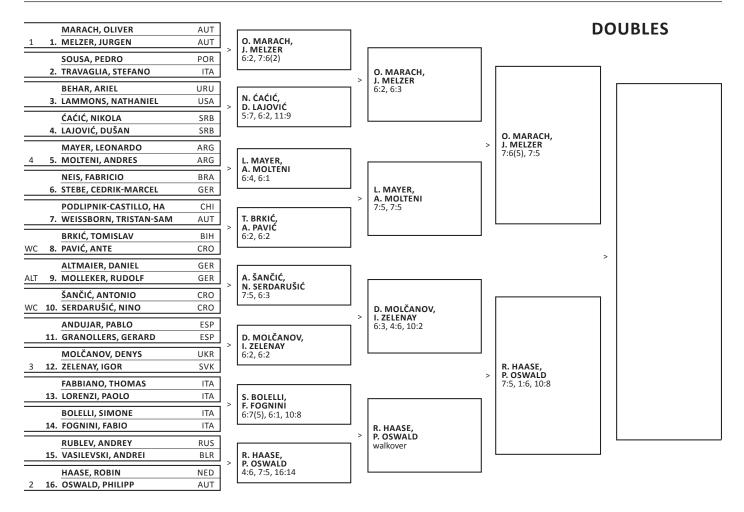
PARTY PROGRAMME

Tickets are available on the official website www.croatiaopen.hr. FREE ENTRY TO THE PARTY PROGRAM.



Daily News

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2. BYE		ĺ _	F. FOGNINI [1]		S. TRAVAGLIA		[]	
3. TRAVAGLIA, STEFANO 4. FABBIANO, THOMAS	ITA ITA	>	S. TRAVAGLIA 6:3, 6:2		6:1, 2:1, predaja		A. BALAZS	
Q 5. BALAZS, ATTILA WC 6. GALOVIĆ, VIKTOR	BRA CRO	>	A. BALAZS 6:0, 6:7(5), 7:6(4)	Ī	A. BALAZS	7	3:6, 7:6(2), 6:3	
7. DANIEL, TARO 6 8. KRAJINOVIĆ, FILIP	JPN SRB	>	F. KRAJINOVIĆ 7:5, 7:6(4)	 	6:3, 6:7(1), 7:6(5)			
3 9. ĐERE, LASLO 10. BYE	SRB	>	L. ĐERE [3]	ĺ		7		>
Q 11. TOREBKO, PETER 12. LORENZI, PAOLO	BRA ITA] >	P. LORENZI 5:7, 6:4, 7:6(3)	٦ ٦	L. ĐERE [3] 6:3, 3:6, 6:4		L. ĐERE [3]	
PR 13. STEBE, CEDRIK-MARCEL 14. VESELY, JIRI	GER CZE] >	J. VESELY 7:6(5), 3:6, 7:6(2)	Ī	L. MAYER [8]	7	6:4, 6:7(6), 6:3	
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5 17. CECCHINATO, MARCO 18. BEDENE, ALJAŽ	ITA SLO	>	A. BEDENE 6:3, 6:2]	A. BEDENE	7		>
19. SOUSA, PEDRO WC 20. SINNER, JANNIK	POR ITA	}	J. SINNER 1:6, 6:3, 6:4		7:6(3), 6:3		D. LAJOVIĆ [4]	
21. RUBLJOV, ANDREJ 22. HAASE, ROBIN	RUS NED	>	A. RUBLJOV 6:3, 6:2]	D. LAJOVIĆ [4]	7	5:7, 6:3, 6:3	
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7 25. KLIŽAN, MARTIN 26. BAGNIS, FACUNDO	SVK ARG	>	F. BAGNIS 4:6, 6:3, 7:5]	F. BAGNIS]		>
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29. MOUTET, CORENTIN Q 30. CARUSO, SALVATORE	FRA ITA	>	S. CARUSO 7:5, 6:0]	S. CARUSO]	6:4, 6:0	
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2



Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

WE'RE IN THE FINAL STAGE, IT'LL BE INTERESTING!

The tournament has entered the final stage, and the fact that the first and second seed are no longer competing has been overshadowed by excellent matches. In fact, the remaining players are more than capable of satisfying the refined tastes of our audiences.

What we saw at the central stadium on Friday when Laslo Djere played Leonardo Mayer and Dusan Lajovic played Aljaz Bedene was exciting, tense and of high quality, so I'm certain no one left the stadium unsatisfied. Quite the opposite, and we expect no less on Saturday! Now, there are two highly-ranked seeds and two qualifiers left in the tournament. This is a fairly interesting situation, in which we seem to have clear favourites, but we shouldn't jump the gun and proclaim them winners. It's true that Lajovic and Djere have met up to expectations so far, but what we've seen from Balazs and Caruso deserves respect. The guys have been playing as if they are among the top thirty in the world, such was the level of their tennis. If they repeat this on Saturday, they might be hard nuts to crack for the Serbian players.

