PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG 12.-21.7.2019.



Attila Balazs (HUN) vs. Dušan Lajović (SRB)

23:30

PARTY PROGRAM

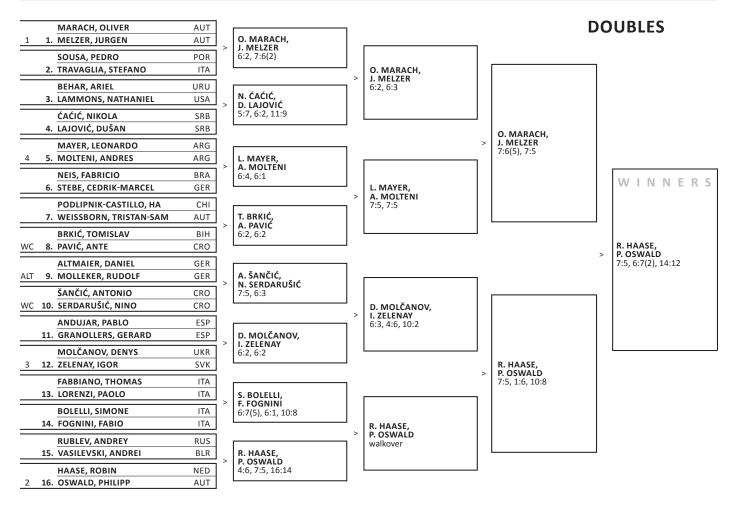
Party Nights

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



Daily News

1 1. FOGNINI, FABIO 2. BYE	ITA	>	F. FOGNINI [1]	1		7		SINGLES
3. TRAVAGLIA, STEFANO 4. FABBIANO, THOMAS	ITA ITA	>	S. TRAVAGLIA 6:3, 6:2] >	S. TRAVAGLIA 6:1, 2:1, retired			
Q 5. BALAZS, ATTILA WC 6. GALOVIĆ, VIKTOR	BRA CRO	>	A. BALAZS 6:0, 6:7(5), 7:6(4)	1	A. BALAZS	_ >]	A. BALAZS 3:6, 7:6(2), 6:3	
7. DANIEL, TARO68. KRAJINOVIĆ, FILIP	JPN SRB	>	F. KRAJINOVIĆ 7:5, 7:6(4)		6:3, 6:7(1), 7:6(5)			A. BALAZS
3 9. ĐERE, LASLO 10. BYE	SRB	>	L. ĐERE [3]]	L. ĐERE [3]	7	>	6:2, 6:4
Q 11. TOREBKO, PETER 12. LORENZI, PAOLO	BRA ITA	>	P. LORENZI 5:7, 6:4, 7:6(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)		L. MAYER [8]		6:4, 6:7(6), 6:3	
15. ANDUJAR, PABLO 8 16. MAYER, LEONARDO	ESP ARG		L. MAYER [8] 6:1, 7:5	ļ	3:6, 6:4, 6:4			>
5 17. CECCHINATO, MARCO 18. BEDENE, ALJAŽ	ITA SLO	>	A. BEDENE 6:3, 6:2],	A. BEDENE 7:6(3), 6:3]		
19. SOUSA, PEDRO WC 20. SINNER, JANNIK	POR ITA	>	J. SINNER 1:6, 6:3, 6:4	ļ	7.0(3), 0.3]	D. LAJOVIĆ [4]	
21. RUBLJOV, ANDREJ 22. HAASE, ROBIN	RUS NED	>	A. RUBLJOV 6:3, 6:2	 >	D. LAJOVIĆ [4] 6:4, 6:3	<u> </u>	5:7, 6:3, 6:3	
23. BYE 4 24. LAJOVIĆ, DUŠAN	SRB	>	D. LAJOVIĆ [4]					D. LAJOVIĆ [4] 7:5, retired
7 25. KLIŽAN, MARTIN 26. BAGNIS, FACUNDO	SVK ARG	>	F. BAGNIS 4:6, 6:3, 7:5] >	F. BAGNIS 6:3, 6:3]		
Q 27. TRUNGELLITI, MARCO WC 28. SERDARUŠIĆ, NINO	ARG CRO	>	N. SERDARUSIC 6:3, 6:3			>	S. CARUSO 6:4, 6:0	
29. MOUTET, CORENTIN Q 30. CARUSO, SALVATORE	FRA ITA	>	7:5, 6:0]] >	S. CARUSO 6:2, 3:6, 6:1		0.4, 0.0	
31. BYE 2 32. ĆORIĆ, BORNA	CRO	>	B. ĆORIĆ [2]					



