

ATP 250

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

12.-21.7.2019.

Daily News

#ATPUMAG #30ATPUMAG

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • No 6 • 19. 07. 2019.

ORDER OF PLAY**GORAN IVANISEVIC STADIUM**

17:30

**Laslo Djere (SRB) vs.
Leonardo Mayer (ARG)***not before 20:00***Aljaz Bedene (SLO) vs.
Dusan Lajovic (SRB)***followed by***Facundo Bagnis (ARG) vs.
Santiago Caruso (ITA)****GRANDSTAND**

17:30

**Stefano Travaglia (ITA) vs.
Attila Balazs (HUN)***followed by***D. Molchanov (UKR) / I. Zelenay (SVK) vs.
R. Haase (NED) / P. Oswald (AUT)***followed by***O. Marach (AUT) / J. Melzer (AUT) vs.
L. Mayer (ARG) / A. Molteni (ARG)****PARTY PROGRAMME**

8:00

Stars Open

10:00

ITF Wheelchair

23:00

Dance Arena – Gianluca Vacchi**ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL & MUSIC**

21:00

Wine Tastings – sparkling winesTickets are available on the official website www.croatiapopen.hr. **FREE ENTRY TO THE PARTY PROGRAM.****30**
YEARS

The organizer reserves the right to change the program and timetable.

All news in the program can be followed using the official website of the tournament www.croatiapopen.hr.

| | | | SINGLES | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|---------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | 1. FOGNINI, FABIO | ITA | > | F. FOGNINI [1] | > | S. TRAVAGLIA 6:1, 2:1, predaja | > | | > | |
| | 2. BYE | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. TRAVAGLIA, STEFANO | ITA | > | S. TRAVAGLIA 6:3, 6:2 | | | | | | |
| | 4. FABBIANO, THOMAS | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| Q | 5. BALAZS, ATTILA | BRA | > | A. BALAZS 6:0, 6:7(5), 7:6(4) | > | A. BALAZS 6:3, 6:7(1), 7:6(5) | | | | |
| WC | 6. GALOVIĆ, VIKTOR | CRO | > | F. KRAJINOVIĆ 7:5, 7:6(4) | | | | | | |
| | 7. DANIEL, TARO | JPN | > | L. ĐERE [3] | | | | | | |
| 6 | 8. KRAJINOVIĆ, FILIP | SRB | > | P. LORENZI 5:7, 6:4, 7:6(3) | > | L. ĐERE [3] 6:3, 3:6, 6:4 | | | | |
| | 9. ĐERE, LASLO | SRB | > | J. VESELY 7:6(5), 3:6, 7:6(2) | | | | | | |
| | 10. BYE | | | L. MAYER [8] 6:1, 7:5 | > | L. MAYER [8] 3:6, 6:4, 6:4 | | | | |
| Q | 11. TOREBKO, PETER | BRA | > | A. BEDENE 6:3, 6:2 | | | | | | |
| | 12. LORENZI, PAOLO | ITA | > | J. SINNER 1:6, 6:3, 6:4 | > | A. BEDENE 7:6(3), 6:3 | | | | |
| PR | 13. STEBE, CEDRIK-MARCEL | GER | > | A. RUBLJOV 6:3, 6:2 | | | | | | |
| | 14. VESELY, JIRI | CZE | > | D. LAJOVIĆ [4] 6:4, 6:3 | > | D. LAJOVIĆ [4] 6:4, 6:3 | | | | |
| | 15. ANDUJAR, PABLO | ESP | > | F. BAGNIS 4:6, 6:3, 7:5 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 16. MAYER, LEONARDO | ARG | > | N. SERDARUŠIĆ 6:3, 6:3 | > | F. BAGNIS 6:3, 6:3 | | | | |
| | 17. CECCHINATO, MARCO | ITA | > | S. CARUSO 7:5, 6:0 | | | | | | |
| | 18. BEDENE, ALJAŽ | SLO | > | B. ČORIĆ [2] | > | S. CARUSO 6:2, 3:6, 6:1 | | | | |
| | 19. SOUSA, PEDRO | POR | > | | | | | | | |
| WC | 20. SINNER, JANNIK | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | 21. RUBLJOV, ANDREJ | RUS | > | | | | | | | |
| | 22. HAASE, ROBIN | NED | > | | | | | | | |
| | 23. BYE | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 24. LAJOVIĆ, DUŠAN | SRB | > | | | | | | | |
| | 25. KLIŽAN, MARTIN | SVK | > | | | | | | | |
| | 26. BAGNIS, FACUNDO | ARG | > | | | | | | | |
| Q | 27. TRUNGELLITI, MARCO | ARG | > | | | | | | | |
| WC | 28. SERDARUŠIĆ, NINO | CRO | > | | | | | | | |
| | 29. MOUTET, CORENTIN | FRA | > | | | | | | | |
| Q | 30. CARUSO, SALVATORE | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | 31. BYE | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 32. ČORIĆ, BORNA | CRO | > | | | | | | | |

