

PLAVA LAGUNA OPENUMAG CROATIA 19.-27.07.2024.

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #34ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO 5 • 25.07.2024.

EXCELLENT SEMI-FINALS TO FINISH THE TOURNAMENT!







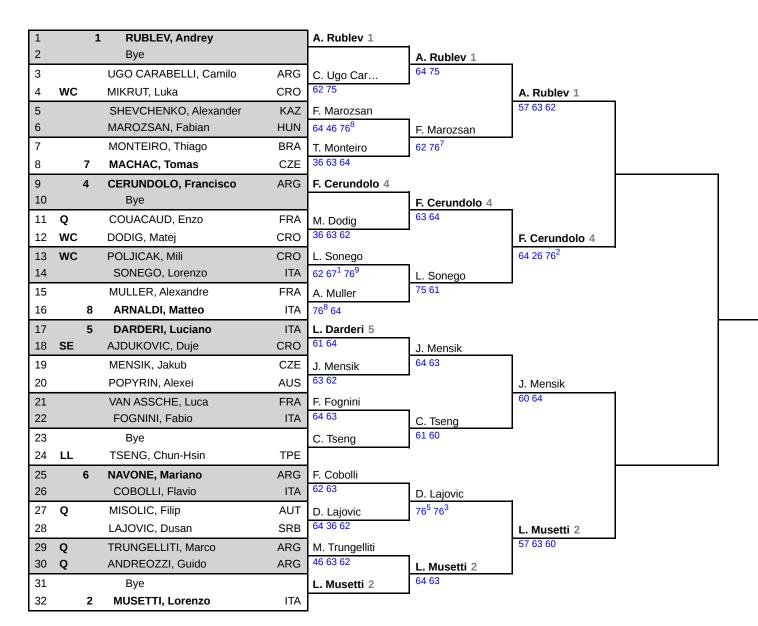




Plava Laguna Cro Umag,

21 July — 27 July 2024

Main Draw S



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

Seeded Players						
	Player					
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	Withdrawals	Retirements/W.O.
C. Tseng (LL)	H. Rune (Left Wrist)	

Double: Chandrase
ATP Supervisor Gerry Armstrong Released 07/25/2024 22:07:4

Last direct acceptance Single: Alexandre !



oatia Open Umag

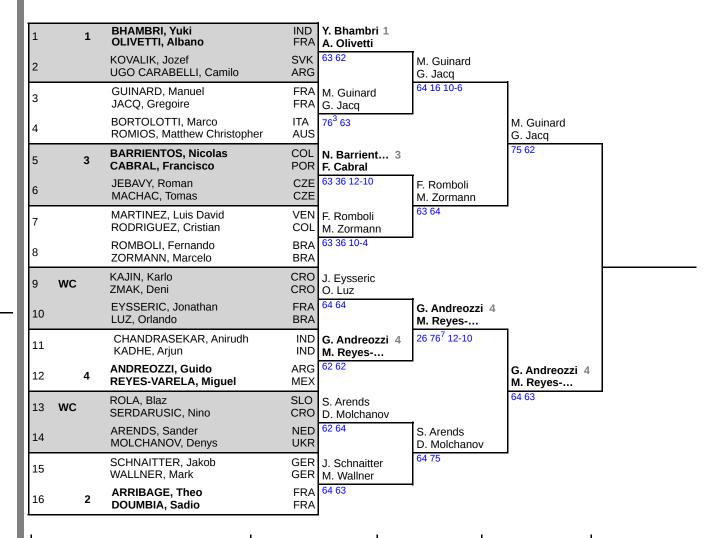
Croatia

| EURO 579,320 | Clay



Singles

Main Draw Doubles



Round of 16		Quarterfinals		Semifinals		Final		Winner	
€ 3,160	0 pt	€ 5,370	45 pt	€ 9,600	90 pt	€ 16,380	150 pt	€ 30,610	250 pt

ner

250 pt

Retirements/W.O. Withdrawals Alternates/Lucky Losers

 Seeded Teams

 Team
 Rank

 1
 Bhambri / Olivetti
 100

 2
 Arribage / Doumbia
 114

 3
 Barrientos / Cabral
 121

 4
 Andreozzi / Reyes-Varela
 140

Muller, 102 ekar / Kadhe 221



GORAN IVANISEVIC STADION

Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Umag, Croatia 21 July — 27 July 2024 | EURO 579,320 | Clay





Diego Pedraza Novak

COURT 1

ORDER OF PLAY - FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024 STUDENAC ARENA