I must repeat what we said a few days ago – top quality in men's tennis is expanding from year to year. The top 100 has ceased to be an elite society, and it seems we're taking giant steps towards moving this border much further down. It's great for tennis: the competition is stronger and stronger, so what we have the opportunity to see here is of the highest quality.

That's what the general public saw on Friday, but what they didn't see happened at the Gala Party. It brought together sponsors, friends of the tournament, my predecessors, former directors Slavko Rasberger and Vanja Bozickovic, as well as many others who helped build the tournament these past thirty years. I was extremely happy to be in that company, because they all contributed to what we have today.

I must say – and I'm not trying to overstate our efforts – that organising this kind of event is an enormous job. I've been in tennis quite a while and I've had the opportunity to see quite a lot, so believe me when I say that Umag has a team that can do anything and that knows the answers to all the questions. There's a lot to be prepared, not just in the sporting segment, to make the tournament a pleasant, positive experience for everyone. I think the Plava Laguna Croatia Open is succeeding in this. Goran Ivanišević



The legend's view

WE WON THE DAVIS CUP, BUT WE'RE UNGRATEFUL

The Davis Cup trophy was presented in Umag on Friday, and of course they asked me what it was like to play those matches. It was something special, playing for your own audience. And playing away matches as well, when everyone is booing you, giving you a new energy. And then there's the Argentinians cheering and singing.

Or what a feeling it is to be a part of a team, the feeling when you win the trophy...It's a big competition, just seeing that unique trophy gives you a special feeling of respect. Now the first season in the new format is coming up, with the final tournament in Madrid, which was the idea of Gerard Piqué. If someone had told me a football player would come along and change the rules of the oldest tennis tournament, I wouldn't believe him. But it happened, Piqué did it, and I consider that scenario a great defeat for people in tennis. If Roger Federer came to UEFA and the Champions League with an idea on how to change their rules, they would run him straight out. This is simply an issue of greed, because there's too much money at stake.

Many wonder how the first season will look and if it will survive later. I won't bury it straight away, but I give the new format two years tops. I don't see how it can survive financially and how they can return their investment.

As far as favourites go, I think Spain

is the favourite, because it's very important to Rafael Nadal. They're with us in the group, together with the good Russian team, so we've got a tough job ahead.

The Davis Cup was always an interesting competition. When we debuted in 1993 against, if someone had told me then we'd win the title twice in the next 25 years, I'm not sure I would have believed him. But we were actually quite lucky, because new names kept coming to us. After me, there was Ivan Ljubicic, then Mario Ancic, then Marin Cilic, Borna Coric... We don't even know how lucky and ungrateful we actually are. Who are we, anyway? There's four million of us, and America has that many registered tennis players. They have a "million" camps, and we don't have a single one. Winning the Davis Cup is an unbelievable achievement! We have a brilliant team that is still a team for the future. People, let's be a bit more realistic and support what we have, and that is great tennis players who can win the title again this year.



A GALA PARTY WITH A DOCUMENTARY ON THE TOURNAMENT'S 30 YEARS AN EVENING FOR PRIDE AND RECOGNITION

The Umag ATP tournament is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and the traditional Gala Party was an opportunity for accolades.

Special recognition went to tennis players Goran Ivanisevic, Goran Prpic and Ivan Ljubicic, tournament directors Slavko Rasberger, Vanja Bozickovic and Lawrence Frankopan, Loretta Krota and Slobodan Kalanj, who have participated in organising the tournament in all three decades, Novi List journalist Zlatko Horvat, who has been here for 29 years, Dragutin Miksa, who has been responsible for line judging all thirty years, long-time press centre head Neven Berticevic...

Sponsors were also awarded, of whom four have been with the tournament since the very start: Hempel, Istarska kreditna banka Umag, IGEPA Plana, and the Umag Tourist Board. This year, the gold sponsors are Triglav Insurance, Podravka, Emirates, HEP, Zagrebačka pivovara, Franck, Croatian Telecom, Privredna banka Zagreb, Melia Hotel International, Uniline, and the Central State Sports Office.

Croatian Radiotelevision received a special recognition from the ATP tournament in Umag for its years of media promotion of the tournament and for three decades of successful media and business cooperation.

