

ATP 250

16.-25.7.2021.

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

DAILY NEWS

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AFTER BEING ADMITTED TO THE HALL OF FAME, GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ ARRIVES TO UMAG

Legendary Croatian tennis player Goran Ivanišević, after being admitted to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the USA on Saturday, arrived in Umag today, where the ATP tournament Plava Laguna Croatia Open is being held. Goran is the ambassador of the most famous Croatian tennis tournament, which will be played on the courts of Stella Maris resort in Umag until July 25.

Goran will already be watching the matches at the ATP

stadium that bears his name, and where all the matches of the main tournament are played. Our favorite "Rabbit" is satisfied with the strength of this year's 31st edition of the tournament, and he is especially happy that Croatian tennis players are competing in the main part of the tournament.

20 years after winning Wimbledon, Goran once again made history by becoming the first Croatian to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

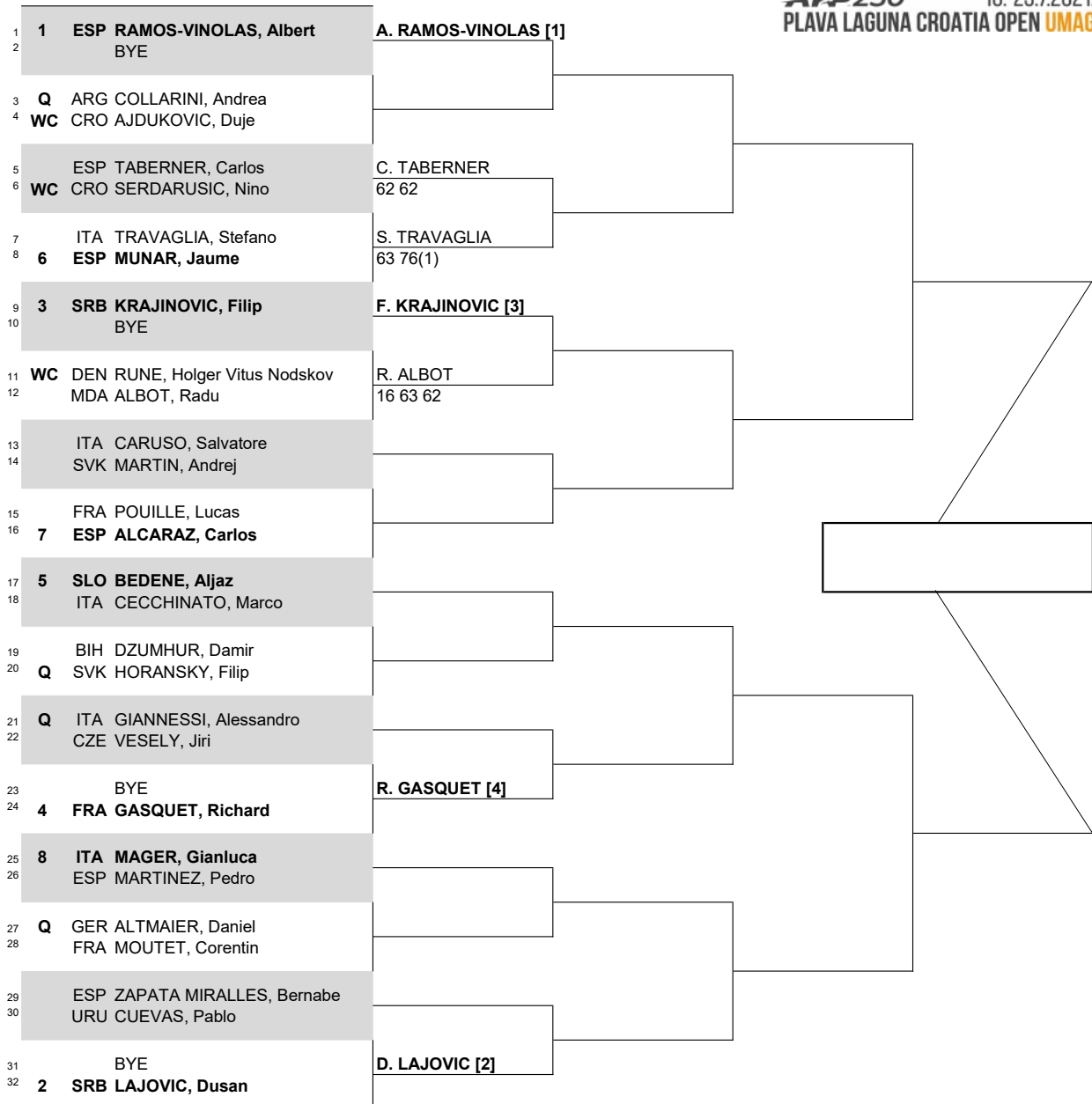


SCHEDULE OF PLAY

STADION GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ	GRANDSTAND	COURT 1	COURT 2
<p>16:30 Andrea Collarini (ARG) vs. Duje Ajduković (CRO)</p> <p><i>Not before 19:00</i> Aljaž Bedene (SLO) vs. Marco Cecchinato (ITA)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Lucas Pouille (FRA) vs. Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)</p>	<p>16:00 Bernabe Zapata Miralles (ESP) vs. Pablo Cuevas (URU)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Salvatore Caruso (ITA) vs. Andrej Martin (SVK)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Gianluca Mager (ITA) vs. Pedro Martinez (ESP)</p>	<p>16:30 Daniel Altmaier (GER) vs. Corentin Moutet (FRA)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Roman Jebavy (CZE) Jiri Vesely (CZE) vs. Carlos Taberner (ESP) Bernabe Zapata Miralles (ESP)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Marco Cecchinato (ITA) Stefano Travaglia (ITA) vs. Rafael Matos (BRA) Andrej Vasileuski (BLR)</p>	<p>16:00 Alessandro Giannessi (ITA) vs. Jiri Vesely (CZE)</p> <p><i>Followed by</i> Damir Džumhur (BIH) vs. Filip Horansky (SVK)</p>