| | | | DOUBLES | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | MARACH, OLIVER | AUT | > | O. MARACH, J. MELZER 6:2, 7:6(2) | > | O. MARACH, J. MELZER 6:2, 6:3 | > | | > | |
| 1 | 1. MELZER, JURGEN | AUT | > | | | | | | | |
| | SOUSA, PEDRO | POR | > | N. ČAČIĆ, D. LAJOVIĆ 5:7, 6:2, 11:9 | | | | | | |
| | 2. TRAVAGLIA, STEFANO | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | BEHAR, ARIEL | URU | > | L. MAYER, A. MOLTENI 6:4, 6:1 | > | L. MAYER, A. MOLTENI 7:5, 7:5 | | | | |
| | 3. LAMMONS, NATHANIEL | USA | > | | | | | | | |
| | ČAČIĆ, NIKOLA | SRB | > | T. BRKIĆ, A. PAVIĆ 6:2, 6:2 | | | | | | |
| | 4. LAJOVIĆ, DUŠAN | SRB | > | | | | | | | |
| | MAYER, LEONARDO | ARG | > | A. ŠANČIĆ, N. SERDARUŠIĆ 7:5, 6:3 | > | D. MOLČANOV, I. ZELENAY 6:3, 4:6, 10:2 | | | | |
| 4 | 5. MOLTENI, ANDRES | ARG | > | | | | | | | |
| | NEIS, FABRICIO | BRA | > | D. MOLČANOV, I. ZELENAY 6:2, 6:2 | | | | | | |
| | 6. STEBE, CEDRIK-MARCEL | GER | > | | | | | | | |
| | PODLIPNIK-CASTILLO, HA | CHI | > | S. BOLELLI, F. FOGNINI 6:7(5), 6:1, 10:8 | > | R. HAASE, P. OSWALD bez borbe | | | | |
| | 7. WEISSBORN, TRISTAN-SAM | AUT | > | | | | | | | |
| | BRKIĆ, TOMISLAV | BIH | > | | | | | | | |
| WC | 8. PAVIĆ, ANTE | CRO | > | | | | | | | |
| | ALTMAIER, DANIEL | GER | > | | | | | | | |
| ALT | 9. MOLLEKER, RUDOLF | GER | > | | | | | | | |
| | ŠANČIĆ, ANTONIO | CRO | > | | | | | | | |
| WC | 10. SERDARUŠIĆ, NINO | CRO | > | | | | | | | |
| | ANDUJAR, PABLO | ESP | > | | | | | | | |
| | 11. GRANOLLERS, GERARD | ESP | > | | | | | | | |
| | MOLČANOV, DENYS | UKR | > | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 12. ZELENAY, IGOR | SVK | > | | | | | | | |
| | FABBIANO, THOMAS | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | 13. LORENZI, PAOLO | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | BOLELLI, SIMONE | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | 14. FOGNINI, FABIO | ITA | > | | | | | | | |
| | RUBLEV, ANDREY | RUS | > | | | | | | | |
| | 15. VASILEVSKI, ANDREI | BLR | > | | | | | | | |
| | HAASE, ROBIN | NED | > | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 16. OSWALD, PHILIPP | AUT | > | | | | | | | |