Croatian Radio Television's editor-in-chief Bruno Kovacevic and producer Zeljko Plavec received a recognition and a special monograph in the name of HRT, and a documentary film on the 30 years of the Umag ATP tournament was also shown. It will be shown on Croatian Television's channel 2 on Saturday at 4:57PM.

Furthermore, recognitions for organising the VIP tennis tournament and preparing the official catalogue were received by Jadran Mimica and Mihovil Svigir. Throughout these 30 years, the Umag ATP tournament has not only been important for Croatian sport, but for Croatian tourism as well. This is why the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag cooperates closely with many tourist institutions in Croatia, headed by the Ministry of Tourism and the Croatian Tourist Board, Special monographs were received by Monika Udovicic, assistant to tourism minister Gari Capelli, director of the Croatian Tourist Board's Business Presentation and Study Tour Department Renata Dezeljin, and director of the Istria County Tourist Board Denis Ivosevic.



















DAVIS CUP TROPHY PRESENTED IN UMAG FOR THE SECOND TIME

ANOTHER REMINDER THAT WE ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS

One of the most famous trophies in the world of sport, the Davis Cup, made a "guest appearance" at the Social Arena at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open on Friday. This is the second time the massive trophy, over a hundred kilograms, has been displayed at the tournament – in 2006, the year after Croatia won its first title in Bratislava, it was also at Stella Maris.

"I'm extremely happy that we're in Umag, a town of tennis, and that we've brought the ATP Tournament and the Davis Cup together. I would like to congratulate the organisers of the Croatia Open on this worthy anniversary. This tournament is also very important to the Croatian Tennis Association, because young players win their first ATP points here, and take their first steps in their professional lives. We're very proud and happy about the trophy. Croatia is a small country with a big sporting heart. We won the trophy twice, in 2005 and 2018, and although many great players and big countries want it as well, it's not easy to win. Only after a time does one realise how great a success it is. We want the trophy to travel throughout Croatia to constantly remind us that we're world champions," said Nikolina Babić, president of the Croatian Tennis Association.

Umag mayor Vili Bassanese noted: "The sheer size of the trophy is impressive, and it shows how hard it truly was to win it. Tourism and sport have a natural synergistic





effect, and sport is making Croatia visible to tourists. Thanks to Slavko Rasberger's vision, as well as the dedication of those who knew how to keep the tournament going, Umag and Croatia are known worldwide for the ATP tournament. What distinguishes ATP Umag from other tournaments is its spirit, which draws strength from the passion and love of those who help organise it."

The Croatian Tourist Board has also recognised how important sport is for Croatia's image, and the CTA and the Davis Cup team have felt thaat. "Both this year and the last, the Croatian Tourist Board's strategic marketing department recognised the CTA and the Davis Cup team as some of the most important factors in its 'Sporting Croatia' public tender. Our athletes promote Croatia as a sports and tourism destination. Our slogan, 'Croatia, full of life', emphasises this. The Croatian Tourist Board has been following this tournament for years, and I would like to congratulate Slavko Rasberger for having done this, as well as Mrs Arlen Brozic for her incredible enthusiasm and the love she shows for the whole world of tennis. The Board will continue to follow the Davis Cup representation, and I hope that the trophy will stay in Croatia for another year," said Dubravko Simenc, head of the Croatian Tourist Board's strategic marketing department.

After being presented on Friday in Umag, the trophy will return to the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Zagreb.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ATHLETES PRESENTED



Today's young, talented athletes have countless opportunities to develop, one of which is the chance to study abroad. Sport USA director Ralph Clarke revealed how to get scholarships to study in the USA today at Umag's Social Arena to numerous interested visitors.

Clark showed an educational video with all the necessary information on how to apply for scholarships; as an example, he pointed out the University of Michigan, which is completely accommodated to athletes, including tennis players. Over 1,000 American colleges offer more than 10,000 sports scholarships yearly for those who want to study "across the pond". Clarke said that Sport USA offers options for everyone depending on their wishes and abilities. He will be available for any additional questions at the ATP tournament in Umag until Sunday.

