



PLAVA LAGUNA OPEN **UMAG**
CROATIA 19.-27.07.2024.

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #34ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO 2 • 22.07.2024.

**DODIG SECURES HIS FIRST ATP VICTORY, WHILE
SONEGO TRIUMPHS IN A MIDNIGHT THRILLER**





Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag
Umag, Croatia

21 July — 27 July 2024 | EURO 579,320 | Clay



Main Draw Singles

1	1	RUBLEV, Andrey		A. Rublev 1	
2		Bye			
3		UGO CARABELLI, Camilo	ARG	C. Ugo Carabelli	
4	WC	MIKRUT, Luka	CRO	62 75	
5		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander	KAZ	F. Marozsan	
6		MAROZSAN, Fabian	HUN	64 46 76 ⁸	
7		MONTEIRO, Thiago	BRA	T. Monteiro	
8	7	MACHAC, Tomas	CZE	36 63 64	
9	4	CERUNDOLO, Francisco	ARG	F. Cerundolo 4	
10		Bye			
11	Q	COUACAUD, Enzo	FRA	M. Dodig	
12	WC	DODIG, Matej	CRO	36 63 62	
13	WC	POLJICAK, Mili	CRO	L. Sonego	
14		SONEGO, Lorenzo	ITA	62 67 ¹ 76 ⁹	
15		MULLER, Alexandre	FRA	A. Muller	
16	8	ARNALDI, Matteo	ITA	76 ⁸ 64	
17	5	DARDERI, Luciano	ITA		
18	SE	AJDUKOVIC, Duje	CRO		
19		MENSIK, Jakub	CZE	J. Mensik	
20		POPYRIN, Alexei	AUS	63 62	
21		VAN ASSCHE, Luca	FRA		
22		FOGNINI, Fabio	ITA		
23		Bye		C. Tseng	
24	LL	TSENG, Chun-Hsin	TPE		
25	6	NAVONE, Mariano	ARG	F. Cobolli	
26		COBOLLI, Flavio	ITA	62 63	
27	Q	MISOLIC, Filip	AUT	D. Lajovic	
28		LAJOVIC, Dusan	SRB	64 36 62	
29	Q	TRUNGELLITI, Marco	ARG	M. Trungelliti	
30	Q	ANDREOZZI, Guido	ARG	46 63 62	
31		Bye		L. Musetti 2	
32	2	MUSETTI, Lorenzo	ITA		

Round of 32		Round of 16		Quarterfinals		Semifinals		Final		Winner	
€ 6,215	0 pt	€ 10,165	25 pt	€ 17,510	50 pt	€ 30,220	100 pt	€ 51,400	165 pt	€ 88,125	250 pt

Last direct acceptance

Alexandre Muller, 102

ATP Supervisor

Gerry Armstrong

Sen. Armstrong Released

Released
07/23/2024 00:31:50

Seeded Players

	Player	Rank
1	Rublev, Andrey	8
2	Musetti, Lorenzo	16
3	Rune, Holger	17
4	Cerundolo, Francisco	33
5	Darderi, Luciano	35
6	Navone, Mariano	36
7	Machac, Tomas	38
8	Arnaldi, Matteo	39

Alternates/Lucky Losers

C. Tseng (LL)

Withdrawals

H. Rune (Left Wrist)

Retirements/W.O.