**Lawrence
Frankopan**

The director's view

THIS IS WHAT GLADIATORS DO

After top-seeded Fabio Fognini lost in his opening match, we saw that Borna, on the other side of the draw, lost as well. It is surely unfortunate for the tournament that the two highest-ranking players lost so early, but this happens sometimes.

We have to give Caruso credit, he played beyond himself. Borna put up a massive fight, as he always does; he's a great champion. It's obviously disappointing for the home crowd, but there are plenty of Italian fans in attendance, so it's great for those of them who are here on holiday – they will have another opportunity to cheer for Caruso, who is, as we've seen, a very, very good player.

It makes you realise how good these guys are. Their depth, the quality of their tennis, especially on clay. You have to grind it out, you need to fight. I don't want to take anything away from our Italian friend, because he really played well, and it was the best example of the fact that, on any given day, any player – even one ranked like Caruso, who is 125th this week – can beat a player in the top 20. This is a testament to how big the competition is, as well as to the fact that even low-profile players are high-quality players.

Again, this is tennis. Everyone was expecting Borna in the finals, so I can understand the

disappointment. Hopefully Borna will come back next year. He is very good on this surface, but it was unfortunate that he got injured before Wimbledon and had no matches for a month. It takes time to get back into rhythm.

This is what gladiators do – you have to win and you have to lose, that's the essence of the business. This time, it was Borna who lost, but I am 100% positive that he will come back strong, as he always does.

Now, we're facing the quarter-finals on Friday, and two qualifiers will try to continue with wins. But, we also saw Dusan Lajovic, who played very well against former Umag champion Andrey Rublev. He was a finalist in Monte Carlo earlier this year, and he's surely capable of another great result, as is his compatriot Laslo Djere, the tournament's third seed. We don't have any former champions left in the draw, as all three are out – actually four, if we count Tommy Robredo, who lost in the qualifiers – so we will have a new winner on Sunday.

**Goran
Ivanišević**



The legend's view

THE JOY ON THE CHILDREN'S FACES IS PRICELESS

The morning after the match with Patrick Rafter, which I hope the audience liked, I had something a bit different on my programme. Some might describe it as an obligation, but I don't call it that, and I'll try to explain why. I was at Kids' Week, which is held at the court beside the Grandstand, where we bring some of the players every day to hang out with kids for a half hour or so.

I had a great time, I just love spending time with those kids. It's something we didn't have the chance to experience when we were their age, it wasn't done then. When a player comes on Kids' Day, it's a big event for children, you can see how excited they are and how important it is to them, and you can't be indifferent to that. They all daydream and train hoping they'll become a part of this caravan someday and play professional tournaments on these courts.

If I can help them and give them advice, I'm very glad to do so. In fact, I enjoy doing so. It's a normal thing to me. It's nothing for me to set aside 15 minutes or a half hour to spend with them, but it means the world to them. I don't understand who could refuse to come and say they don't want to, or that they don't feel like it. Just look at the expressions on the faces of those kids, the joy, especially when they hit a winning shot against a "big" player. It's priceless,

both from their and my side. Everyone should spend 15 or 30 minutes with them, because it's something special. It doesn't just make them feel better – it makes you feel better too.

And the advice... A lot has changed since I was their age, but people don't understand that tennis is still tennis. Forehand, backhand, and service are still here, but the pressure is another thing. I think kids aged eight to nine train too much, three or four hours a day. That's over the top, it's made kids stop being kids, and that should never happen. Let them play, let them have time to relax, because they're going to "hit a wall" sooner or later. Parents usually don't recognise that, so they overtrain them, and that causes a lot of injuries and problems.

