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Lawrence Frankopan

Pogled direktora

TENISKA BAJKA KOJE ĆEMO SE DUGO SJEĆATI

Imali smo finale koje je bilo teško za predvidjeti prije početka turnira, ali koje je u konačnici zapravo bilo gotovo savršeno. Pobjeda Andreja Rubljeva i osvajanje njegovog prvog turnira u karijeri zapravo iz ove perspektive izgleda kao prava bajka. Dečko je izgubio u kvalifikacijama, imao spremne kofera za povratak doma i onda se odjednom sve okrenulo naglavačke.

Ali, nije stvar jedina stvar što je dobio drugu priliku, jer je iz turnira morao izaći naš Borna Ćorić, već je činjenica da je i nakon toga morao dobiti pet mečeva da bi došao do titule. A u tome nije samo sreća, već je u tome i puno teniskog umijeća i talenta, kojeg ovaj mladi Rus ima i za dijeliti. Zato je ova titula posve zasluženo u njegovim rukama. Teško je objasniti zašto ponekad lucky loseri naglo proigraju kada na stražnja vrata uđu u glavni ždrijeb. Imali smo ove godine i primjer Borne Ćorića koji je jednako tako bio sretan u Madridu gdje je dobio svjetskog broja 1, Andyja Murraya. A prije toga nije mogao pobijediti 118. na svijetu Mihaila Kukuškina u kvalifikacijama.

Neobičan tijek, ali tenis je zato zanimljiv i to je ujedno njegova čarolija. Borna je ovoga puta bio u obrnutoj poziciji, on je morao odustati, ali time je samo odškrinuo vrata Ru-

bljevu. On ih je sam kasnije, svojim zaslugama potpuno raširio i otišao skroz do kraja.

Tako to biva, na startu smo imali Davida Goffina i Gaëla Monfilsa, no velike sadašnje zvijezde nisu uspjele, no zato jest velika buduća zvijezda. I s ponosom mogu reći da će Andrej i sljedećih godina sigurno dolaziti k nama budući smo među prvima otkrili njegov talent. Osim finala i Rubljevlove priče puno je dojmljivih trenutaka bilo na 28. Plava Laguna Croatia Openu Umag. Od Ivana Dodiga i njegovog puta do polufinale, preko egzibicijskih mečeva s legendama Ivaniševićem, Cashom i Krajicekom, do Monfilsovog breakdance nastupa. Puno lijepih sjećanja ostaje.

Može li bolje? Iza turnira stoji sjajna ekipa ljudi, na čelu s Davorom, Ronaldom, Arlene i rekao bih da za nas nema granica. Zato uživajte i iduće godine s nama.

Goran Ivanišević

Pogled legende



PRIČA O UMAGU I RUBLJEVU OBIĆI ĆE SVIJET

Iza nas je još jedan ATP turnir u Umagu, a trofej pobjednika sasvim je zaslužen podigao Andrej Rubljev. U finalu je igrao puno bolje od Paola Lorenzija, čija me taktika iznenadila, ali ne po dobrome. Nisam siguran koji mu je bio cilj s tim nabacivanjem, slanjem visokih loptica. Istina, imao je zavoj na nozi, što u prijašnjim mečevima nije bio slučaj, ali nisam primijetio da ga je nešto drastično smetalo kod kretanja.

No, ne treba previše o Talijanu, u fokusu bi trebao biti pobjednik, a Andrej Rubljev zaslužuje dobiti prostora jer riječ je o mladom tenisaču o kojem ćemo još puno čuti. Tek mu je 19 godina i na pravom je putu da postane velika zvijezda svjetskog tenisa.

Zbilja ima odličnu igru, ima dobre udarce, makar sam i dalje mišljenja da je pomalo divlji. Ali, dobro, to je stvar koja se lako može korigirati, s vremenom će doći i više taktike u njegovoj igri, a ne samo da ima jedan cilj: udariti lopticu što jače, pa što bude. Ima on još dosta prostora za napredak, odnosno širenja svoje igre, ja bih mu recimo savjetovao više izlazaka na mrežu, na voleju jer ima visinu, mogao bi dobro pokrivati mrežu.

No, već sada je 49. na svijetu, i to od danas zahvaljujući osvajanju Plava Laguna Croatia Opena Umag, a za nekog od samo 19 godina to je sjajna pozicija. I jednako tako pokazatelj

da je u dobrim rukama i da ima ljude koji znaju što rade.

Kada bih ga uspoređivao s nekim velikim imenom ili bivšim tenisačem vuče malo na Marata Safina. Samo što je Marat imao malo bolju ruku, no zasad je prerano davati neke općenite ocjene koliko daleko će Rubljev otići. Kako sada stvari stoje može i do Top 10, ali ne ide uvijek sve tako glatko u tenisu.

I zbog turnira je dobro što je Rubljev pobjednik, pričat će se dosta o tome u svijetu tenisa, odnosno to će imati odjeka. Prava je to nagrada za ovih tjedan dana iza nas jer turnir je izgledao odlično, ovoliko ljudi još nisam vidio, na svim terenima posjećenost je bila odlična. Ali, iza cijelog projekta je već uhodana mašinerija koja doista nudi više od turnira. I zato bez sumnje tvrdim da je Umag najpopularnije odredište u kalendaru ATP-a među turnirima razine 250.

DOSADAŠNJA FINALA

1990.

Goran Prpić (CRO)
Goran Ivanišević (CRO)
6:3, 4:6, 6:4

1991.

Dmitrij Poljakov (UKR)
Javier Sanchez (ESP)
6:4, 6:4

1992.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Franco Davin (ARG)
6:1, 4:6, 6:4

1993.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Alberto Berasetegui (ESP)
7:5, 3:6, 6:3

1994.