2



Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

WE EXPECT NOTHING BUT THE BEST TENNIS

First and foremost, it's great to have a Hungarian in the final, a man from this region. There is no doubt that there will be many of his compatriots trying to push him, possibly over his limits, to help him win the glorious trophy given to the Umag champion.

It's going to be loud, it's going to be fun, it's going to be how a final match should be.

This is a good story anyway. He came straight through from the qualifiers, beating some very good players en route to the finals. To be honest, nobody expected that a qualifier would reach the finals, but he deserved it. His tennis game has been just amazing. I imagine that everyone has enjoyed watching him, how he fought through. I'm glad he likes playing in Umag, that he has lovely memories from previous events, not only the ATP tournament.

The other semi-final was unfortunate, considering how it ended. No one likes to win a match like that. Dusan was apologetic, I guess, to Caruso. The first set was absolutely spectacular and it's a shame it ended like that. We wish Caruso all the best, that he recovers as soon as possible and continues his rise through the rankings. Reaching the semi-finals from the qualifying event is an extraordinary effort, and our Italian friend has shown how good he is, despite being ranked 125th this week.

I hope that we will have a full house on Sunday. It would be just great to end the tournament in an impressive fashion, to have a great final in terms of quality tennis, and also to have good vibes and for the audience to enjoy the moment. We did a kind of inventory on Saturday morning, and yes, most of the tickets for the final match have been sold. So we can expect to have a full stadium.

The level of play during this week has been rather good. This is what you would expect from high-ranking players, but we also had a lot of lower-ranked guys showing how good they were. Our Italian friend Caruso played some of the best tennis I've seen on clay this year! Lajovic had trouble keeping up before Caruso was injured.

We look forward to this final, and we expect nothing but the best tennis. Both players have the capacity to deliver a spectacle. With full stadium behind them, it can surely happen.

Goran Ivanišević



The legend's view

THIS WILL BE A GREAT FINAL MATCH

I predicted that Djere and Lajovic would be playing in the finals, so it looks like I was half right. But cheers to Balazs, he came from the qualifications all the way to the finals, saved seven match points in the first round, and good ones too... Djere was the favourite, but the Hungarian played better. All in all, it's still a great story.

The lad came "out of nowhere", quit tennis and then came back, he played in my club, HTK Zagreb... There are a lot of interesting details surfacing after he scored the result of his career. He's never come this far at an ATP tournament, now he'll have the experience.

We could have had two qualifiers in the finals, and it might have happened had Caruso not been injured. However, Lajovic is playing better and better, and now he has the chance to win a title.

The fact he's the better player of the two gives him the advantage in the final on Sunday. He's better in every aspect of tennis, but on the other hand, Balazs will be full of confidence, and that will give him great strength. He'll also have support from the Hungarian cavalry in the stands, so he sees his opportunity as well. He surely won't forfeit, he'll try to give his all, show everything he knows to make it to the end, because all he needs is one more step. We shouldn't write him off, not at all, and you can feel the confidence he has in his hits.

Lajovic has a big final behind him from the Masters 1000 series in Monte Carlo. It's a great result and speaks to his quality. Of course, the final is a match in itself, and although he's younger than his opponent, Lajovic is more experienced and has far more big matches under his belt. Now, we come to the most important point: I expect this will be a great final match. They're both playing a diverse game, especially Balazs, who isn't afraid to come to the net and play a short game. That's why it could be great for the audience, more interesting than if Lajovic and Djere had been the finalists. There will be plenty of material here to enjoy a world-class tennis match, although someone unfamiliar with tennis might think a 207th-ranked player has nothing to show against a player like Lajovic. Luckily, that's not the case, so we have reason to expect the final in Umag to be at a high level. May the better man win.