	Starts At 5:00 PM	Starts At 10:00 AM	Starts At 10:	Starts At 10:00 AM		
1.	[1] Andrey RUBLEV VS [4] Francisco CERUNDOLO (ARG)	[1] Luca ARCA (ITA) VS Sung-Bong HAN (KOR)	Sang-Ho Ol Vs [2] Josef RIEG	LER (AUT)		
	Not Before 7:00 PM	Not Before 4:00 PM	Not Before 4.	:00 PM		
2.	Jakub MENSIK (CZE) vs [2] Lorenzo MUSETTI (ITA)	Anto JOSKIC (CRO) Ante KOLUNDIJA (CRO) vs [2] Martin LEGNER (AUT) Josef RIEGLER (AUT)	[1] Sung-Bong I Sang-Ho OI Vs Sven MARET Roberto SOD I	H (KOR)		
	Not Before 9:00 PM					
3.	Manuel GUINARD (FRA) Gregoire JACQ (FRA) vs [4] Guido ANDREOZZI (ARG) Miguel REYES-VARELA (MEX)					
To To	ATP Supervisor(s): Gerry Armstrong Referee(s): Mila Mandl					
07/26/2024 12:07:47 AM						

THREE STARS AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST TALENTS IN THE WORLD BATTLE FOR THE FINAL MATCH IN UMAG

The first, second, and fourth-seeded players and one of the biggest tennis talents in the world – those are the semi-finalists of this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open. Andrey Rublev, Lorenzo Musetti, Francisco Cerundolo, and Jakub Menšik will try to secure their spot in the final match of the 34th Umag ATP Tournament, and all but Menšik have won their matches so far in three sets.

Rublev defeated the Hungarian Fabian Maroszan 5:7, 6:3, 6:2. He is now two victories away from his second title in Umag, as he made it to the top at Stella Maris in 2017. If he wins this title, it will be the first time in his career to win the tournament in the same location more than once, although he has won 16 tournaments so far. "After the first set, I thought it just wasn't my day. I hit rock bottom, I was hopeless and sad that I've missed a lot of chances. This is why this victory makes me so proud, because I managed to turn it around. A few months ago, this wouldn't have happened, I wouldn't have turned it around," said Rublev.

He faces the 37th best player in the world, Francisco Cerundolo, who broke the defences of Italy's Lorenzo Sonego after 2 hours and 34 minutes. The match ended with 6:4, 2:6, 7:6 (2), and the Argentinian only needed one break to win, which he got at 5:4 in the first set. Both players dominated their serves in the third set, so there were no break points to be seen, but Cerundolo played several amazing returns in the tie break. This is his second semi-final match in the season, and he is the first Argentinian to play the semi-finals in Umag since 2018, when Marco Trungelliti and Guido Pella did it.

The 18-year-old Czech player Jakub Menšik, one of the biggest tennis talents in the world, had the easiest road to the semi-finals. He took off like a hurricane against the "lucky loser" Chun-Hsin Tseng, and snatched a 6:0, 2:0 lead before the Taiwanese player bounced back for a moment and won 3 games in a row. However, Menšik (81st place in the ATP rankings) didn't allow for a turnaround in the match. This is the second time he's made it to the semi-finals this season (he was a semi-finalist in Doha), and he is the first Czech player to make it this far in Umag since Jiri Novak in 2005. Moreover, he is the fourth youngest semi-finalist of Umag since the beginning of the tournament in 1990. The only players younger than him in this stage of the competition were Rafael Nadal in 2003, Carlos Alcaraz in 2021, and Goran Ivanišević in 1990.

Menšik will face Lorenzo Musetti in the semi-finals, who lost his first set to Serbia's Dušan Lajović, and it took him a while to find a way to defeat the 2019 winner of Umag. The key moment came when the Italian, after leading 4:3 in the second set, won 7 games in a row and in the end celebrated with 5:7, 6:3, 6:0.







ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP TAKES PLACE

So far, the ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament gave us many sporting events, and one of them is the traditional ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag by HEP. There are no limits in sport, as the athletes with disabilities once again showed us with their tennis skills.

The fifth annual ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag gave us some of the best ranked wheelchair players, including Joskić and Josef Riegler, last year's semi-finalist. This commendable tournament aimed at promoting disabled athletes was recognised by HEP.

The final day of the tournament is Saturday, and there are more interesting matches awaiting us before that.