STATUS NAT MAIN DRAW SINGLES

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Dear friends and fans of tennis,

despite all the challenges in the past and this year, we made an effort to prepare well for this year's tournament in order to offer a real experience for all visitors. Plava Laguna is primarily a tourist company, we want each of our guests to feel welcome and safe in all our accommodation facilities, including the ATP zone.

When you look at business today, and also the history of the Plava Laguna, you can see a high correlation between core business and sports. We want to further develop this important segment in our business and thereby contribute to the development of the destinations in which we operate.

I wish you all to enjoy our holiday grounds, to feel the hospitality of our employees in our hotels, camps, tourist resorts and to have a good time at the 31st edition of our Umag tournament. I thank all the partners so far and invite you to be together at the 32nd edition of the tournament.

Dragan Pujas

President of the Board of Plava Laguna



NINO SERDARUSIC THIS SEASON WITHOUT WIN AT THE START

“I DIDN'T SHOW MY BEST WEAPONS”

Unlike last year, when he achieved the first victory of his career in ATP tournaments in Umag, Nino Serdarušić failed to jump over the first hurdle this season. He was defeated at the start of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open by the Spaniard Carlos Taberner, who advanced to the eighth finals with a 6: 2, 6: 2 victory, and is now on the path to the best placement in his career on the individual ATP list next week. Just on the day of the start of the main tournament, his name appeared in 108th place, and this victory could move him one step further.

“I think this was my worst match of all performances in Umag, but Taberner, on the other hand, showed that he is in good

shape. I did not show my best weapons,” said Serdarušić, who lost his serve in both sets in the first game, which made his job significantly more difficult. He ended up without a single breakpoint.

Taberner reached the second round of the main event as a qualifier at the ATP World Tour 500 in Hamburg last week, and was stopped by later title winner Carreno Busta of Spain.