FIGURES FROM THE WORLD OF POLITICS, BUSINESS AND DIPLOMACY IN UMAG

PRIME MINISTER PLENKOVIĆ WATCHES THE SEMI-FINALS

The semi-finals at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, held on Saturday at Goran Ivanišević ATP Stadium, were attended by numerous figures from the world of business, politics and diplomacy.

The tennis match between Salvatore Caruso and Dusan Lajovic was watched by Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, government Vice-President and Finance Minister Zdravko Marić, Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts Darko Horvat and Tourism Minister Gari Cappelli.

"The ATP tournament in Umag is well-placed in the overall calendar of tennis tournaments, and it's a true attraction, not only for Umag's sporting image but for tourism as well. As our only ATP tournament, it continues to draw the best Croatian and foreign players. This is truly a great social, cultural, economic and sporting event," said Croatian PM Plenković.

The semi-finals of the 30th edition of the tournament were also attended by US Ambassador W. Robert Kohorst and Italian Ambassador Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani.

Numerous representatives of Croatian and foreign companies also enjoyed the semi-final match, including HEP management board president Frane Barbarić, Croatian Telecom management board president Kostas Nebis, Intesa Sanpaolo international subsidiary department head Paola Angeletti, Privredna banka Zagreb managing board president Dinko Lucic, Triglav Insurance managing board member Denis Burmaz, Podravka's corporate



marketing and communications department head Marinka Akrap, and many others.

These numerous guests were greeted at the stadium by hosts – Plava Laguna supervisory board president Davor Luksic, tournament director Lawrence Frankopan, and Umag mayor Vili Bassanese.

Sunday's final match will also be attended by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, who will hand the trophy to the tournament winner.

VIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT

FINAL MATCH SLATED FOR SUNDAY

The traditional VIP tennis tournament, which brings together eminent figures from Croatia and abroad, has entered its final stages, and the winning doubles pair will be chosen on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy on Sunday. Matches in the first round and the quarter-finals were held on Saturday, and the semi-finals are on schedule for 9AM on Sunday. Eight players are left in the runnings, and we will find out who will be playing whom after the drawing on Sunday before the scheduled start.

The final competitors include Mihovil Svigir (Playboy Magazine), Robert Kohorst (US ambassador to Croatia), Mate Matic (attorney), Marko Ljubicic (father of Ivan Ljubicic), Sinisa Djuranovic (member of Croatian Telecom management board), Tomislav Klobucarevic (director of Messer Croatia), Ivan Curkovic (attorney) and Bruno Iljkic (entrepreneur).





ITF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP

ISRAELI SASSON TAKES THE TITLE IN UMAG

The premiere edition of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Croatia Open Umag by HEP was won by Israeli Guy Sasson, currently ranked 36th in the world, who began the competition as the top seed and went on to fulfil all expectations. He had a difficult task in the finals, however, as second-seeded Austrian Joseph Riegler proved a hard nut to crack.

In the end, the 39-year-old Israeli won with 7:5; 1:6; 7:5. His current placement in the ATP singles rankings is also his best yet. Riegler can also be satisfied, as he won the title in doubles competition a day earlier with Drazen Miksic.

SINGLES SEMI-FINAL MATCHES REPORT

BALAZS STILL UNSTOPPABLE, LAJOVIC WINS AFTER CARUSO FORFEIT

Fourth seed Dusan Lajovic from Serbia and Hungarian qualifier Attila Balazs (pictured) will be playing in the finals of the 30th anniversary edition of the Umag ATP tournament. This is the epilogue of Saturday's semi-final matches, in which Balazs bested Laslo Djere from Serbia with 6:2; 6:4, after which Lajovic, after winning the first set with 7:5, entered the finals when Italian Salvatore Caruso forfeited. This will be their first encounter, and not only will the tournament get a new winner, the winner will be from Serbia or Hungary for the first time.

"This is truly unbelievable. I don't play every week at ATP tournaments, and now I'm in the finals. When I remember that I saved seven match points against Victor Galovic in the first round, it becomes clear that everything is possible in tennis. Rankings are just a number," said the current 207th player in the world, whose ranking on Monday morning will be around 150th if he is defeated in the finals, and even higher if he wins the title. Either way, he will have the highest ranking of his career. When asked who he would prefer to play in the finals (as the second semi-final match hadn't started yet at the time), he answered: "It doesn't matter. I have to be ready and play my best tennis, otherwise I won't have a chance."