ORDER OF PLAY - TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

	GORAN IVANISEVIC STADION	STUDENAC ARENA	COURT 1	COURT 2
	Starts At 4:30 PM	Starts At 4:30 PM	Starts At 5:00 PM	Starts At 6:00 PM
1.	Luca VAN ASSCHE (FRA) vs Fabio FOGNINI (ITA)	Jakob SCHNAITTER (GER) Mark WALLNER (GER) vs [2] Theo ARRIBAGE (FRA) Sadio DOUMBIA (FRA)	Manuel GUINARD (FRA) Gregoire JACQ (FRA) vs Marco BORTOLOTTI (ITA) Matthew Christopher ROMIOS (AUS)	
	Not Before 6:00 PM	Not Before 6:00 PM	Followed By	Starts At 6:00 PM
2.	[1] Andrey RUBLEV vs Camilo UGO CARABELLI (ARG)	[3] Nicolas BARRIENTOS (COL) Francisco CABRAL (POR) vs Fernando ROMBOLI (BRA) Marcelo ZORMANN (BRA)	[WC] Karlo KAJIN (CRO) Deni ZMAK (CRO) vs Jonathan EYSSERIC (FRA) Orlando LUZ (BRA)	Anirudh CHANDRASEKAR (IND) Arjun KADHE (IND) vs [4] Guido ANDREOZZI (ARG) Miguel REYES-VARELA (MEX)
	Not Before 9:00 PM	Not Before 7:30 PM	Not Before 8:00 PM	
3.	[5] Luciano DARDERI (ITA) vs [SE] Duje AJDUKOVIC (CRO)	Fabian MAROZSAN (HUN) vs Thiago MONTEIRO (BRA)	AFTER SUITABLE REST [1] Yuki BHAMBRI (IND) Albano OLIVETTI (FRA) vs Jozef KOVALIK (SVK) Camilo UGO CARABELLI (ARG)	

Tournament Director:
Tomislav Poljak

Released:
07/22/2024 8:13:28 PM

ANY MATCH ON ANY COURT MAY BE MOVED
MATCHES WILL BE OFFICIALLY CALLED FROM THE PLAYERS' LOUNGE & LOCKER-ROOM

Singles Lucky-Loser Sign-in Deadline: 4:00 PM
Doubles Alternate Sign-in Deadline: 4:00 PM

ATP Supervisor(s):
Gerry Armstrong

Referee(s):
Mila Mandl

Tour Manager:
Diego Pedraza Novak

DODIG'S FIRST ATP TOURNAMENT WIN, POLJIČAK MISSES TWO MATCH POINTS, TITLE DEFENDER OUT



Young Croatian players almost had a perfect score on the second day of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, but they missed it. Matej Dodig, the 18-year-old player from Osijek, concluded his first ATP tournament match with a victory, winning 3:6, 6:3, 6:2 against France's Enzo Coucaud, while Mili Poljičak was defeated a few minutes later, after a dramatic match where he was so close to winning against the 54th best player in the world. Lorenzo Sonego advanced with a 6:2, 6:7 (1), 7:6 (9) victory.

"It feels amazing, I can't even describe it. The atmosphere was great, my family and friends came from Osijek and other parts of Croatia to cheer me on. I would like to thank the tournament for my invitation once again," said Dodig. "This is definitely my favourite victory, I won against a player who qualified in all Grand Slams, who won a set against Đoković at Australian Open... At first, I had a bit of an issue with the lighting, I don't know if I've ever played this late, but I managed to turn the result over." In the second round, he faces the fourth-seeded player, the Argentinian Francisco Cerundolo.

Poljičak also played a great game after losing the first set. He could have won the second one a bit more easily, as he had a 5:2 lead, but he did dominate the tie-break with only one point lost. There were no break points in the third set, but Sonego got the first advantage in the tie-break by having a 5:2 lead. Mili returned with four points in a row, but he failed to make the best of the 6:5 match point or the next one at 8:7, which is why last year's Umag semi-finalist took the win in the end.

"I'm not sure if I should laugh or cry. Defeats like this one are a part of sports, but I should be proud. I haven't played this well in the past year. I'm trying to play like this as often as possible. If I had more opportunities to play at this level of tennis, I think I'd be much better. I got here from a Futures tournament, where you don't get to play

the best tennis; the only thing that matters is to win so as to place in larger tournaments. My chance at this comes once a year, while players like Sonego play in these ranks every week. This was what made the difference this time, I lost the first set before I even got my head into the match. In the end, I lost by one point, he hit the match point with his frame at the outer line...", said Poljičak, who currently holds the 524th place in the ATP rankings.