“I would like to thank the tournament director again for receiving the invitation and I am sorry that the knock-out came so quickly. In the last month, I have improved the game a lot, and here in training I was quite

good with great players,” added Serdarušić, currently 288th on the ATP list. Next week he will play at the ATP Challenger in Trieste or in the qualifications of the ATP tournament in Kitzbühel, and by the end of the season he wants to return among the 200 best in the world (his best placement is 192nd place).

Italian Stefano Travaglia and Moldovan Radu Albot also made it to the quarterfinals of the 31st edition of the Umag ATP tournament on Monday. Travaglia, who will play against Taberner in the second round, surprised the Spaniard Jaume Munar, the sixth qualifier (6: 3, 7: 6), and came one step closer to equalizing his best result in Umag, the 2019

quarterfinals. Albot, on the other hand, was better than 18-year-old Dane Holger Rune with 1: 6, 6: 3, 6: 2, achieving his first victory this season on clay courts, after three previous knock-outs in the first round.

The program at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open continues on Tuesday. Already in the first match on the central field, Duje Ajduković will at 16:30 be facing off against the Argentine Collarini, who finished his qualifying match on Monday at around 11 pm. The winner of Umag from 2014 will be playing, among others. Pablo Cuevas, winner of Umag in 2018. Marco Cecchinato and as a treat at the end of the day the great young Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

1	1 GER ALTMAIER, Daniel	D. ALTMAIER [1]	
2	Alt ITA COBOLLI, Flavio	26 63 61	D. ALTMAIER [1]
3	WC CRO PECOTIC, Matija	M. PECOTIC	36 64 63
4	7 ITA FABBIANO, Thomas	75 62	
5	2 SRB MILOJEVIC, Nikola	N. MILOJEVIC [2]	
6	CZE ROSOL, Lukas	64 75	F. HORANSKY [5]
7	WC SRB MEDJEDOVIC, Hamad	F. HORANSKY [5]	62 62
8	5 SVK HORANSKY, Filip	64 67(2) 61	
9	3 SLO ROLA, Blaz	V. SACHKO	
10	UKR SACHKO, Vitaliy	64 62	A. COLLARINI
11	ARG COLLARINI, Andrea	A. COLLARINI	67(4) 62 64
12	8 GER MASUR, Daniel	61 61	
13	4 ITA GIANNESI, Alessandro	A. GIANNESI [4]	
14	GER MOLLEKER, Rudolf	63 75	A. GIANNESI [4]
15	Alt BIH FATIC, Nerman	R. OLIVO [6]	76(5) 61
16	6 ARG OLIVO, Renzo	63 61	



COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

SUMMER IS NOT RIGHT FOR ME WITHOUT UMAG

Two weeks of Wimbledon, a week in Newport, then a week in Umag. This would be an interesting schedule for a professional tennis player, but it is happening to me and to say that I enjoy it is an understatement. And really, how can I not enjoy it? Twenty years after winning the Wimbledon title, I have now experienced a triumph in the role of a coach, for my player Novak Đokovic to be the winner of the All England Club.

The feeling is, of course, different, but I lived through that title of his with many reminders of my victory in the final against Patrick Rafter. That tournament, that atmosphere... you just can't escape it. Everything is special, different, the pressure on the players is huge, but maybe that is what makes them play the best they can in front of such an audience.

Then followed a trip to Newport, where I was greatly honored. I said: "You know, we are a small country with a big heart. We never stop believing. I've had a lot of ups and downs, but I've never stopped believing. For the

first time in my life I can say that I am proud of myself.

To make it to the Tennis Hall of Fame, along with all those champions, leaves tingles and the feeling is... almost indescribable. It was a special evening for me and my family. Everything got a special meaning and I believe that I ended my playing career with this in the best possible way. I thank everyone for their support and messages, there were a million of them.

And then, another arrival in Umag. I already said it today, I am really looking forward to coming to Umag, summer is not a real summer for me without this week at the Stella Maris resort. It's been a tradition for a while now, not counting the unfortunate last year, and I always await eagerly for the next edition of the tournament.