QUARTER-FINAL MATCHES REPORT

TWO SEEDS AND TWO QUALIFIERS REMAIN

Third-seeded Laslo Djere (pictured) versus Hungarian qualifier Attila Balazs, and fourth-seeded Dusan Lajovic against Italian qualifier Salvatore Caruso: these are the pairs for Saturday's semi-finals at the Croatia Open in Umag. Three of the four made it with just three sets played, of whom Balazs was closest to defeat when he was losing to Italian Travaglia with 3:6, 0:2. Dusan Lajovic also came back after being down a set against Aljaz Bedene to take his fifth victory in as many matches against the Slovenian player. "I managed to maintain a high intensity throughout the match. I could have won more easily, I regret not taking advantage of my 5:3 lead in the first set, but in the end I'm happy to have made it to the semi-finals in Umag for the first time," said Lajovic, whose best result to date at the Croatia Open was the quarter-finals last year. His next opponent will be Salvatore Caruso, who defeated Argentinean Facundo Bagnis with 6:4; 6:0, not allowing him back in the game in the second set, when it seemed the situation would get truly sticky. The Italian was leading 5:1, missed one set point, then three more at 5:2, only taking advantage of the third at 5:4. He dominated the second set completely, however.



Laslo Djere took a long time to break the resistance of Argentinean Leonard Mayer, saving all seven break points. On Saturday, he will face Attila Balazs, who may already be feeling tired after the exceptionally hard days behind him. He made it through two qualifying rounds, followed by three three-set matches in the main tournament (saving seven match points against Viktor Galovic in the first round). To the great satisfaction of Hungarian fans, 30-year-old Balazs, 207th in the ATP singles rankings, is enjoying the success of his career.

ITF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP MIKSIC AND RIEGLER ARE THE FIRST WINNERS

The Croatian-Austrian duo of Drazen Miksic and Joseph Riegler has won the doubles competition at the first ITF Wheelchair Tennis Croatia Open Umag by HEP. In the finals, played at the Grandstand at Stella Maris, they defeated Croatian-Greek pair Anto Kosic and Giorgios Lazaridis with 6:4; 6:1, taking the winners' trophy. Previously, in the semi-finals, they defeated the top seeded Polish-Israeli pair Brezyna and Sasson with 4:6; 6:2; 10:8.

The singles finals is on schedule for Sunday at 5PM in the same place, with first and second seeds Sasson and Riegler squaring off. Sasson beat top Croatian wheelchair tennis player Anto Joskic in the semi-finals with 6:3; 6:0, and Riegler took down Greek Lazaridis in three sets (3:6; 6:4; 6:1).





NBA STARS IN UMAG LUKA DONCIC ROOTS FOR ALJAZ BEDENE

Luka Doncic, a 20-year-old Slovenian basketball player who recently became NBA Rookie of the Year, arrived at the 30th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag to support Slovenian tennis player Aljaz Bedene.

"I came to Umag to support Aljaz Bedene. I'm always happy to support Slovenian athletes, and this time is no different. I also play tennis occasionally, I love it and also enjoy watching it," said Doncic at the entrance to the stadium just before the match.

Daily News

TASTE ISTRIA CARD

A new feature at the Taste Istria food and drink tasting zone is the Taste Istria Card, a contactless card used to pay for tastings at the Taste Istria zone, which can be used for all 10 days of the tournament (12-21 July 2019). The card can be topped up with the desired amount at cash registers at the Taste Istria zone; the minimum first charge is 100 kuna. You can also buy participation in the "Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine" wine tasting programme at the cash desk at the Taste Istria zone. If you would like to taste wines at the winery points in the zone, rent the glasses you need at the glass rental point next to the cash desk at the Taste Istria zone, making sure to always use your Taste Istria Card (1 glass = HRK 50). Use your



card when tasting food or drink at all tasting points in the zone, and you will get a confirmation of your balance with every tasting. When you return glasses at the glass rental point the value of the rental glasses will be added back to your card balance.

NIKE INVITATIONAL

DINO PRIZMIC TRIUMPHS

Even though he was forced to forfeit his final match due to exhaustion, Dino Prizmic still won the first edition of the Nike Invitational tournament, which brought together four great 14-year-old talents who are among the best in the world in their age group.

Dino scored two wins on the tournament's first day, so even defeat on Friday couldn't stop him on his way to overall victory. However, the biggest win for all four participants (German Marc Majdandzic, Russian Maxim Zhukov, Argentinian Nicolás Eli and Croat Dino Prizmic) was the opportunity to train at a big ATP tournament, where they might be playing the leading roles in coming years. These are highly talented players, all of whom are believed to be able to achieve great results. On the last day, Borna Coric joined them on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy, and a group photo with one of the best tennis players in the world will surely make for a lovely souvenir. Borna will also be an inspiration to them on their path towards a successful professional career.



UMAG STARS OPEN BRINGS TOGETHER NUMEROUS FAMOUS NAMES

Umag is known for much more than just tennis, a fact it reaffirmed this year. The 30th edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag will be remembered by its seven side tournaments. One of these is the Umag Stars Open, which brings former professional athletes, politicians, and people from showbiz and Croatian business together on the tennis court. In the past few days, actors Filip Juricic and Petar Ciritovic, Zagreb lawyer Mate Matic, composer Niksa Bratos, former Olympian Dubravko Simenc and many others have displayed their tennis skills in Umag.