Alberto Berasetegui
(ESP) Karol Kučer (SVK)
6:2, 6:4

1995.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Carlos Costa (ESP)
3:6, 7:6 (5), 6:4

1996.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Felix Mantilla (ESP)
6:0, 7:6 (4)

1997.

Felix Mantilla (ESP)
Sergi Bruguera (ESP)
6:3, 7:5

1998.

Bogdan Ulihrach (CZE)
Magnus Norman (SWE)
6:3, 7:6 (4)

1999.

Magnus Norman (SWE)
Jeff Tarango (SAD)
6:2, 6:4

2000.

Marcelo Rios (CHI)
Mariano Puerta (ARG)
7:& (1), 4:6, 6:3

2001.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Jerome Golmard (FRA)
6:4, 3:6, 7:5

2002.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
David Ferrer (ESP)
6:2, 6:3

VELIKO FINALE Ruski tinejdžer od sretnog gubitnika do presretnog pobjednika u samo tjedan dana i do svoje prve osvojene ATP titule u mladoj karijeri

ANDREJ RUBLJEV NAJMLAĐI POBJEDNIK U POVIJESTI UMAGA

Umaški turnir ima novog kralja. Ruski tinejdžer Andrej Rubljev pobjednik je Plava Laguna Croatia Opena Umag, 28. izdanja jedinog hrvatskog ATP turnira i jedan od najnevjerojatnijih slavjenika u njegovoj povijesti. U finalnom dvoboju, koji je bio intrigantan zbog činjenice da je predstavljao sudar najmlađeg i najstarijeg tenisača u ždrijebu turnira, tek 19-godišnji Moskovljanin nadigrao je 35-godišnjeg Paola Lorenzija sa 6:4, 6:2.

Za Rubljeva je to prvi ATP turnir u karijeri, a put do titule bio je posve neobičan. Jer ispao je već u kvalifikacijama, ali je zbog odustajanja našeg Borne Ćorića od turnira u posljednji čas uletio kao zamjena. Teniski izraz za takvog tenisača je "sretni gubitnik" (lucky loser) jer iako je izgubio imao je sreće nastaviti dalje. Dobio je drugu priliku, a nju je maksimalno iskoristi te u razmaku od samo šest

dana od sretnog gubitnika postao presretni pobjednik.

- Nemam riječi za opisati osjećaje. Još prije tjedan dana sam bio gotovo s turnirom, a evo me sada držim pehar pobjednika. Nevjerojatno je koliko samo jedan tjedan može promijeniti život, naglasio je plavokosi Rus dok je iz ruku Gorana Ivaniševića, izaslanika Predsjednice RH Kolinde Grabar-Kitarović, primao veliki plavi pehar.

S obzirom da je na račun Borne Ćorića ušao u turnir, Rubljev bi svakako trebao barem počastiti hrvatskog tenisača, ujedno i generacijskog suparnika.

- Vidjeli smo se pred početak turnira, zahvalio sam mu se jer mi je omogućio ulazak u turnir, ali jednako tako sam mu poželio da se čim prije oporavi od ozljede i vrati mečevima.

Rubljev je u Umagu ispisao povijest

na nekoliko načina. Prije svega postao je najmlađi osvajač turnira ikada. S vrha liste najmlađih pobjednika "skinuo" je legendarnog i istinskog Kralja Umaga, peterostrukog pobjednika Carlosa Moyu, kojem je 1996. godine nedostajalo svega devet dana do 20. rođendana. Rubljev je na tron stigao sa 19 godina, 9 mjeseci i 4 dana. Trenutak i podatak za pamćenje.

- Osjećao sam pritisak, naravno, prije finala jer nikada prije nisam bio u takvoj situaciji, a dok sam primao pehar, nisam vjerovao da je to doista stvarnost. Hvala organizatorima i svim službama koji čine ovaj turnir tako dobrim, kao i gledateljima koji su dolazili na tribine unatoč velikim vrućinama i teškim uvjetima.

Rubljev se jednako tako svrstao među skromno društvo lucky losera s osvojenom titulom. Prije njega ih je u povijesti bilo samo osam, a posljednji je bio Rajeev Ram u Newportu 2009. godine.

Ovim trijumfom Andrej Rubljev potvrdio je status jedne od nadozrijećih zvijezda svjetskog tenisa, takozvane generacije Next Gen. Drugi je tinejdžerski osvajač turnira ATP razine u ovoj sezoni, jedini uz Nijemca Alexandra Zvereva, a s ovim rezultatom ušao je ujedno i





u Top 50 na svijetu.

Umaški turnir kroz godine su osvajali tenisači 11 različitih nacionalnosti, a Rubljev se, pak, pridružio Nikolaju Davidenko kao drugi Rus koji je otišao do kraja. Te 2009. Davidenko se prošetao finalom protiv Juana Carlosa Ferrera, izgubivši samo tri gema. Kako je krenuo Rubljev (4:1 i pet lopti za 5:1), izgledalo je da će se i on prošetati, ali 35-godišnji Lorenzi je, bez obzira na probleme



s butnim mišićem desne noge, dao sve od sebe i učinio finale zanimljivijim. U prethodna dva dana Talijan je ostvario pobjede u tri seta (Vesely, Giannessi), a to je očito bio razlog što je u finalu na teren izašao s desnim butnim mišićem omotanim u zavoj. No, nije htio pasti bez borbe, stigao je na 5:4, imao i 0:30 za potpuni povratak, ali s četiri poena u nizu Rubljev je došao do seta i čvrsto stisnuo šaku. Bio je na pola puta do trijumfa.