Title defender Alexei Popyrin was eliminated at the very start of this year's tournament, after losing 6:3, 6:2 to one of the biggest talents on the world's tennis scene, the 18-year-old Czech player Jakub Menšík, who currently holds the 81st place in the ATP rankings. This was the seventh loss in a row for Popyrin, who had his last victory back in April, in a Masters 1000 tournament in Monte Carlo, when he defeated Andrey Rublev, who was the sixth best player in the world at the time.

"I haven't played very well on clay courts this year, and today I lost to a very fine young player. He is full of confidence and capable of achieving great things. I think I was better at the start of the first set, but then he had an amazing return game... I played well in training, but not in the match, too bad," said Popyrin, who failed to take advantage of four break points.

When it comes to the doubles tournament, title defenders Nino Serdarušić and Blaž Rola were eliminated after the first round, the Croatian-Slovenian duo was defeated by the Dutch player Arends, and Ukrainian Molchanov (6:2, 6:4). Deni Žmak and Karlo Kajin, winners of the Road to Umag doubles tournament, are set to hit the court on Tuesday when they face off against the French player Eysseric and the Brazilian player Luz.

HOLGER RUNE OUT DUE TO INJURY

The Danish player Holger Rune will not be playing this year's ATP tournament in Umag – he had to withdraw on Monday due to an injury. He forfeited the quarter-final game in Hamburg last week and didn't have the chance to recover in time. This was set to be his third participation at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, and he was eliminated at the start of the tournament the first two times.





“AS ZA SPAS” HUMANITARIAN CAMPAIGN HELD FOR THE 8TH TIME AT THE PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

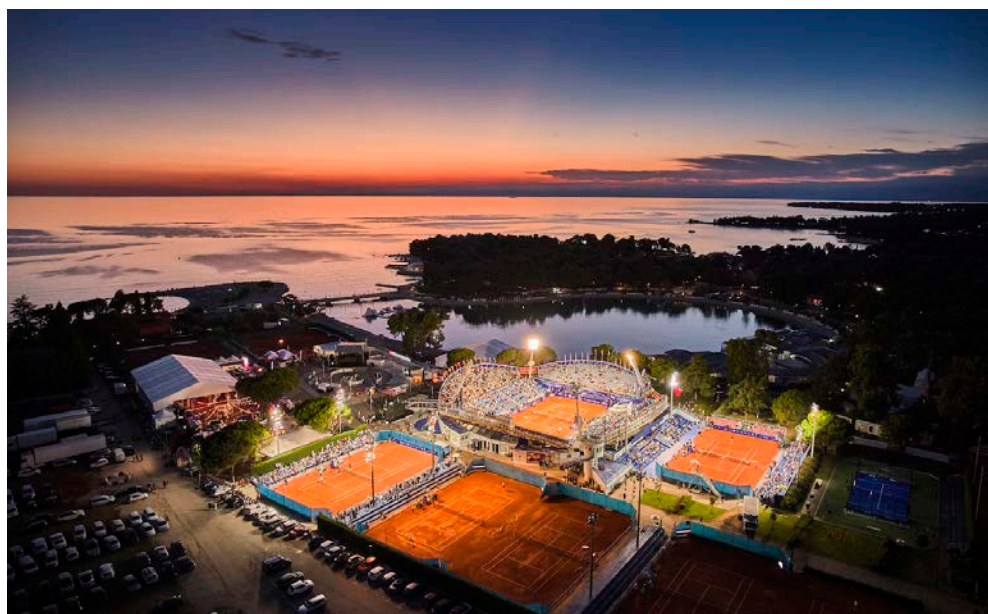
These days, Umag is a must for all tennis enthusiasts who come together to enjoy amazing matches and a unique atmosphere. What makes Umag even more special is the admirable humanitarian campaign “As za spas” which, supported by Hrvatska elektroprivreda (HEP), a long-standing partner and friend of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, is now in its 8th year.