I am most interested in Croatian players, Serdarušić, Ajduković, Sabanov brothers, but also young lions Carlos Alcaraz and Holger Rune. With Gasquet, Krajinović, Lajović and Bedene, we will watch fantastic tennis.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

WE FINALLY STARTED!

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear visitors of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag,

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Umag again and that after one year break, we have the opportunity to enjoy great matches again at the ATP tournament, at the Goran Ivanišević Stadium in Stella Maris.

This year we have a great list of young players, but also many tennis names already known to Umag. I believe that each of you and us already has your favorite and that there will be no lack of support from the stands.

Along with the young Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz, we have three former winners this year - Pablo Cuevas (2014), Marco Cecchinato (2018) and Dušan Lajović, who is defending the 2019 title. Also, the list of players is completed by two former Top 10 players, Frenchmen Richard Gasquet and Lucas Pouille, as well as stars from the region, Aljaž Bedene (Slovenia) and Filip Krajinović (Serbia). For more than three decades, the Umag tournament

has become synonymous with top tennis in Croatia and beyond, so players are happy to return and spread the news about Croatia and Umag as destinations where it is great to play tennis, but also great to have fun.

We have a combination of fantastic youth with experience brought by attractive Gasquet, Cuevas, Bedene, Lajović and others. I believe that among the new players this year there are new ambassadors of our Umag tournament who will broadcast throughout Europe how they were welcomed in Umag.

It is our great pleasure to host all the players, but also all the tennis fans who are coming this year, under strict epidemiological measures, to enjoy good tennis and the fun we are preparing in Stella Maris.

In Umag, in addition to the players in the main tournament, almost 500 recreational players will compete in the accompanying tournaments.

We are glad that you are with us again, and enjoy tennis!

HOLGER VITUS NØDSKOV RUNE, A TENNIS PLAYER WITH BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

I WILL RETURN TO UMAG, FOR SURE



A few weeks ago, he learned that he would receive an invitation to the main tournament of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, what he says made him very happy. True, he did not stay long in Umag, because he was eliminated on the first day, but that is certainly not all that the Umag audience will see when it comes to Holger Rune. He is only 18 years old, enthusiastic about the tournament and says he will return to the Stella Maris resort.

"I was told I would get an invitation to the main event and I was very happy about it. I have been following the Croatia Open for years, I know how nice it is here. Yes, I was very excited to come to Umag. Expectations were high, maybe too high, but I will definitely come back a few more times," said the 18-year-old Dane.

In the first round, he was defeated by the Moldavian Radu Albot, currently 92nd on the individual ATP list and far more experienced when it comes to matches at this level. True, the Dane played great in the first set, concluding it with 6:1, but in the end he had to admit to his opponent that he was better. After the match, he was asked to say what he thinks about the opinion of tennis experts that

he is extremely skilled in many aspects, but that the real results will come when he uses all the opportunities at the same time.

"Well, even today it was a question of how to combine it all into one. I think I've been playing good tennis lately, that I've shown over the summer that I can be consistent. Today I was distracted on the pitch, I didn't have the best feeling and I'm a bit disappointed with how I played," he did not spare criticism at his own expense.

It should not be forgotten, however, that he is a tennis player who up until recently played in junior tournaments. At one point, two years ago in October, he was also the best in the world under

18 (he won the French Open that season), and the transition among professionals was completed quite quickly. He was already a quarterfinalist in Santiago this season, and recently won the ATP Challenger in Biella, Italy, so just this week he reached the best placement in his career on the individual ATP list, 204th place.

When it comes to Danish tennis, Caroline Wozniacki is undoubtedly the first name, as she was number 1 on the WTA list for 71 weeks. Among tennis players, only a few still remember Kurt Nielsen, once the seventh player in the world and the only Dane to play in the Grand Slam final. The years ahead will give an answer as to whether Holger Rune will enter that high society!