U nastavku, koliko god se Lorenzi trudio, nije mogao ispriječiti izvjesno. - Unatoč porazu sretan sam cijelim tjednom i igrom koju sam pokazao. Turnir je sjajan, zato volim ovdje do-

laziti, a lijepo je i što na tribinama ima dosta talijanskih navijača, a to je lijepo doživjeti negdje izvan domovine, kazao je Lorenzi, koji je u svom četvrtom finalu ostao na jednoj tituli (Kitzbühel 2016). Rubljev je, pak, već sada uzeo prvu titulu u mladoj karijeri, ali sigurno ne i posljednju s obzirom na to da ima sjajnu ruku. Iako još uvijek pomalo dječjačkog izgleda i fizionomije, Rus je vrlo opasan na terenu. Poteže i forhend i bekhend, a ako pogodi suparnika ostavlja na velikim mukama. Kao što su se mogli uvjeriti svi proteklog tjedna u Umagu, a moći će i sljedeće godine jer Andrej Rubljev sigurno će doći braniti titulu.



2003.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Filippo Volandri (ITA)
6:4, 3:6, 7:5

2004.

Guillermo Canas (ARG)
Filippo Volandri (ITA)
7:5, 6:3

2005.

Guillermo Coria (ARG)
Carlos Moya (ESP)
6:2, 4:6, 6:2

2006.

Stanislas Wawrinka (SWI)
Novak Đoković (SRB)
6:6 ret.

2007.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Andrej Pavel (ROU)
6:4, 6:2

2008.

Fernando Verdasco (ESP)
Igor Andrejev (RUS)
6:2, 7:6 (2)

2009.

Nikolaj Davidenko (RUS)
Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)
6:3, 6:0

2010.

Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)
Potito Starace (ITA)
6:4, 6:4

2011.

Alexander Dolgoplov (UKR)
Marin Čilić (CRO)
6:4, 3:6, 6:3

2012.

Marin Čilić (CRO)
Marcel Granollers (ESP)
6:4, 6:2

2013.

Tommy Robredo (ESP)
Fabio Fognini (ITA)
6:0, 6:3

2014.

Pablo Cuevas (URU)
Tommy Robredo (ESP)
6:3, 6:4

2015.

Dominic Thiem (AUT)
Joao Sousa (POR)
6:4, 6:1

2016.

Fabio Fognini (ITA)
Andrej Martin (SVK)
6:4, 6:1



VINSKE DEGUSTACIJE

Kuša i piše: Antonija Mandić



ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL

SVJEŽA MALVAZIJA FRANKOVIĆ JE ATP VINO 2017.

Posljednjeg dana Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag, izuzev teniskog pobjednika, tradicionalno je proglašeno i najbolje vino turnira. Direktor Istraturista i predsjednik organizacijskog odbora turnira, Ronald Korotaj, uručio je priznanje Josipu Frankoviću, vlasniku vinarije Franković, čiju su svježu malvaziju posjetitelji vinskih degustacija izabrali za ATP vino 2017. godine. Svaku večer tijekom trajanja turnira, od ponedjeljka do petka, u Gourmet Istria zoni pod nazivom

‘Skrivene čari istarskih vina’ i pod stručnim vodstvom sommeliera Emila Perdeca, biralo se najbolje vino u pet kategorija. U finalu su se uz pobjednika našli i Vina Istria sa svojom odležanom malvazijom, crna Grimalda vinarije Matošević, svježi teran Geržinić i pjenušac RE brut vinarije Kabola.

Ne znajući koje vino kušaju, sudionici degustacija najveći broj bodova dali su svježoj malvaziji Franković koja se okitila laskavom titulom ATP vina 2017.





SVI SU HRLILI NA JOŠ JEDAN DESERT U NAŠU KUŽINU

Da postoji natjecateljska kategorija 'najbolji desert ATP turnira', tu bi titulu definitivno ove godine ponijela poslastica chefa Roberta Perića iz restorana Naša kužina by LF Restaurant.

Tortica od lješnjaka i anisa u umaku od bijele čokolade i bosiljka, poslužena uz žličnjak od tamne čokolade, bila je njihov najtraženiji a la carte desert o kojem se s oduševljenjem pričalo među posjetiteljima turnira. - Jako smo zadovoljni reakcijama gostiju. Komentari su isključivo pozitivni. Što se tortice od lješnjaka tiče, pripremali smo ih čak 80 po danu, govori chef Perić koji jedini

u Hrvatskoj nosi i titulu maestro chocolatier. Vrhunskom slastičaru i poznavatelju namirnica nije bio problem postići savršenu harmoniju sastojaka u desertu na koji su neki svraćali i više puta tijekom trajanja turnira.

- Za ovu godinu željeli smo malo promijeniti ponudu deserta, napraviti nešto fino, lagano za ljeto i ujedno ne prezahtjevno za pripremiti za velik broj gostiju. Prošle godine hit je bila torta od limuna, ove godine to je tortica od lješnjaka, a za dogodine ću pripremiti nešto potpuno novo što će, nadam se, u jednakoj mjeri oduševiti naše goste, kazao je Perić.



LUDI TULUM ZA KRAJ JOŠ JEDNOG VRHUNSKOG IZDANJA ATP-JA



Izborom najbolje plesne glazbe, resident DJ Antonio i DJ Mariola pobrinuli su se da završna noć turnira svim posjetiteljima ostane u dobrom sjećanju. U pratnji atraktivnih plesačica, zagrijali su atmosferu u Dance Areni koja je do posljednjeg mjesta bila ispunjena izvrsno raspoloženim posjetiteljima koji se, čini se, nisu

bili spremni oprostiti se od Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag. Nakon 10 dana izvrsnih mečeva, koncerata i najboljeg što nudi istarska kuhinja, plesom do ranih jutarnjih sati i u društvu mnogobrojnih ljubitelja tenisa, zatvorili smo ovogodišnji Plava laguna Croatia Open Umag, već sad nestrpljivo iščekujući sljedeći.