The campaign is part of the “Aces for Charity” global initiative, aimed at connecting tennis and humanitarian efforts in order to help the communities in which the tournaments take place.

Funds are raised by counting all aces won throughout the tournament matches, and a certain amount is donated

based on the total number of aces. Traditionally, and with support from HEP, donations are made to the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Federation so as to help them organise an ITF tournament in wheelchair tennis, which takes place the same week as the Umag ATP. Last year, a total of 275 aces were won, leading to a donation of 5,225 euro.

This humanitarian campaign is certainly another reason to visit Umag and enjoy amazing tennis.



Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

HEP Više od
struje





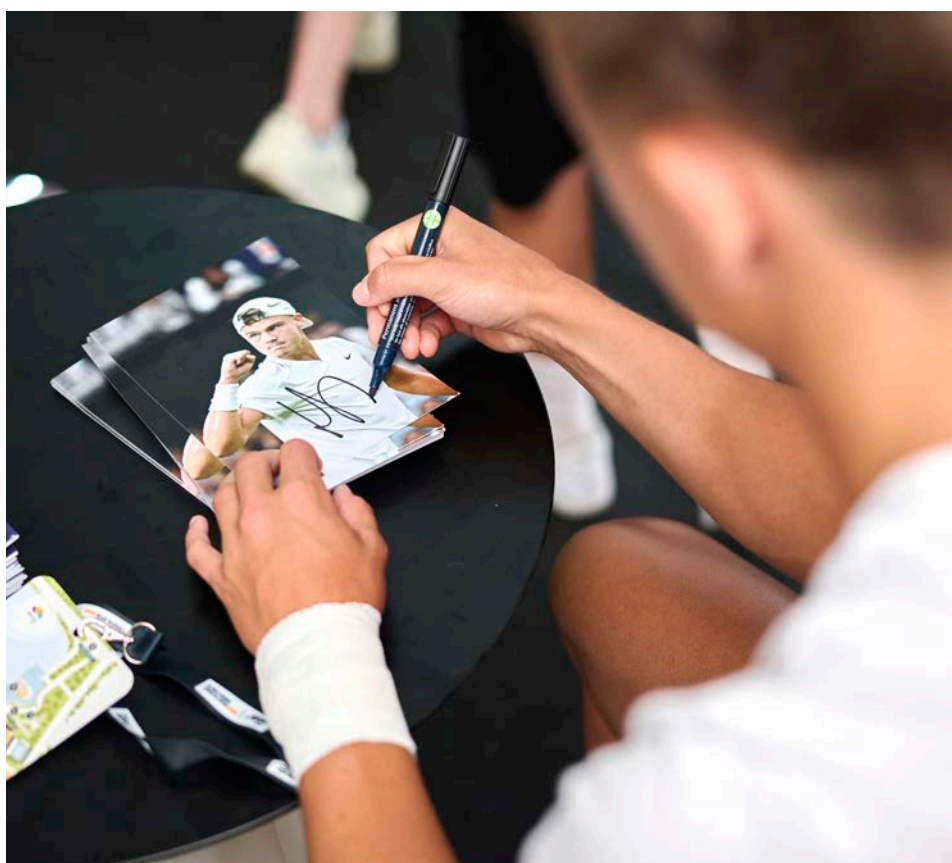
DESPITE WITHDRAWING FROM THE TOURNAMENT, HOLGER RUNE DOES A MEET&GREET

Although he has officially withdrawn from the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, the 16th best player in the world, Holger Rune, was there to spend some time with his fans during yesterday's Meet & Greet at the Social Arena.

The line of fans seemed to have no end, and everyone was so excited for Rune to start handing out autographs and take photos with the young player.