The finals of this "star-studded" tournament were held on Friday. Davor Bosnar won in singles competition, while Tim Valpotic and Darko Mamic took the victory in doubles.

"We love tennis, that's why we're here! The idea was to make a recreational tournament beside courts on which real stars are playing matches. The idea is for this to become an international recreational tournament – this year, we even had one Italian. The Germans, Austrians and Slovenians are also interested," said Silvio Maric, organiser of the Umag Stars Open tournament.





KIDS WEEK:

BORNA DEVALD WAS GUEST AT THE LAST DAY OF KIDS' WEEK

This year's Kids' Week brought together more than 50 young tennis players every day, who showed their best tennis moves and impressed both audiences and the tennis players they had the opportunity to play with.

On Friday, the little ones warmly greeted Croatian player Borna Devald, who showed them a few tennis tricks. The kids also had the chance to play new, interesting games with him. The best at passing and the best at target precision won valuable prizes from Babolat.

The last day of this year's Kids' Week ended with a group photo, which the kids will have as a souvenir of their unforgettable days at the 30th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.





WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



The 30th anniversary of the tennis tournament in Umag is a huge acknowledgement primarily for its organizers, who have been there from the very beginning, and also for all the people who have given a piece of themselves to the tournament and are even now, 30 years later, a credit to our sports and this country. Thanks to this very tournament, today, Croatia is a familiar sight on the world's tennis map, as are its excellent tennis players. However, what makes this tournament even more special is the fact that it offers much more than just tennis. This tournament promotes the best that Croatia has to offer, and not just sports-wise; that includes its gastronomy, winemaking and entertainment as well as its unique natural wonders. I am confident this anniversary will serve as an additional incentive so that, in the years to come, this tournament, which has an immense sports- and tourism-related value, will be even better and stronger, and will celebrate many more anniversaries.

> Janica Kostelić, Secretary of State for Sports

30_{YEARS} Thomas Muster has perfect record in Umag

Austrian Thomas Muster, one of the greatest tennis players, finished his career with perfect Umag record. He played in Stella Maris on three occasions and won the title each time, having the win-loss record of 15-0. Closest to the verge of the defeat he was in 1995 final, when he saved three match points against the Spaniard Carlos Costa.



WINE TASTING

VERALDA ROSÉ BRUT SPARKLING WINE ENTERS THE RACE FOR ATP WINE OF THE YEAR

Visitors to the wine tasting on Friday decided to send Veralda Rosé Brut sparkling wine into the race for the title of ATP wine of the year as the last finalist. At the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wines, Cuj and Kabola wineries also presented their sparkling wines.

One idiosyncrasy on the last evening was the fact that the wines were tasted in black glasses. As two

of the sparkling wines were white and one was a rosé, this prevented tasters from recognising the wine by colour.

The ATP wine of the year will be chosen on Sunday in the Taste Istria zone, and in addition to Veralda's sparkling wine, Tomaz young Malvasia, Kappi aged Teran, Kabola Merlot and Novacco Sauvignon Blanc will be competing for the title. The award



for 2019 ATP wine of the year will be delivered by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic.

UMAG PARTY NIGHTS VACCHI'S BEATS SET THE AUDIENCE JUMPING

Yet another fantastic, exciting evening at the Umag Dance Arena! This time, the audience got moving to Gianluca Vacchi, a mega-popular Italian who can boast a huge fan backing with over 13 million followers on Instagram. And plenty of them were here at Stella Maris, where the programme started at 1AM sharp and had the audience dancing until they dropped. "Choose a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life" is Vacchi's slogan and DJing is simply great fun for him. This was proved by his energetic performance, to the delight of the audience that caught his rhythms right from the start, not taking long to meet the challenge from the stage.

Mike Candys will take the stage for the last day of the Umag Party Nights programme on Saturday.



OSCAR'S CORNER

DJERE COULD WIN THE TOURNAMENT



Laslo Djere came to Umag as a candidate to win the title, and now he's fully on track to achieve that goal. He played a hard match against Argentinian Mayer in the quarter-finals, but he won in three sets. I think there's a good chance he could be the first to stop Hungarian Attila Balazs. Dusan Lajovic also played three sets, and his match against Slovenian Bedene was fairly good. A Djere - Lajovic final seems like a potential option.

writes: Oscar Visintin