TENISAČI REKET ZAMIJENILI PALICAMA ZA GOLF

Izuzev tenisa koji se igrao na vrhunskoj razini, na ovogodišnjem Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag, igrao se i golf! U bogatoj dodatnoj ponudi turnira, veliku pažnju privuklo je golf vježbalište 'Golf Point' koje se smjestilo tik uz more. Mnogi posje-

titelji turnira testirali su svoj zamah uz nadzor i savjete profesionalnog trenera Bogdana Palovšnika, neki su se i međusobno natjecali, a podjednako je bilo zanimljivo i starijima i onima najmlađima. Vježbalište je zapravo golf teren 'u malom',

pa se na njemu mogu vježbati sve vrste golf udaraca, a odoljeti mu nisu mogli ni tenisači koji su u pauzama između mečeva reket zamijenili golf palicom.





500 LJUDI POBRINULO SE ZA NAJBOLJE IZDANJE TURNIRA

Svih 10 dana Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag, u centru Stella Maris vladalo je iznimno pozitivno ozračje ispunjeno šušurom i smijehom mnogobrojnih posjetitelja. Vrhunski tenis, koncerti domaćih i stranih zvijezda, izvrsna istarska kuhinja i vina zadovoljili

su ukuse i onih najzahtjevnijih. A da sve prođe u najboljem redu, brinulo se 500-tinjak zaposlenika turnira koji su svoj posao obavili na najvišem nivou. Mnogobrojne službe konstantno su bile na raspolaganju gostima turnira brinući se da im ništa ne nedosta-

je. Zahvaljujući trudu organizatora, marljivom radu tijekom cijele godine i svim službama koje su 10 dana neprekidno radile na turniru, iza nas je još jedno

nadasve uspješno 28. izdanje Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag.

500 PEOPLE MADE SURE THIS WAS THE BEST TOURNAMENT SO FAR

Throughout the ten-day Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag at the Stella Maris complex the atmosphere was extremely positive, with all sorts of events going on and numerous visitors' laughter heard all around

the venue. Top-quality tennis, music performances by Croatian and international stars, and excellent Istrian cuisine and wine appealed to the tastes of even the most demanding visitors. Around 500 tournament

employees made sure everything went well by doing their very best. A number of services were constantly at the disposal of the tournament's guests, making sure they wanted for nothing. Thanks to the efforts

of the organizers, their hard work all year long, and all the services that performed their tasks diligently throughout the ten days of the tournament, we have just closed the quite successful 28th edition.



OSCAROV KUTAK



Sretni gubitnik Andrej Rublev došao je do samog kraja 28. izdanja Plava laguna Croatia Opena Umag i osvojio ATP naslov sa samo 19 godina. Ponosan

na pobjedu, dirnuo nas je kratkim govorom i obećao nam povratak i iduće godine. Paolo Lorenzi tijekom cijelog turnira nije igrao loše, štoviše, činilo nam se i da bi s njega mogao izaći kao pobjednik. Igrao je do kraja hrabro i vedro. I on je obećao da će se vratiti u Umag, ali i da će ga sljedeće godine osvojiti. Još jednom pohvale za organizaciju i vidimo se sljedeće godine, uvjeren sam, na još boljem izdanju turnira