"Unfortunately, the first medical results of my wrist are not looking good. So, I will not be able to compete in Umag this week. I am happy that I had a chance to meet all my fans here in Croatia and I hope to come back and play some tennis for you as well" wrote Rune on his official Instagram profile.

We wish Holger a speedy recovery and an even faster return to the tennis courts!





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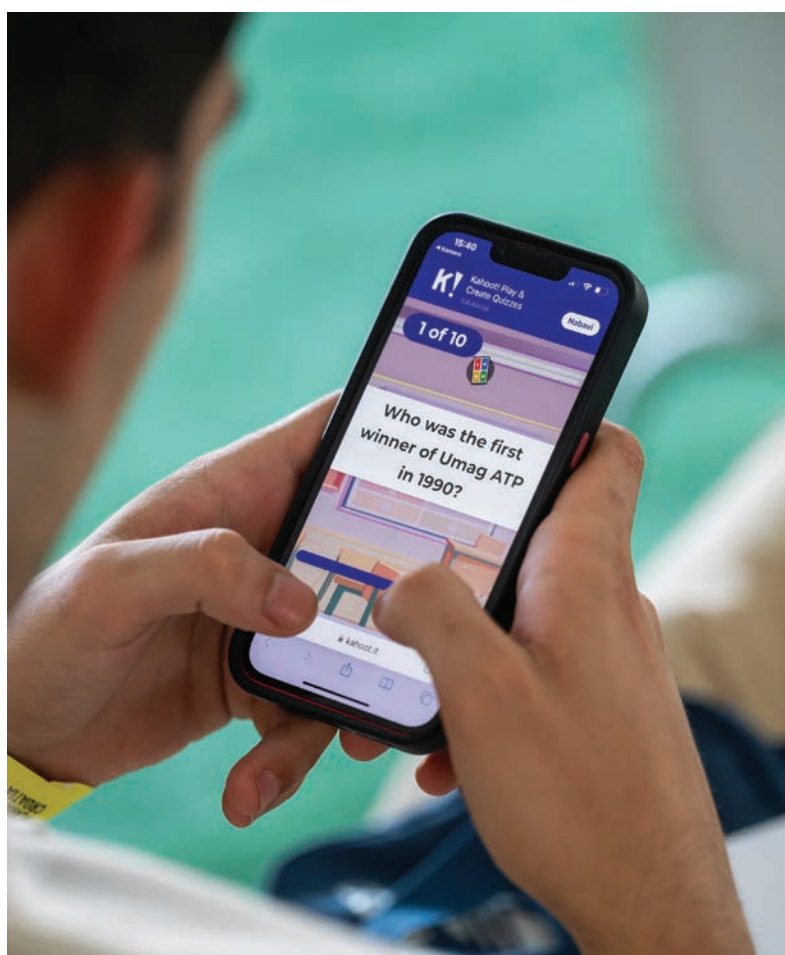
OFENZIVA BREAK: DUJE AJDUKOVIĆ

The second edition of Ofenziva Break welcomed the best Croatian player, Duje Ajduković, who joined us at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag after playing an amazing match against Rafael Nadal and achieving his career-best results.

Duje commented on his preparedness for this year's Umag tournament, his first opponent, the Italian Luciano Darderi, and his defeat against Nadal, the best clay court player of all time.

"Yes, it was really intense. I prepared for that match just like I do for any other, I felt no pressure at all. I had some chances, but Nadal played a good game and deserved to win in the end. I mean, it's Nadal we're talking about," said Ajduković.

We continued with a quiz where participants were able to show all they know about the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, and the best among them received prizes.



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PHOTOS: PAKLENICA NATIONAL PARK (JULIEN DUVAL); ŠIBENIK
(JULIEN DUVAL); MALA KOLUMBARICA, KAMENJAK (BROTHERSIDE)



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KIDS WEEK POWERED BY PODRAVKA: FOGNINI AND RODRIGUEZ PLAY TENNIS WITH KIDS

Is there anything better than seeing your child play their favourite sport against their idol?