OFENZIVA BREAK: TONI ULČAR & SPORTBOT

Yesterday, Ofenziva Break hosted Toni Ulčar and his interesting tennis machine – the Sportbot.

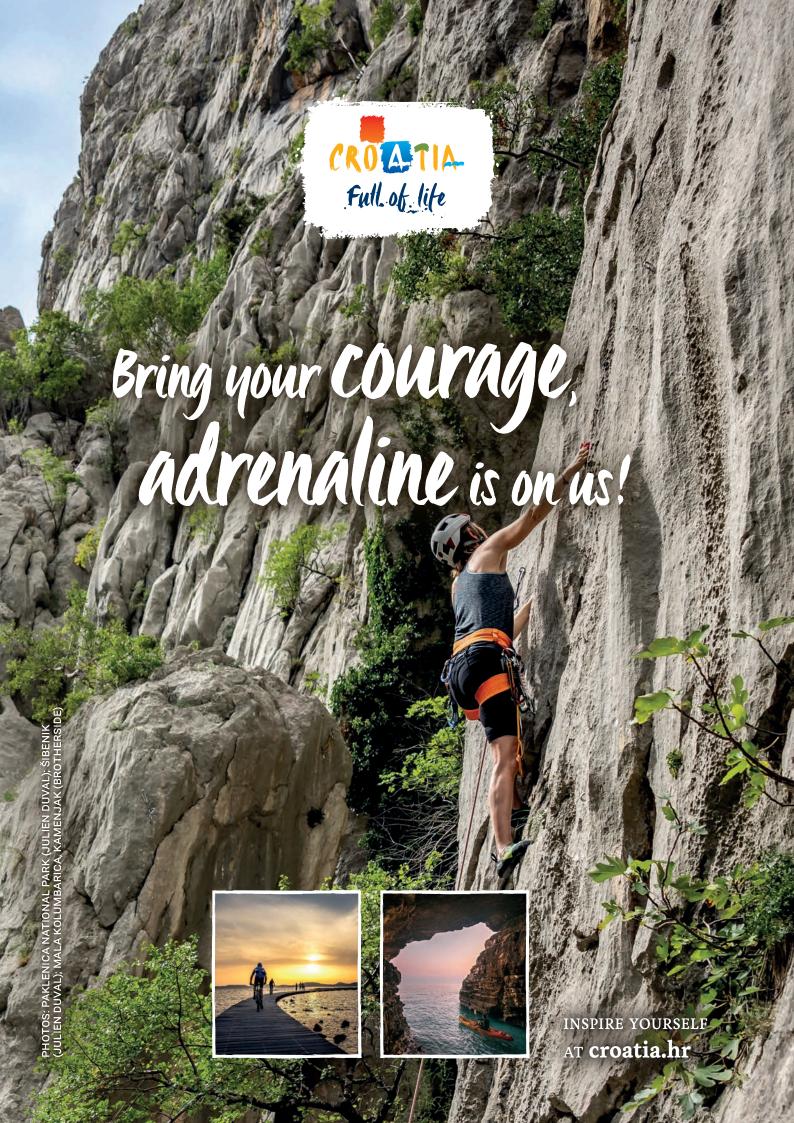
The Sportbot was created in 2020 out of the desire to play tennis at a time when COVID restrictions weren't allowing it. That's when Ulčar had the idea to design a robot to replace a tennis partner, without having to give up quality training: "It all started then because ball launchers weren't interesting or challenging enough. I designed and built the first Sportbot prototype at home. It can change the height, speed, and spin of the ball, offering a better simulation of a human opponent. This wasn't possible before."

The youngest players had the chance to try out the Sportbot at the Kids Week powered by Podravka, and the robot also amazed professional players, such as Veronika Erjavec.

The Sportbot makes training sessions much more interesting, so it's no wonder that professional players also love it. "It can change the height, speed, and spin of the ball, offering a better simulation of a human opponent," explains Toni.

After the Sportbot demonstration, there was another tennis knowledge quiz, this time focused on the second round of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, and the first-place prize was a tennis ball signed by Andrej Rublev.





FASTEST WAY TO VICTORY: SUBARU TAKES CARE OF THE TRANSPORTATION AT THE ATP PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

All athletes know that the road to victory is often difficult and requires a lot of sacrifices, but this year's ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open made it easier for contestants to get to their matches and victories.

Subaru took the matter into their hands this year, and made sure that the players got to their courts safely.