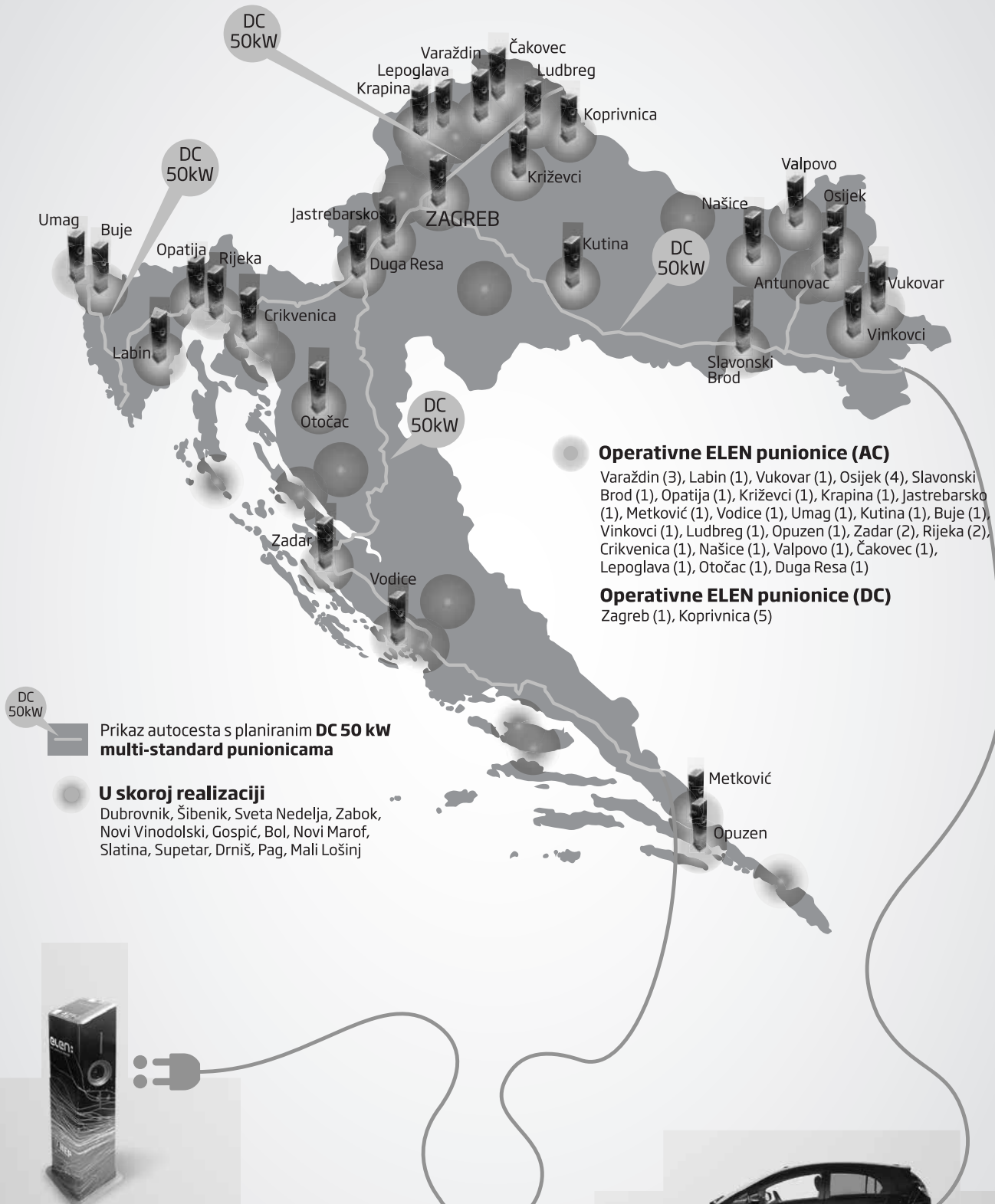
OSCAR'S CORNER

Lucky loser Andrej Rublev has gone all the way at the 28th edition of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, claiming the title at just 19 years old. Proud of his victory, he touched us all with his brief speech and promised to return next year. Paolo Lorenzi had been playing well over the course of the tournament. So well, actually, it seemed as if he

could end up winning it. He was brave and cheerful all the way to the end. He too promised to be back, saying though that next year he would actually win the tournament. Once again, compliments on the organization and see you next year at, I believe, an even better edition of the tournament.

piše /writes: Oscar Visintin

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LORENZI, GENEROSITÀ ED ESPERIENZA NON BASTANO CONTRO IL ROCCIOSO RUBLEV

Dura solo un'ora e 16' il sogno di Paolo Lorenzi di riportare in Italia il trofeo del 'Plava laguna Croatia Open Umag 2017' che dodici mesi or sono era finito tra le mani di Fabio Fognini. Invece, anche ieri sera il giovane 'lucky loser' russo Andrey Rublev è apparso un'autentica macchina, la stessa che da assoluta rivelazione aveva eliminato due sere fa il detentore ligure. Niente da fare sulla terra rossa del campo centrale 'Stadium Goran Ivanisevic', dunque, per l'esperto gi-

ocatore romano, unica testa di serie rimasta in gioco, peraltro condizionata anche da un problema muscolare e dalle fatiche accumulate 24 ore prima sullo stesso campo nel derby tricolore contro Alessandro Giannessi. I 19 anni di Rublev si sono fatti

sentire contro i 35 dell'avversario, soprattutto in termini di incisività con Lorenzi abile a conquistare il game iniziale su proprio servizio, ma poi costretto a subire quattro giochi e due break di passivo consecutivi. Poi, un sussulto italiano con la scelta di

provare a innervosire il glaciale avversario con parabole pronunciate che lo portano a risalire fino al 3-4 e al 4-5, prima di soccombere per 4-6 in 40' esatti. Il secondo set, nonostante l'encomiabile resistenza di Lorenzi, si rivela ancor meno equilibrato e, dopo il solito game illusorio iniziale e una promettente tenuta fino al 2-2, Rublev vola subito sul 2-5 grazie anche alla solita sequenza di righe 'timbrate' e, infine, a chiudere i giochi al primo match point disponibile.

RISULTATI DI IERI (ITALIANI)

CAMPO CENTRALE – STADIUM GORAN IVANISEVIC

FINALE SINGOLARE

[LL] Andrey Rublev (RUS) - [4] Paolo Lorenzi (ITA) 6-4 6-2

PAOLO LORENZI

IO PIÙ LENTO DEL SOLITO, LUI NON SBAGLIAVA NULLA

Dodici mesi dopo Kitzbuhel, Paolo Lorenzi sfiora un altro colpo gobbo. Ma è un risultato che vale molto in ogni caso e, perciò, la delusione è solo parziale. "Sono felicissimo comunque – esordisce il giocatore romano – Un'altra finale ATP ma, dopo due sconfitte, adesso devo vincerne una.... Questa sera lui è partito molto bene e nel complesso ha sbagliato poco, molto bravo.

Io, invece, ero più lento del solito: un pizzico di stanchezza, il caldo e i match impegnativi alle spalle.... C'è stato un momento, sul 5-4 0-30 in cui ci ho creduto di più, ma poi è andata così". Il suo giochino fatto di parabole alte, alternando colpi profondi ed altri più corti, ha rischiato di mandare in tilt il giovane avversario.

"Non avendo la potenza di altri gio-

icatori – spiega – devo pur inventarmi qualcosa. Peccato! Il mio obiettivo ora è quello di migliorare il ranking della stagione precedente (35°): tuttavia, un secondo turno a Wimbledon e la finale qui a Umago non bastano a farmi guadagnare posizioni. Anzi, ne sto perdendo. Quindi, devo migliorare ancora ed essere sempre più aggressivo. E mettere a punto anche il servizio".