To put it another way, moderation in all things. It's important to recognise talent, but also not to exaggerate, because that doesn't bring results.



ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL

WINE TASTING

FOURTH FINALIST: NOVACCO'S 2018 SAUVIGNON BLANC

At the fourth night of the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine, Pilato Winery from Lasici near Vizinada, Valenta Winery from Kaldir, and Novacco Winery from Fernetici near Brtonigla all presented their Sauvignons Blanc. As until now, tastings were carried out according to professional rating

methods, in a pleasant ambience and with the unobtrusive aid of sommelier Emil Perdec, who told those present everything about the origins and characteristics of the variety. "This variety of grape, originally from Bordeaux, attains perhaps its best results far off in New Zealand, but

it has also fared very well in Istria," Perdec concluded. After rating the appearance, bouquet and flavour of the wines offered, visitors gave the most points to Novacco's excellent 2018 Sauvignon Blanc, which thus became the fourth finalist for ATP wine of the year. The



best sparkling wine of this year's tournament will be selected today at 9PM at the Taste Istria zone.



UMAG STARS OPEN

WE'LL STAY FRIENDS AFTER THE MATCHES

Umag is known across the world for much more than just tennis, and it proved it again this year in its 30th anniversary edition. In addition to the main tournament, the 30th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag also includes seven additional tournaments; one of these is the Umag Stars Open, which features former professional athletes, politicians, and figures from showbiz and Croatian business. In coming days, numerous well-known figures such as actors Filip Juricic and Petar Ciritovic, Zagreb lawyer Mate Matic, former handball player Patrik Cavar and former water polo player Dubravko Simenc will be showing off their tennis skills on the courts of Stella Maris.

"Silvio put together doubles teams with one skilled tennis player and one who possibly isn't as good, so the chances for victory are equal. Although I don't know my opponents personally, I hope we'll stay friends after the match," said famous music producer Niksa Bratos, one of the participants in the Umag Stars Open. The organiser of this "star-studded" tournament is former Croatian national football team member Silvio Maric. "As far as athletes go, former footballers are best at tennis. Both Federer and Nadal played football before becoming pro tennis players, and you can see it in the way they move," explained Maric.

NIKE INVITATIONAL

REMEMBER THE NAMES OF THESE JUNIORS!

One of the tournaments being held in Umag is the Nike Invitational, which brings together young, talented players with a bright tennis future ahead of them. "I'm sure this experience will be of great help in their careers, and I wouldn't be surprised to see them in the finals of the main Umag tournament soon. I would like to thank Nike, who has provided accommodation and training with famous players like Patrick Rafter for four juniors," said Tomislav Poljak, assistant director of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.

If this tournament becomes a traditional one, the number of competitors might increase. It would certainly be a chance for juniors to train during a professional competition with professional players on the other side of the net. This week, four 14-year-olds are in Umag, all of whom are among the top ten in their age categories on their continents: German Marc Majdanzic, Russian Maksim Zhukov, Argentinian Nicolás Eli and Croat Dino Prizmic. Results: Eli – Zhukov 6:3; 6:3, Prizmic – Majdanzic 6:1; 7:6, Majdanzic – Eli 7:5; 6:2, Prizmic – Zhukov 5:7; 6:3; 10:8.



BORNA CORIC STUMBLES ON FIRST HURDLE, NINO SERDARUSIC ALSO OUT

BORNA RETURNS WITHOUT A WIN

Borna Coric's return to tournament competition, after a month away due to injury, was unsuccessful: in his second round match at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, he was defeated by Italian qualifier Santiago Caruso, ranked 125th in the world, with 6:2; 3:6; 6:1. The last time Borna lost from such a low-ranked player was in 2017 in the qualifications for Peking, when he was beaten by Spaniard Granollers (127th). Nino Serdarusic also lost his second-round match to Argentinian Facundo Bagnis with 6:3; 6:3, meaning the remainder of the tournament will go on without any Croatian players.