At the 34th annual Umag tournament, Podravka made sure that kids get the chance to meet the players competing at this year's tournament during the Kids Week Powered by Podravka.

Yesterday, these tennis courts welcomed the Italian Fabio Fognini and the Columbian Cristian Rodriguez, and the two players played doubles matches against the kids. A giant Babolat racket adorned the courts and grabbed the little ones' attention. Mascots Lino, Pepi, and Loki were special guests at this sporting event.

The young athletes had the opportunity to learn some new techniques from professional players to help them further develop into genuine tennis stars. The Kids Week Powered by Podravka continues, starting at 10:30 every morning, until Thursday, with many more tournament contestants participating.



TASTE OF SUMMER IN CROATIA



THE ART OF THE BEVERAGE: FRANCK PRESENTS COFFEE LATTE ART

One of the grand Croatian traditions is drinking coffee, and this is the best way for foreign visitors of the tournament to get to know this culture.

A cup of coffee with some latte art is sometimes enough to make our day. Baristas from the Franck Lounge at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ATP tournament showed off their impressive skills in latte art.

They shared with us all the secrets to successful latte designs that anyone can do with a little effort and practice. Coffee is the drink of choice for many, and this favourite beverage and ritual is now about to become even more special thanks to latte art.



UMAG MUSIC NIGHTS: MAMBO KINGS GET THE CROWD DANCING DESPITE THE RAIN

The party programme marking the beginning of the week brought us the Mambo Kings.

This music group from Slovenia made sure that the Umag audience has a fantastic time and relaxes after the thrilling matches. The bad weather forecast and a few drops of rain didn't prevent our visitors from enjoying themselves until the early morning hours.

Today, the stage is reserved for one of Croatia's most famous bands – Prljavo Kazalište.



SATURDAY
20.7. PETAR GRAŠO

MONDAY
22.7. MAMBO KINGS

WEDNESDAY
24.7. GIANLUCA VACCHI

FRIDAY
26.7. DALMATINO

RESIDENT DJ ANTONIO PREN

SUNDAY
21.7. NIGHT EXPRESS

TUESDAY
23.7. PRLJAVO KAZALIŠTE

THURSDAY
25.7. DJS FROM MARS

SATURDAY
27.7. INNA VIDA LOCA

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ATP 250

PLAVA LAGUNA

HEP

triglav

SUBARU

Emirates

Haier

Franchi

RE/MAX

Podravka

STELLA + ARTOIS

jana

T

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ISTRA

ZAGREB

umag

PLAVA LAGUNA

FREE ENTRY

vitgo



TASTE ISTRIA: TERAN AS THE STAR OF THE SECOND EVENING WITH THE “HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE”

Anyone who has dreamed of becoming a sommelier has a chance to try out this role at the Taste Istria zone during the Hidden Charm of Istrian Wine event. The best wine of the 2024 ATP will be selected by the visitors at the end of the tournament. The wine tasting is led by the qualified and experienced sommelier Lucija Matijević, who is happy to share her knowledge of wine with all of the visitors.

The second evening was dedicated to matured Teran wines, and the competing wineries were Zigante, Deklić, and Katunar.

The Zigante winery from Grožnjan grows Teran grapes on two hectares of land. They presented a Teran from a limited 2015 vintage, with 12% of alcohol.



Wines from the Deklić winery are special thanks to the manual harvest taking place at the start or towards the middle of October, and in order to make their Teran as good as possible, they age it in French oak barrels.

The Katunar winery grows indigenous varieties of Malvasia and Teran on a total of 40 hectares of land, and this 2017 Teran was created through experimentations.

Teran is a wine variety of a colour reminiscent of fresh rabbit's blood or a vivid ruby colour. High quality Teran wines leave purple disk marks on a white background, and it is even considered medicinal. Its distinctive aroma is reminiscent of berries and violets.