Immediatamente dopo la conclusione del match, pubblico ancora immobile sulle tribune ad applaudire e atleti sulle rispettive panchine a recuperare dalle fatiche agonistiche dopo la stretta di mano finale a rete,

rapida sfilata. Dalla parte opposta del campo, invece, le splendide hostess in divisa arancione griffata e tutti gli altri volontari del torneo, schierati sulle righe del campo anche per definire il percorso che le

DOPO LO SPETTACOLO AGONISTICO, LO SHOW NEL CIELO SOPRA UMAGO

viene posizionato un grande telo con il numero 28 (le edizioni della kermesse finora archiviate compresa questa, targata 2017) che subito viene ricoperto dalla gioventù e dall'entusiasmo dei raccattapalle in

autorità e il 'padrone di casa' Goran Ivanisevic avrebbero coperto per le fasi istituzionali. Quindi, il rito delle premiazioni e dei ringraziamenti: a partire da Paolo Lorenzi (generoso in fatto di complimenti nei confronti del giovane avversario, ma anche di ringraziamenti all'indirizzo della famiglia, dei tifosi e del tecnico, prima di assicurare la sua presenza tra dodici mesi per puntare nuovamente al primo gradino del podio) e per finire con il quasi frastornato Andrey Rublev che ha confessato tutta la sua incredulità nel passare, nel giro di pochi giorni soltanto, da una

possibile partenza (dopo aver fallito le qualificazioni dirette) al sollevare il trofeo al cielo da 'lucky loser' (recuperato solo grazie all'infortunio dell'altro Next Gen, Borna Ćorić), dopo cinque successi filati con tanto di vittime eccellenti e un solo set concesso: quello contro il detentore Fabio Fognini. Quindi, l'accensione della scritta ATP gigante in un angolo delle tribune, luci spente e il maestoso spettacolo pirotecnico per l'arrivederci al 2018 sulle note di 'What a wonderful world' di Louis Armstrong, interpretata in versione rigorosamente live da Goran Griff.

Anche questo è Umago!

IMPRESSUM

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Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

TENNIS FAIRYTALE WE'LL REMEMBER LONG AFTERWARDS

This was a final that would have been difficult to predict before the start of the tournament but that, in the end, was nearly perfect. From where we stand right now, Andrey Rublev's victory and claiming is first tournament ever seems like a fairytale. The boy lost in the qualifiers, and was already packed and ready to leave, when everything turned upside down.

But it's a great story not only because he was given a second chance after our Borna Ćorić had to withdraw, but also because afterwards, he had to win five matches to reach the title. And that's not just pure luck. All this was also possible because of a lot of talent and tennis skills that this young Russian has in spades. That is why this trophy is in that young man's hands, and deservedly so.

It is difficult to explain why sometimes these lucky losers start playing right only after entering the main draw through the back door. This year, Borna Ćorić was also lucky in Madrid, where he defeated world no. 1 Andy Murray. And before that, in the qualifiers, he failed to get past no. 118 in the world, Mikhail Kukushkin. It was an unusual chain of events but that's what makes tennis so interesting and magical. This time, Borna was in the opposite position – he was the one who had to withdraw from the tournament, thus leaving the door ajar for Ru-

blev. Later on, Rublev opened the door fully and went all the way, all on his own.

It's just the way things happen. At the start of the tournament, we had David Goffin and Gaël Monfils, who are huge stars at the moment, while Rublev is a huge star in the making. I'm proud to say Andrey will be returning to Umag for years to come as we were among the first ones to recognize his talent. Apart from the final match and Rublev's story, there were other impressive moments at the 28th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag: from Ivan Dodig and his road to the semifinal, to the exhibitions with the legendary Ivanišević, Cash and Krajčević, and Monfils' breakdancing. We'll definitely have a lot of great memories.

Can it be any better? There is a great team of people behind this tournament, headed by Davor, Ronald and Arlene, and I would say sky's the limit for us. So, enjoy the tournament next year as well.

Goran Ivanišević

The legend's verdict



STORY OF UMAG, RUBLEV TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

Yet another tournament in Umag is behind us and the winner's trophy was deservedly lifted by Andrey Rublev. In the final match, he outplayed Paolo Lorenzi, whose tactics surprised me and it wasn't a good surprise. I'm not sure what he wanted to do with all those high balls. True, unlike in the previous matches, this time he had a bandaged leg, but I hadn't noticed that it hindered his movement in any way

But enough about the Italian, we should focus on the winner. Andrey Rublev deserves to be talked about as he is a young player whose name will come up a lot in the years to come. He is only 19 and is on his way to become a true star of the international tennis.

He plays excellently and has great shots even though I still think he is a bit wild. But that's something that can easily be corrected. In time, he'll be more tactical rather than having a single goal: to hit a ball as strong as he can, and then watch what happens.

There's plenty of room for improvement and game expansion, for instance, coming to the net more often and to volley, as he has the height to do it.

As of today, thanks to winning the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, he is already the 49th player in the world. For someone who is just 19 years old, that's an excellent ranking. It also shows that he is in good

hands and that he has people who know what they are doing.

If I were to compare him to former tennis player, I'd say there's a bit of Marat Safin in him. Only, Marat had a slightly better hand, but for now it's too early to make general judgments on how far Rublev will go. As things stand now, he could go to the Top 10, but it doesn't always go so smoothly in tennis.

Rublev's win is good for the tournament as well. There will be quite some talk about it in the world of tennis, and people will hear about this. It's the right prize for the seven days behind us, because the tournament looked great; I never saw so many people before, attendance was phenomenal on all courts. But behind the project is a well-established machinery that truly offers more than the tournament. So there is no doubt when I say that Umag is the most popular destination in the ATP calendar among level 250 tournaments.

PREVIOUS
FINALS

1990.

Goran Prpić (CRO)
Goran Ivanišević (CRO)
6:3, 4:6, 6:4

1991.

Dmitrij Poljakov (UKR)
Javier Sanchez (ESP)
6:4, 6:4

1992.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Franco Davin (ARG)
6:1, 4:6, 6:4

1993.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Alberto Berasategui (ESP)
7:5, 3:6, 6:3

1994.

Alberto Berasategui (ESP)
Karol Kučer (SVK)
6:2, 6:4

1995.

Thomas Muster (AUT)
Carlos Costa (ESP)
3:6, 7:6 (5), 6:4

1996.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Felix Mantilla (ESP)
6:0, 7:6 (4)

1997.