"I didn't feel good on the court at the start, I was a bit slow. He's a much better player than his ranking would imply, especially on clay,"

said Borna, adding: **"The upside**

is that I played more-or-less uninjured, without any pain. And I wouldn't say I had any problems with pressure because of expectations to win. I'm always unburdened, I love playing at home."

Two years ago, Borna backed out of competition at the last minute due to a neck injury; this was his first match in Umag since 2015. He didn't agree that it was a stroke of bad luck:

"Not at all. Caruso was better. If I were in the swing of competition instead of going from doctor to doctor, it would have been better, but I'm not looking for justification there. I gave my best."

Caruso's next opponent will be



Argentinian Facundo Bagnis, who defeated Nino Serdarusic.

"It was solid tennis both on his and my side. I started well, was at a break with 40-15 for 2:0, but then he bested me. It was a physical match, and he was better at that. But all in all, it was a good week. I won 20 points, I made it to the quarter-finals in doubles,

and now I hope to take more at ATP Challenger events. And next year, I hope I'll make it to Umag directly," said Serdarusic.

Fourth-seeded Dusan Lajovic defeated 2017 Umag title holder Andrey Rublev with 6:4; 6:3, which means no more former winners will be competing in the remainder of the tournament.



PRESENTATION OF THE DAVIS CUP TROPHY

The Davis Cup trophy, which was won last year by the Croatian national team, will be on display at the Social Arena from Friday to Sunday; the official presentation will be on Friday at 3PM.

This will be the second time this magnificent trophy has come to Umag, where it was on display during the 2006 tournament after Croatia first won the Davis Cup title.



FAMOUS CROATIAN PLAYER ARRIVES AT CROATIA OPEN

IVAN LJUBICIC BACK IN UMAG

One of the best Croatian tennis players of all time, Ivan Ljubicic, who was once ranked third in the ATP singles rankings, came to Umag on Friday. He has lovely memories here – in 1996, he saw his first ATP tournament competition in Umag, where he won against Spaniard Tomás Carbonell in the first round. He came to Stella Maris a total of twelve times, his best result being the semi-finals in 1999, when he was defeated by Swedish player

Magnus Norman.

In addition to this, he was a three-time quarter-finalist; his final competition here was in 2011, when he was defeated by title-holder Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Ivan Ljubicic (pictured here with former Croatia Open director Slavko Rasberger) is one of just three Croatian tennis players to have been among the top three racquets in the ATP singles rankings, alongside Goran Ivanisevic and Marin Cilic.

UMAG PARTY NIGHTS

THE BRILLIANT RHYTHMS OF SALVATORE GANACCI

Umag's Dance Arena was bumping once again, this time with great rhythms provided by Salvatore Ganacci. The Swedish DJ with roots from Bosnia and Herzegovina performed a broad repertoire, and the audience was more than happy to put their hands together both to follow the rhythm and to applaud the 32-year-old, who performed his numbers with the skill of a virtuoso.

As has become customary in Umag, the atmosphere at the Dance Arena was great, the house was packed, and those who wanted to make it to the front row didn't have it easy. With such a great atmosphere, it seems that DJ and producer Salvatore Ganacci put in

extra effort to make sure the audience had the best time possible.

The Dance Arena programme will continue on Friday night, when Gianluca Vacchi will take the stage at around midnight for his first performance in Croatia. This summer, in addition to Umag, he will also be performing at Papaya Club.



OSCAR'S CORNER

I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS OUTCOME



The long-awaited return of Borna Coric, currently ranked 14th in the world, marked this Thursday at the ATP tournament in Umag. Borna was greeted by a packed arena with a warm round of applause; his last match in Umag was in 2015. Second-seeded Borna Coric had strong support from the audience in his duel against Italian opponent Salvatore Caruso, but Caruso proved not to be an easy win. After an hour and 45 minutes of brave struggle, Borna didn't manage to score a victory.