This was the first match in the main tournament in which 30-year-old Balazs did not have to play three sets, although this did appear possible at one point. In the second set, the Hungarian was leading with 5:2 and was at match point, but after a few minutes, Djere had won two break points to tie him at 5:5! Balazs however managed to win and move on to the finals, a few years after he had already announced the end of his career.



"I had a problem with a finger injury that simply wouldn't heal, so I stopped playing and dedicated myself to training. I didn't play for two years. When it finally healed, my motivation returned, but I had another long, eight-month pause until March of this year. Now at least I won't have any points to defend for a long time," said Balazs, who could become the second Hungarian this year with an ATP title after Marton Fucsovics won Sofia early in the season. Balazs' biography states that his favourite tournament is Umag!

"That's right, it's one of the best places. I qualified here in 2017 and made it through the first round of the main tournament, and I've played at the ITF Futures many times," added the Hungarian, who was the only player in 2017 to defeat tournament winner Andrey Rublev. How? He beat him in the qualifications, after which Rublev went on to the main tournament as a "lucky loser".

Lajovic was steps from losing the first set against Caruso, but he won a rally of four games to come back from 3:5 to 7:5. After this, the Italian forfeited due to a groin injury, placing Lajovic in the finals of an ATP tournament for the second time this season, the first time being in Monte Carlo in April.

"It would be great to play against Laslo, but I'm the kind of player who doesn't do well with a friend on the other side of the net," said Lajovic. "I have experience playing in finals, so it could be good for me. I'm sorry to have won like this, but that's part of sport. Balazs is playing brilliantly, he came from the qualifications, beat a few good players. He's good at changing rhythm, he loves drawing opponents out of their routine," added Lajovic.



For the second year in a row, Dutchman Robin Haase has defeated the competition in doubles at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open ATP Tournament, but with a different partner. Last season, his partner was fellow Dutchman Matwe MiddelTheir debut together proved to be fruitful, and they will leave Umag with 250 points and prize money of €29,650 for the pair. This is Haase's sixth title, and his first this year, while this is Oswald's ninth title and his first finals in 2019.

DOUBLES TOURNAMENT FINALS **HAASE WINS** AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH OSWALD

koop, but this time In the decisive battle for the Umag title, they it was Austrian Phidefeated Austrian doubles team Oliver Marach lipp Oswald, with and Jurgen Melzer in a perfectly even match, whom he had never with a result of 7:5; 6:7 (2); 14:12. They had their played before.

first of four match points at 5:4 in the second set, and they took advantage of the last one to win with 14:12 in an extended tie break. Earlier, at 9:8 and 10:9, their opponents also failed to take advantage of two match points.

Daily News

TOURNAMENT SPONSORS: SNACK CORNER BY MLINOTEST

MLINOTEST EXCELS IN THE PRESS CENTRE

For the past few years, the Umag tournament's press centre, run by Loretta Krota (who has 30 years of experience at the tournament), has usually worked almost without pause, 24 hours a day: the first journalists come in at eight in the morning, and the last leave a few hours after midnight. This year, press centre food supplier Mlinotest took care of journalists, and every day there was something different on the table!

The wide assortment of products at the Snack Corner by Mlinotest was a hit for journalists, for whom deadlines and constant events at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open mean they don't have much time for breaks. Whether they wanted something sweet or savoury, Mlinotest had both!













ICO KERHIN JOURNALISTS' MEMORIAL

ILVIO VIDOVICH WINS (AGAIN)

from Rije-

ka's Novi

For the third year in a row, Ilvio Vidovich (Ubitennis) has won a tournament traditionally held during the ATP tournament for accredited journalists and media workers. He thus maintained his status as undefeated journalist at the Ico Kerhin Memorial; he debuted the year before last and won the title on his first attempt, and continued his winning streak through the next two editions.