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN ARE COMPLETED

A reversal against Pecotić for the first qualifier

The first qualifier, German Daniel Altmaier, advanced to the main tournament of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, but only after turning the match against Matija Pecotić (pictured), who was well on his way to another valuable victory

in Umag. Namely, the Croatian tennis player led 6:3, 2:0 and it seemed that he was well on his way to passing the second, decisive round of qualifications, but the German managed to find a solution and in the end won 3:6, 6:4, 6:3. He

also confirmed his good condition, as he won the ATP Challenger in Braunschweig, Germany in early July, and won a set against later finalist Filip Krajinović at the ATP tournament in Hamburg last week.

In addition to Altmaier, Italian Giannessi, Slovak Horansky and Argentinian Collarini also made it to the main tournament.

THE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT STARTED GREAT FOR CROATIAN TENNIS PLAYERS

The Sabanov brothers started off with a victory

Although they are not among the best ranked tennis players in the tournament, brothers Ivan and Matej Sabanov are certainly among the candidates that can achieve excellent result, and they confirmed that on the first

night. With 3:6, 7:6 (1), 10:6, they defeated the third qualifiers, Luis David Martinez from Venezuela and Artem Sitak from New Zealand, thus qualifying for the quarterfinals. Earlier this season, the Sabans were the winners of

the ATP tournament in Belgrade.

Antonio Šančić also had a successful day in the doubles competition, who in cooperation with Damir Džumhur from Bosnia and Herzegovina defeated with

6:7 (6), 6:2, 10:6 the Italian duo Caruso, Mager. For Šančić, this is a return match, because the last tournament he played was in February last year.

FIRST EVENINGS OF FUN AT STELLA MARIS RESORT



A real musical treat opened the rich music program of the 31st edition of the ATP tournament Plava Laguna Croatia Open.

Ante Gelo, along with young singers who competed in the domestic show programs A strana and The Voice, delighted the gathered audience at the Stella Maris Resort. With the performance of domestic and foreign song hits, they brightened up the evening for those gathered who came to watch the draw for the main part of the tournament, but also for many others who decided to use the beautiful evening to enjoy a glass of wine, gin or Istrian brandy, or eno- and gastronomic offer in the ATP zone.

Alen Đuras, Iva Ajduković, Sabrina Heberi, Dino Petrić and Nela Đinđić showed that the



domestic music scene really has a lot of talent, and that Umag is still a great place not only for fun inside tennis courts, but also outside them.

Sunday by the Goran Ivanišević Stadium.

The evening program after the 1st round of qualifications entertained those gathered in the ATP zone next to the Goran Ivanišević Stadium. The audience was warmed up by OLDIES RNB & HIP

HOP MASH UP, but the good atmosphere was unfortunately ruined by the rain.

Monday dancing with ABBA Tribute band

On Monday, ABBA Tribute band performed during the evening entertainment program Open Air Music, with the audience dancing until 2 a.m.

The timeless hits were really brilliantly received by the audience who were thrilled

with the greatest hits of some of the most famous bands of all time. Stella Maris thus became a real dance stage where people enjoyed the hits Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen, Take a chance on me, Gimme gimme and many others.





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The Safe Stay in Croatia label may currently be found at over 17 thousand marinas, accommodation, hospitality, sports and other facilities throughout the country.

Whether you are attending an

open-air event, such as ATP Umag, or partaking in any of the other numerous activities offered during your stay, we ask that you continue to adhere to prescribed health and safety measures while enjoying your holiday.

Should you wish to learn more about the Safe Stay in Croatia programme, please visit <https://www.safestayincroatia.hr/en>

Please enjoy your stay in Croatia!

WINNER OF THE WILD CARD FOR PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG QUALIFICATIONS

THE WINNER OF THE ROAD TO UMAG MASTERS IS MATIJA PECOTIĆ



we will further upgrade this story. Congratulations to Matija Pecotić who justified the role of a favorite and I wish him good luck in the qualifications for the main tournament.” - said the tournament director Tomislav Poljak.