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KIDS WEEK POWERED BY PODRAVKA: THE YOUNG PLAYERS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS AGAINST GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ AND ANTO JOSKIĆ

The last day of the Kids Week powered by Podravka took place yesterday, and the young players were delighted to see the legendary Croatian player Goran Ivanišević, and our best wheelchair player Anto Joskić. The kids first warmed up, and then paired up against Ivanišević and Joskić.

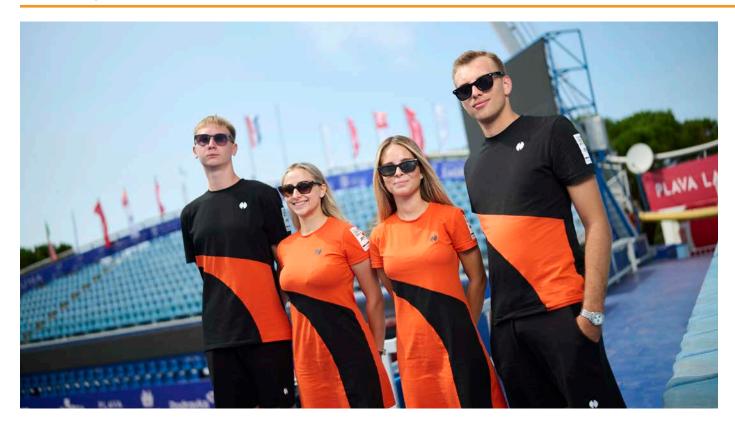
Mascots Lino, Pepi, and Loki also showed off their tennis prowess, and then took photos with the children. Babolat coaches were there to help the little ones improve their hits so that they could give their all against the professional players.





TASTE OF SUMMER IN CROATIA





HASTIOUTFIT — THE CREATIVE SIDE OF TENNIS

Hastioutfit is a fresh sports brand created in 2019 in Iran, as a family business led by a mother and her two daughters. These hand-made pieces are unique and produced in limited collections, and they stand out thanks to their functionality and playful design.

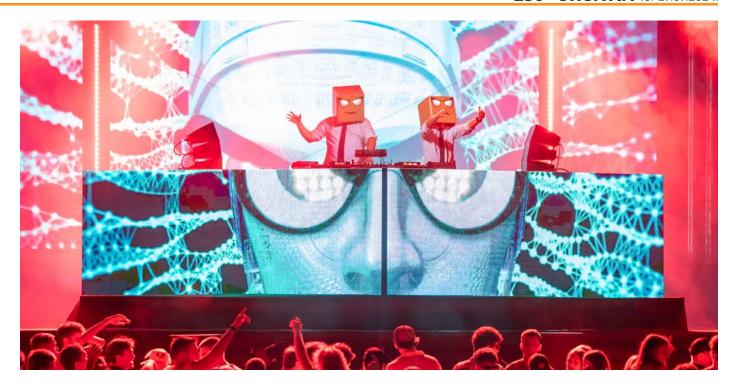
The story began when the mother, Zahra, came up with the idea to design a sports outfit which could also be worn in a casual setting, which would enable it to be used to the max.

She shared her idea with her daughters, Negin and Hasti, who loved it and joined their mother in designing and producing their first pieces. Zahra is the main creator behind the brand, Negin is the designer, and Hasti is the athlete trying out the outfits and giving her mother feedback on the quality and functionality of every new design.

Today, Hastioutfit produces clothes for tennis and other sports, for all ages, and this year it's also behind the uniforms of the hostesses at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open in Umag.









UMAG MUSIC NIGHTS: DJS FROM MARS

After Prljavo Kazalište sang "stop the Earth, I'm getting off" on Tuesday, the Italian duo DJs From Mars visited us from the depths of space.

Their impressive performance and original mash-ups of the biggest global hits entertained the audiences in Umag into the night.

Tonight, we continue in a more relaxed mood, as the stage welcomes the legendary Croatian pop band Dalmatino.





HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE: AGED MALVASIA TAKES THE STAGE



Wine enthusiasts had the opportunity to taste aged Malvasia wines at the fifth day of the Hidden Charm of Istrian Wine event. The rules are the same as before – no one knows which wine is in the glass. The wineries whose wines were served at the tasting were Rossi, Fiore, and Benčić.

The Rossi winery specialises in aged Malvasia, which makes up 80% of their production. Their vineyards are planted on white soil with some limestone, which is why white pepper notes can be tasted in the wine. Wine is fermented for 30 days and then aged for two years in French oak barrels.