In the last two finals, he defeated Zlatko Horvat

List, and this time his opponent was Ubitennis colleague Michelangelo Sottili, who he beat with 6:2; 6:2. Of the Croatian journalists and media representatives, Vladimir Zrinjski (Jutarnji List) and Željko Plavec (Croatian Radiotelevision) made it furthest, to the semi-finals.

Food was provided after the finals, and there's no better place for barbecue than Fredi's Bar, located next to the Gourmet Zone. PIK Vrbovec provided a brilliant lunch, as they traditionally have after the journalists' tournament, and prizes for the best players were provided, as usual, by Babolat.







WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



When a tennis tournament, which is much more than a sports event, marks its 30th edition, that is a tradition worthy of respect. Umag's Croatia Open has since the very start been something special in the world of tennis. Immersed in the Mediterranean romance and leaning against a breathtakingly beautiful beach, it has regularly embodied an irresistible invitation to great players, many of whom have gladly returned to Umag. In the days we fought for independence, Croatia Open Umag was an important window into the world for Croatia. We have very few events that promote Croatia with such continuity — both as a country of sports excellence and a country of varied tourist offer. All we can do is congratulate those that organized the past 29 tournaments, primarily the longtime director Slavko Rasberger, who has woven a part of himself into the tournament.

Of course, we should also wish Umag a lasting place on the map of attractive international tennis destinations.

Zlatko Mateša, the Croatian Olympic Committee's President

30 YEARS

The longest and the shortest match

The longest match in Umag, in terms of minutes played, happened in 2011, when Argentinean Carlos Berlocq and Slovene Aljaz Bedene spent three hours and 41 minutes on the court! Berlocq prevailed to the second round, winning by 6:4, 6:7, 6:4. The shortest match was in the first round in 2005, when Spaniard Albert Portas needed only 40 minutes to overcome Jiří Novák from the Czech Republic (6:1, 6:0).



WINE TASTING

KOZLOVIĆ'S AGED MALVASIA ENTERS THE FINALS FOR ATP WINE OF THE YEAR

The final tasting of the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine was dedicated to the queen of Croatian wine – Istrian Malvasia. The competition was tough, and visitors had a hard time deciding which of them was the best. Degrassi, Franc Arman and Kozlović wineries presented their wines from the 2015 vintage. After a tense battle, Kozlović's aged Malvasia "Po mojem" won the most votes, thus ending the final wine evening. The ATP wine of the year will be chosen on Sunday at the Taste Istria zone, and in addition to Kozlović's aged Malvasia, Tomaz young Malvasia, Kappi aged Teran, Kabola Merlot, Novacco Sauvignon Blanc and Veralda sparkling wine will all be competing for the title.



UMAG PARTY NIGHTS

DJ MIKE CANDYS ONCE AGAIN THROWS A PARTY TO REMEMBER

Swiss DJ Mike Candys, whose hits have a total of over 150 million views on YouTube, threw an unforgettable party at the Dance Arena on Saturday. This was Mike's second time performing in Umag, and in all likelihood, it won't be his last. Visitors had a great time taking in the house, dance and electro house rhythms of hits like Insomnia, One Night in Ibiza, 2012 (If the World Would End) and Together Again, and attractive dancers helped heat up the atmosphere even more. One of the most sought-after club names in the world once again offered a unique experience to audiences in Umag.

DJ Mike's party didn't go without his iconic yellow ball with a smiley face, which he wears on his head at his performances.

OSCAR'S CORNER

AWAITING THE FINALS!

In a difficult, tense semi-final match between third-seeded Laslo Djere from Serbia and Hungarian qualifier Attila Balazs, the latter was victorious with 6:2; 6:4, and will be going to the finals of the ATP tournament. Balazs dominated the first set, while the second was somewhat more challenging.

It's been a great week for Balazs. My favourite today was Djere, who has already played in Umag, but lost with 48 unforced errors that couldn't bring him to the finals. I wish him all the best at coming tournaments.

The atmosphere at the second match was brilliant, and I was on the edge of my seat. Fourth-seeded Dusan Lajovic from Serbia and Italian qualifier Salvatore Caruso were battling it out for the final. Unfortunately, the Italian had to forfeit after Lajovic won the first set with 7:5.





writes: Oscar Visintin