Felix Mantilla (ESP)
Sergi Bruguera (ESP)
6:3, 7:5

1998.

Bogdan Ulihrach (CZE)
Magnus Norman (SWE)
6:3, 7:6 (4)

1999.

Magnus Norman (SWE)
Jeff Tarango (SAD)
6:2, 6:4

2000.

Marcelo Rios (CHI)
Mariano Puerta (ARG)
7:& (1), 4:6, 6:3

2001.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Jerome Golmard (FRA)
6:4, 3:6, 7:5

2002.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
David Ferrer (ESP)
6:2, 6:3

THE FINALS Russian teenager for lucky loser to delighted winner in only a week time

ANDREY RUBLEV BECOMES
THE YOUNGEST WINNER IN
THE HISTORY OF UMAG

The tournament in Umag has its new king. The Russian teenager Andrey Rublev is the winner of the 28th edition of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, Croatia's only ATP tournament, and one of the most unlikely victors in the tournament's history. In the final duel, which had been quite intriguing because of the fact that it featured the youngest and the oldest player in the main draw of the tournament, the 19-year-old Moscow-native defeated 35-year-old Paolo Lorenzi 6:4, 6:2.

This was Rublev's first ATP tournament in his career, and his road to the title was quite unusual. He had dropped out in the qualifiers only to enter the main draw at the last moment following the withdrawal of our Borna Ćorić. The tennis term for such a player is "lucky loser", seeing as even though he had lost, he was lucky enough to remain in the tournament. He got his second chance at the title and used it to go

from lucky loser to happiest winner in just six days' time.

- I have no words to describe how I feel right now. A week ago I was done with the tournament, and yet here I am, holding the winner's trophy. It's truly unbelievable how one's life can change in just a week, said the blond Russian after receiving the big blue trophy from Goran Ivanišević, delegate of the Croatian head of state Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović.

Seeing as he got in the main draw because of Borna Ćorić, Rublev should at least treat the Croatian tennis player and his generation rival. Rublev has made Umag's history in more ways than one. Firstly, he is the youngest winner ever, dethroning the legendary and true king of Umag, Carlos Moya. The five-time winner Moya first won the tournament back in 1996, when he was just nine days shy of his 20th birthday. Rublev triumphed at 19 years, nine months and four days. It is both a

moment and a fact to remember. - I felt the pressure before the final as I had never been in this situation before, and while I was receiving this trophy, I couldn't believe it was really happening to me. I would like to thank the organizers and all the services for making this tournament so good. I would also like to thank the spectators for being in the stands despite the heat and tough weather conditions.

Rublev has also joined the exclusive club of lucky losers who had won a tournament. Before him, there were only eight of them in the history of tennis. The last one was Rajeev Ram in Newport in 2009.

With this feat, Rublev has confirmed his status of one of the emerging stars of the international tennis, the so-called Next Gen. He is also only the second teenager to win an ATP tournament this season, the other one being Germany's Alexander Zverev. Moreover, with this win, he has entered the Top 50 in the world.

Over the years, the tournament in Umag has been won by tennis players of 11 different nationalities. Rublev joined his compatriot Nikolay Davydenko as the second Russian to go all the way. Back in 2009, Davydenko powered through the final match against Juan Carlos Ferrero, losing just three games.





The way Rublev had kicked off the match (4:1 and five points for 5:1), it looked like he would do the same but the 35-year-old Lorenzi gave his best despite problems with the thigh muscle in his right leg, thus making the final more interesting. In the previous two days, the Italian won both of his matches in three sets (against Vesely and Giannessi), and that seems to be the reason why this time he went out on court



with his right thing all bandaged up. Still, he wouldn't go down without fighting. He reached 5:4 and had 0:30 for a comeback but then Rublev won four consecutive points and with that the set, pumping his fist afterwards. He was then halfway to his triumph. Later on, no matter how hard he tried, Lorenzi was unable to prevent the inevitable.

- Despite losing, I am happy with my whole week here and the way I played. The tournament is great and I like coming here. It's also nice to see so many Italian fans on the stands,

as that's always great to experience outside one's home country, said Lorenzi, who still has only one title (Kitzbühel in 2016) after playing four different finals now.

Rublev, on the other hand, has already claimed the first title of his young career. Seeing how good his hand is, it will certainly not be the last one. Although he still has a boyish look and physiognomy, the Russian is quite dangerous on court. His forehand and backhand are good, and if he starts hitting, he can pose a real problem for his opponents, as evident from this past week in Umag.



2003.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Filippo Volandri (ITA)
6:4, 3:6, 7:5

2004.

Guillermo Canas (ARG)
Filippo Volandri (ITA)
7:5, 6:3

2005.

Guillermo Coria (ARG)
Carlos Moya (ESP)
6:2, 4:6, 6:2

2006.

Stanislas Wawrinka (SWI)
Novak Đoković (SRB)
6:6 ret.

2007.

Carlos Moya (ESP)
Andrej Pavel (ROU)
6:4, 6:2

2008.

Fernando Verdasco (ESP)
Igor Andrejev (RUS)
6:2, 7:6 (2)

2009.

Nikolaj Davidenko (RUS)
Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)
6:3, 6:0

2010.

Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)
Potito Starace (ITA)
6:4, 6:4

2011.

Alexander Dolgoplov (UKR)
Marin Čilić (CRO)
6:4, 3:6, 6:3

2012.

Marin Čilić (CRO)
Marcel Granollers (ESP)
6:4, 6:2

2013.

Tommy Robredo (ESP)
Fabio Fognini (ITA)
6:0, 6:3

2014.

Pablo Cuevas (URU)
Tommy Robredo (ESP)
6:3, 6:4

2015.

Dominic Thiem (AUT)
Joao Sousa (POR)
6:4, 6:1

2016.