Road to Umag series of three tournaments was launched to give Croatian tennis players opportunity to play as many matches as possible on the home field, and the winner of each tournament qualified for the Road to Umag Masters, thus approaching the only Croatian ATP tournament. Frane Ninčević, the winner of the tournament in Karlovac, Alen Rogić-Hadžalić, who won in Požega, and Božo Barun, who was the best in Split, played at the Masters. They were be joined by Admir Kalender, Matija Pecotić and Domagoj Bilješko who received invitations.

OSCAR'S CORNER

Radu Albot defeated 18-year-old tennis player from Denmark Holger Vitus Nodskov Rune with a phenomenal game on the central court with 1:6, 6:3, 6:2.

Croatian tennis player Matija Pecotić, who joined the qualifications as the winner of the Road To Umag Masters, did not enter the main tournament. He was beaten by the German qualifier Daniel Altmaier. Nino Serdarušić failed to qualify for the second round, losing to Spaniard Carlos Taberner with 6:2 6:2

Alessandro Giannessi will enter the main tournament, who was better than Renzo Oliva with 2: 0 in sets.

Written by Oskar Visintin

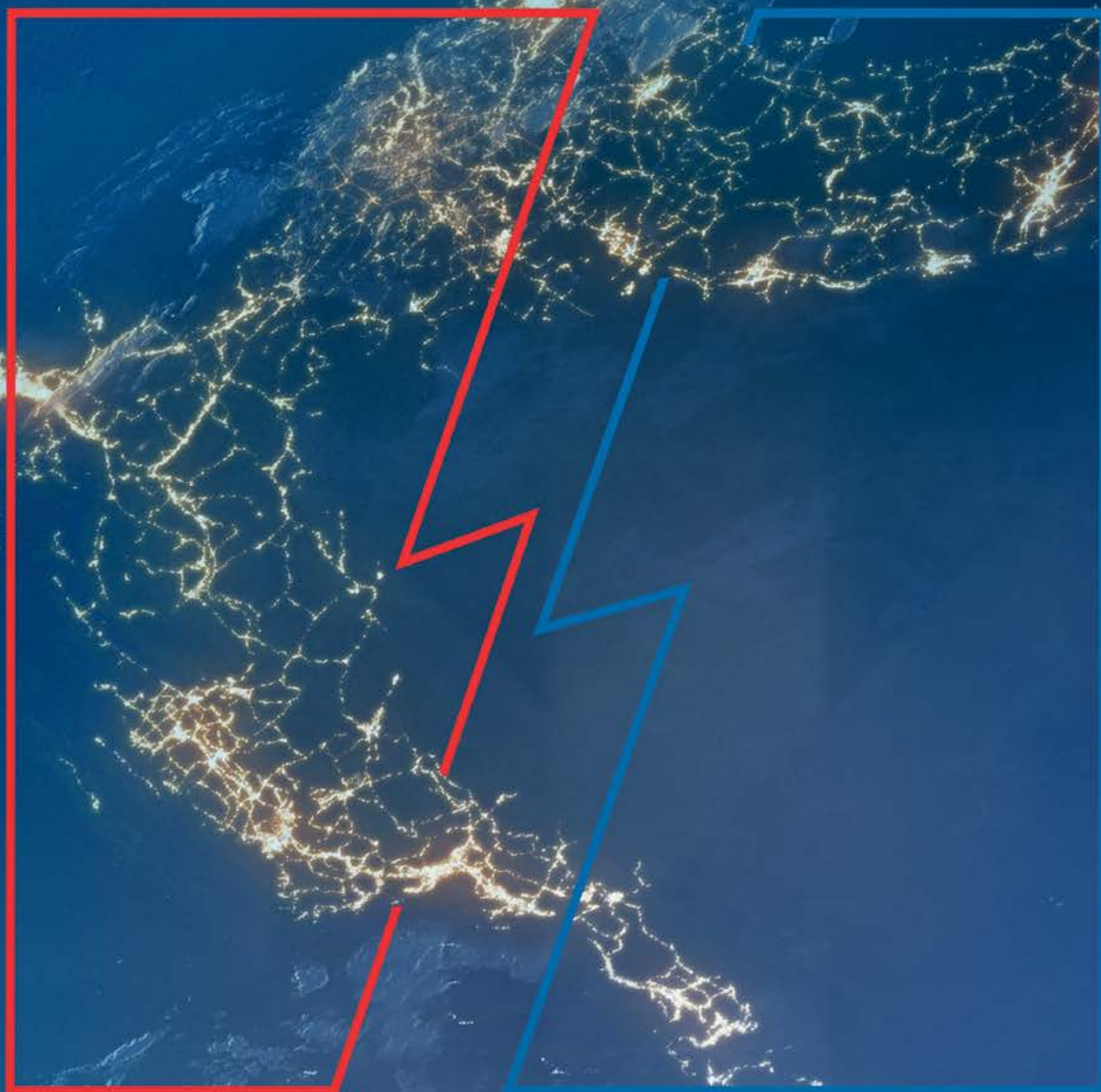


The winner of the Road to Umag Masters is Matija Pecotić, who won a wild card for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag qualifiers. He won the qualifiers against Božo Barun, the winner of the Split tournament.

“We are very proud of all the players who played in the first series of the Road To Umag tournament. Their reactions are the best evidence that this concept is a great success and that next year, with some modifications,

Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

HEP Više od
struje



4TH HEPI DOUBLES TOURNAMENT WAS HELD



As part of this year's 31st Plava Laguna Croatia Open tournament in Umag, HEP Opskrba organized the now traditional fourth Hepi tennis doubles tournament, where the main role on the field was played by HEP Opskrba and HEP Energija customers from Slovenia. The joint gathering started on Saturday, July 17, in the morning on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy. After the draw and the matching of pairs, the 20 registered players started the fight for points.

The victory in the finals went to the couple Slaven Madžarić and Zvonko Kožnjak, who defeated Dragan Perša and Davor Deskar.

This year, the interest of customers was very high, but,

respecting the recommended measures, the number of players was limited, which in no way diminished the competitive spirit and good mood. Some of the customers who enjoyed the competition were representatives from large companies such as Messer, Spin Vallis, Energo, HRT, as well as Saubermacher from Slovenia.