**DOK SE LOPTICA VRAĆA,
SKOKNI U STUDENAC
KOJI TI POPUSTIMA
UZVRAĆA!**



**STUDENAC
MARKET**

I sitno i bitno.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

INVITATIONS AREN'T A FORMALITY, THEY ARE WELL-DESERVED



On Monday, we got to see some genuine tennis and what makes this tournament and event special. The fact that two young Croatian players are fighting on our main courts in evening matches, or in this case a midnight match, for victories on an ATP tournament is very important. One of them won, while the other missed his victory by a hair. This shows that our tennis future is bright, and that our policy of awarding invitations to these young men is not only a formality, but a practice that they deserve. I am particularly happy when a season like this one happens, when we have several players whose results helped them qualify for an invitation, and if I may say so, make the competition a bit spicier.

The evening before, Luka Mikrut showed us that we were right to present him with an invitation, and I'm sure he would have won his match if it hadn't been for his nerves. Matej Dodig also proved that the invitation came to the right hands, as he won his first ever ATP tournament match. He always flies under the radar, but he is brilliantly talented and certainly a diamond in the rough. Now that he is in the experienced hands of Gilbert Schaller, I'm sure positive

things are on the horizon for him. I'm glad that Umag is a stop on his journey.

Unfortunately, Mili Poljičak was the protagonist of the sad story of the evening. I am so sorry that he didn't manage to snag a win, he was so close. On the other hand, I'm glad that he proved to himself that he can play on the same level as some very highly ranked players, such as Lorenzo Sonego. He saw a chance to win, and he deserved it. When an underdog gets a favourite into a situation like this one, he always deserves to win, that's how it goes.

In any case, our emphasis on young Croatian players is what always guides us. The Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag must stay focused on Croatian players. This is what we've been doing and what we will continue to do, and I hope that Duje Ajduković is successful on Tuesday and gives us a 50% success rate of Croatian players in the first round.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

MILI SHOCKED ME, DODIG'S VICTORY IS THE STUFF OF LEGEND



As for anyone else who watched Mili Poljičak and Lorenzo Sonego face off, it will take some time for my impressions to sink in, and all I can say in these first few minutes after the match is that I am shocked. More than I've been in a while. I'm so sad that Mili didn't pass through, because he certainly had a shot, but he could have done some things better. He played badly in the first set, the second was good, and the tie-break way more than good, I'd even say amazing, but he should have made a better play in the closing part of the match against an opponent with muscle cramps.

Of course, luck wasn't on his side either, as one match point ended up on the line, and it's really a shame that he couldn't make the best of the chances he had. Matches like this one are very important, as only one victory brings you lots of points, this one would have been worth more than an entire Futures tournament. Unfortunately, it didn't happen and we won't get to see Mili play in the second round.

He needs to continue playing like this and I hope he comes out as a winner from matches like this one in the future. This defeat must be painful for him when we take into account all

that went on, the two match points he had, the fact that he came back in the tie-break of the third set after losing 2:5... But he has to make sure not to play such short returns on match points, thinking that the opponent will miss them. Mili is very talented and I hope he goes on like this and improves even more.

I didn't get the chance to see Matej Dodig as he was playing at the same time, but I am very happy with his score. I really like his style, he is very relaxed and endlessly likeable, and he made some amazing improvements in his game. He turned 19 just a few days ago, and now he got his first win at this level. I'm sure he will continue developing in the right direction. This is a very big deal, for such a young player to win a match in an ATP tournament – it's not only special, it's also very valuable. We are waiting for his next match, when he faces an even more formidable opponent.

We've lost our title defender after the first round, but did it surprise me? It didn't. Popyrin is a very good player, but once I saw the draw, I knew he could be eliminated after the first round. Jakub Menšík is on the road to greatness, so this win was no coincidence for him.

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