Although they started as a wine-growing business, the Fiore winery has also been successfully producing wines for 20 years. Their aged Malvasia is special because the vines are grown on terra rossa, and kept in a barrique for a year.

The wines at the Benčić winery are produced with short maceration, and their goal is to achieve a lighter wine despite the short maceration.

The aged Malvasia is usually difficult to pair with food due to a high level of acidity, but it will pair nicely with a selection of hard cheeses.

The winning wine was wine A, while wines C and B got second and third place, respectively. Tonight, we're in for the grand finals, when the 2024 ATP wine will be announced.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT SEEMS PERFECT



Before this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament, we kept saying that we had a wide roster of players. Ever since the draw was announced, and even after Holger Rune cancelled his appearance, we knew that this wide roster should lead to some attractive names playing in the final stages of the competition, which is very important for organisers.

From the very first round we presented excellent players of current and future tennis, and this made for an extremely attractive closing stage of the tournament.

If anyone asked me if I wanted this set-up for the semi-finals, I'd say yes without a doubt. Of course, if we're picky we can always find a different option, something closer to our personal affinity, but we couldn't ask for more than what we'll get to see on Friday. If you ask me, this is almost perfect.

I have several reasons: we have the first- and second-seeded players, the most attractive players in the tournament. People who fight, who come back after being a set behind. We shouldn't forget that this is the week before the Olympics, and the second-seeded, Musetti, is going to Paris. Hats off to Rublev and Musetti for snatching their wins. They played amazing tennis, just like their opponents, and I'm sure

the audience loved it, you could just feel that they did.

Neither of them had it easy – Fabian Maroszan is as impressive as it gets, it's a guy l'd always pay to see, and Dušan Lajović may have lost some power in the second half of the match, but he played amazingly for a set and a half. The two other semi-finalists are Francisco Cerundolo and Jakub Menšik, and they have both proved that they are well-deserving to have gotten this far.

It's hard for me to recall a better tennis day at the central court than the one we had on Thursday. My heart is full, I'm so happy for the audiences, and no matter how the tournament ends, this day was the best reward for anyone working the tournament and everyone who loves it. All that's left now is to enjoy ourselves, as the tickets for Friday and Saturday have sold out. The stands will be just as full in the semi-finals and finals as they were on Thursday, which is truly a great picture of this tournament, one we should all be proud of.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

PLAYING AT THE OLYMPICS IS A SPECIAL FEELING



The Olympic Games are drawing closer and closer, as the tennis tournament in Paris starts on Saturday and some of the players from the Plava Laguna Croatia Open are set to play their matches at Roland Garros very quickly after they leave Umag. This will be a wholly different experience for them all, and a tournament which is nothing like the competitions they play in week after week.

The Olympics are not the most important competition in the world of tennis, this goes without saying. However, I suggest that everyone who gets a chance to do it jumps at this chance. It's an unforgettable experience, and I don't even have to mention that representing your country is always so special, even more if it ends with a medal around your neck.

The opening ceremony itself is a memorable event. I had the honour of being the Croatian flag bearer in Barcelona in 1992 and it's difficult to describe the tingles that went through my body, and how enjoyable these moments are. I have never been at a closing ceremony, though, and I'm sorry that I didn't get to experience it. There are many details that make the Olympics special. For instance, the life in the Olympic Village, spending time with a million other athletes, cheering...

Of course, the moment you step onto the stand to receive your

medal is above everything. I repeat, tennis players don't consider the Olympics the most important competition, but it feels amazing. And it stays with you!

To this day, over 30 years after Barcelona, I remember the road to the medals. I'm still sad that Goran Prpić and I missed the chance to play in the doubles final, as we had a chance to take the semi-finals, we had a break point and a second serve... The final match was played by Becker and Stich, it's hard to say what would have happened, but we could have got in. I didn't stand a chance against Marco Rosseto in the semi-finals in the singles competition, I'd played too many matches in 5 sets before that one. I hope we get a medal in Paris as well. What happened in Tokyo might never happen again, but Mektić and Pavić can beat everyone. When they played, they won tournaments, and they were successful afterwards as well, when they played separately. Anything can happen in the doubles competition, and they are still my favourites to win. As far as the ladies, we'll see how Donna Vekić manages after the Wimbledon semi-finals, and Petra Martić hasn't had great results lately, but everything could change in Paris. The mixed doubles can be a strange discipline, with unexplainable results, so I don't want to exclude the possibility of a good result.



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