Director of HEP Opskrba, Davor Gutttert, thanked all customers from Croatia and Slovenia who accepted the invitation for the Hepi tournament, which exceeded all our expectations for this year given the challenges we are in:

"The great edition of this tournament is the best invitation for our other customers to join us next year. I am pleased with our customers' interest in this tournament, and our wish is for this tournament to become traditional and for as many participants as possible to gather every year."

The players have announced that the Hepi Tournament has already been entered in their calendars for next year as well, and they will share their positive impressions with their business partners.

HEP Opskrba, the leading supplier on the electricity market in Croatia, continues to build a successful business relationship with its customers based on loyalty, and wants to transfer this type of business to subsidiaries in Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

The Hepi tournament is one of the accompanying tournaments that are held during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag,

which will be held until July 25 in Umag. A limited number of people can enter the ATP zone in Stella Maris, only with the digital green COVID certificate that the visitor can obtain by testing at the test site in the ATP zone.

Tickets for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open tournament are on sale at www.croatiaopen.hr, and visitors can also enjoy entertainment on and off the tennis courts.

All information about the tournament and the measures under which it will be held can be found on www.croatiaopen.hr and on the official Facebook page of the tournament.



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We believe that the beauties of Umag caught you at first sight and that you promised yourself that you would return to this area and explore what Umag and Istria have to offer. As the flagships of Croatian tourism, they will surely win you over with their natural beauties, hidden beaches, green promenades and unspcakably

good dishes, olive oils or wines.

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check if the facility of your interest operates according to the prescribed protocols and measures and if it has the Safe stay in Croatia label. Foreign visitors can find out valuable information about entering Croatia on the same page; how to announce your arrival via the EnterCroatia platform, how to get a digital Covid passport or obtain other necessary documentation, who, where and when to contact in case of suspicion of infection, where to perform infection testing and other.

Travel safely in Croatia and take care of each other.