I didn't expect this kind of outcome, I was sure he would win, but everything is possible in sport, and the Italian was better this time. I'm sorry we've lost our second seed and the last and best Croatian player in the competition.

writes: Oscar Visintin



ITF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP

TOP FAVOURITES IN A BATTLE FOR THE FINALS

ful players dominated the competition, losing only a few games, so their matches together on Friday at the courts of the Umag Tennis

Academy should be very interesting. The top favourite, Israeli Guy Sasson, lost only one game against Croat Jozo Milos, and second-seeded Austrian Joseph Riegler was just as good against Hungarian opponent Lelik.

Academy should be very interesting. The top favourite, Israeli Guy Sasson, lost only one game against Croat Jozo Milos, and second-seeded Austrian Joseph Riegler was just as good against Hungarian opponent Lelik.

Croatia's best wheelchair tennis player Anto Joskic was only slightly less convincing (6:1; 6:1) against Italian Curioni, and his match on Friday against Sasson will be a serious test. Riegler will go up against Greek player Lazaridis, who beat Croatian player Drazen Miksic (6:3; 6:0). Semi-final singles matches will be played on Friday at the Academy, and the doubles final is on schedule for Friday evening at the Grandstand at Stella Maris, where the singles final will also be held on Saturday.

KIDS WEEK:

A PICTURE WITH GORAN IVANISEVIC AS A SOUVENIR FROM UMAG



After beating Rafter at a spectacular exhibition match on Wednesday, Goran Ivanisevic brought joy to the young participants of Kids' Week the next day.



After a long warm-up, Ivanisevic shared his impressions from the match the night before with the host. "This was the culmination of all my exhibition matches. After Rafter, there's no one it would be a greater honour to play a match against," said Goran. Six lucky kids played doubles with the winner of the exhibition match, showing him their tennis skills.

The session ended with a group photo, and Ivanisevic was rewarded with a thundering round of applause as he left the court. Later, the boys and girls had fun hitting tennis targets, and the most successful received prizes from Babolat. This wound up the fourth day of Kids' Week, the goal of which is to educate kids through daily fun activities.

WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



You cannot separate Umag from the tournament. The tournament's program places focus on what Umag is, and what it offers to its citizens and guests. Umag is a destination full of content, just as the tournament is an event that offers its visitors only the best of sports, entertainment and gastronomy. We are proud of the unbreakable link that has bound us for almost 30 years.

Milovan Popović,
Director of the Umag Tourist Board

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Prize money is constantly increasing

Croatia Open is (not yet) among the tournaments giving more than a million of Euros in prize money, but it is getting closer to that margin. When it was held for the first time in 1990 it was 175.000 USD in the prize money. Amount of 500.000 Euros was the surpassed for the first time in 2016, and this year the prize money fund will be 586.140 Euros, following the tradition that it is constantly increasing year-by-year.

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SINCE 1990

30 YEARS



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NASLOVNI SPONZOR

PLAVA LAGUNA

AP LIJOVIĆ BANKO CAM ČATIĆ GRADNJA DULY DENO STOLARSKI OBRT DEMARCHI D.D. ELEKTROAKUSTIKA EKO SERVIS MATIĆ
ELMA ELEKTROMECHANIKA TERLEVIĆ GRADNJA UMAG INTERAUTO D.O.O. INGINSPEKT KAIROS KAPITEL LIGHT ON MAGISTRION
METIS METALUM OSOJNICA RI KLIMA PROTECTION SECURITAS HRVATSKA SERVIS OMEGA D.O.O. TEP METAL VALLIS ŽIKOVIĆ D.O.O.

PARTNERI

MEDIJSKI POKROVITELJI



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30
YEARS