Fabio Fognini (ITA)
Andrej Martin (SVK)
6:4, 6:1



WINE TASTINGS

Tasted and written by: Antonija Mandić



ENGLISH

ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL FRESH MALVASIA BY FRANKOVIĆ CLAIMS 2017 ATP WINE TITL

On the last day of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, not only did we learn the name of the tournament's winner but also the best wine title holder. Istraturist's CEO and chairman of the tournament's Organizing Committee Ronald Korotaj presented the award to Josip Franković, owner of Franković Winery, whose fresh malvasia was voted the 2017 ATP Wine by the participants of the wine tasting events. Each night, from Monday until Friday, the Gourmet Istria Zone hosted wine tastings titled Skrivene čari

istarskih vina (Hidden Charms of the Istrian Wines). At these events, led by sommelier Emil Perdec, the participants chose the best wine in five different categories. Alongside the winning wine, the final also featured Vina Istria's aged malvasia, Grimalda Red by Matošević, Geržinić Winery's fresh teran, and Kabola's RE Brut sparkling wine. Unaware of which wine they were rating, the participants gave the highest number of points to Franković's fresh malvasia, which thus became the 2017 ATP Wine.





VISITORS FLOCK TO NAŠA KUŽINA FOR A DESSERT

If there were an 'ATP Tournament's Best Dessert' competition category, the title would definitely go to a sweet delicacy by Chef Robert Perić of Naša Kužina by LF Restaurant.

His hazelnut and anise tartlet with a white chocolate and basil sauce, served with a dark chocolate dumpling, was their most popular a la carte dessert that the visitors talked about with such enthusiasm and delight.

- We are very pleased with the reactions of our guests. The comments have all been very positive. As far as the hazelnut tartlet is concerned, we would prepare as many as 80 of them each day, said Chef Perić, Croatia's

only maestro chocolatier. It wasn't difficult for this top pastry chef and foodstuff connoisseur to achieve a perfect harmony of ingredients in a dessert that some people came back for several times during the tournament.

- This year, we wanted to change our dessert offer and make something nice and light for the summer, something that would not be too difficult to prepare for a large number of guests. Last year's hit was the lemon tart, and this year's it's the hazelnut tartlet. Next year, it will be something new that will hopefully impress our guests just as much, Perić said.



CRAZY PARTY ENDS YET ANOTHER TOP EDITION OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT



By playing only select, top-quality dance music, resident DJ Antonio and DJ Mariola made sure the last night of the tournament was truly a night to remember. With attractive backup dancers, the two heated up the atmosphere at the Dance Arena, which was filled to capacity by joyful and delighted visitors who, it seemed, were not ready to say

goodbye to Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. After ten days of exciting matches, concerts and dancing until early morning hours in the company of countless tennis fans, as well as the best that the Istrian cuisine has to offer, we closed this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, already in anticipation of the next one.



TENNIS PLAYERS EXCHANGE RACKETS FOR GOLF CLUBS

Except for the top-class tennis, this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag saw some golf played as well! Among the varied side offer at the tournament, a great deal of attention went to the golf practice ground Golf Point, situated next to the sea. Many

visitors to the tournament tested their swing under the supervision and guidance of the professional coach Bogdan Palovšnik. vSome of them played against one another, and the whole thing was equally attractive to adults and youngsters

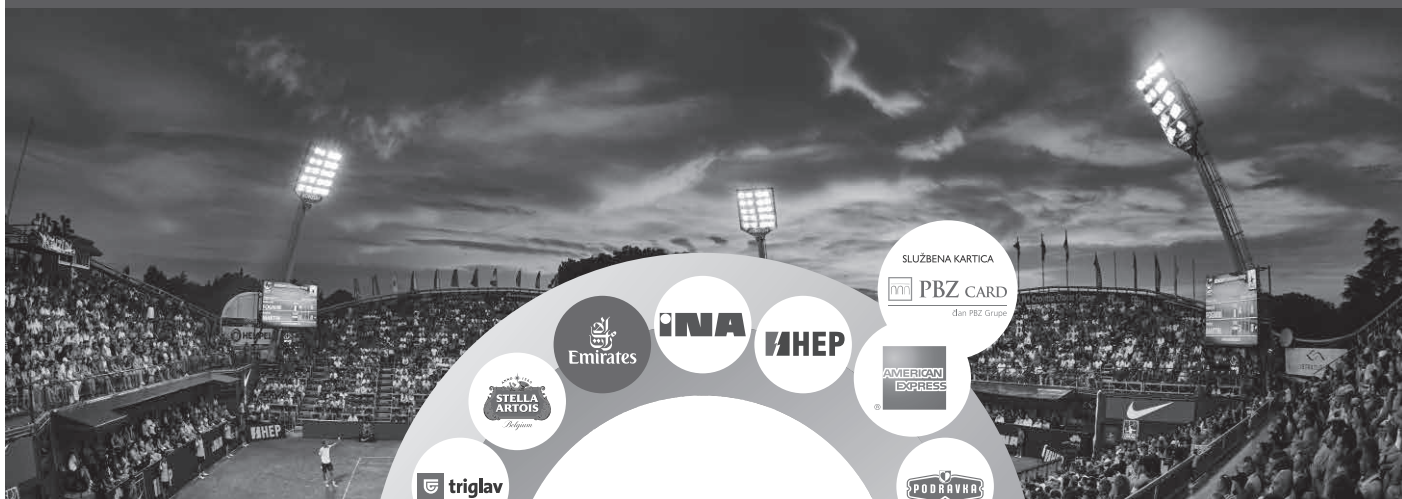
alike. The practice ground is in fact a miniature golf course, so all types of swings can be practiced. Even tennis players couldn't resist it; during breaks between matches, they exchanged rackets for golf clubs.





PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

14.-23.7.2017.



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