

ATP 250

16.-25.7.2021.

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #31ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO2 • 21.07.2021.

ALCARAZ'S TURNAROUND, AJDUKOVIĆ'S DEBUT

Excellent tennis on the second day of the main tournament at the 31st Plava Laguna Croatia Open, and some of the youngest participants in the tournament have the most reasons to be satisfied. First of all, 20-year-old Duje Ajduković from Split, who came to his first victory in the first appearance at ATP tournaments, and 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, who won a place in the eight finals with a turnaround against Frenchman Pouille in his premiere performance in Umag.

Alcaraz is often heard to be "the greatest hope of Spanish tennis since the young days of Rafael Nadal," so

it is understandable that his performance in Umag was awaited with great interest. He lost the first set 3:6, but then won 10 of the next 12 games and calmly brought the match to an end for the final 3:6, 6:2, 6:2. Behind him are several great results, especially notable considering his age: at the age of 17 he was a semifinalist at the ATP tournament in Marbella, and recently as an 18-year-old qualifier he reached the third round at Roland Garros, becoming the youngest participant in the sixteenth final at that tournament since Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev in 1992. **(continued on p. 7)**

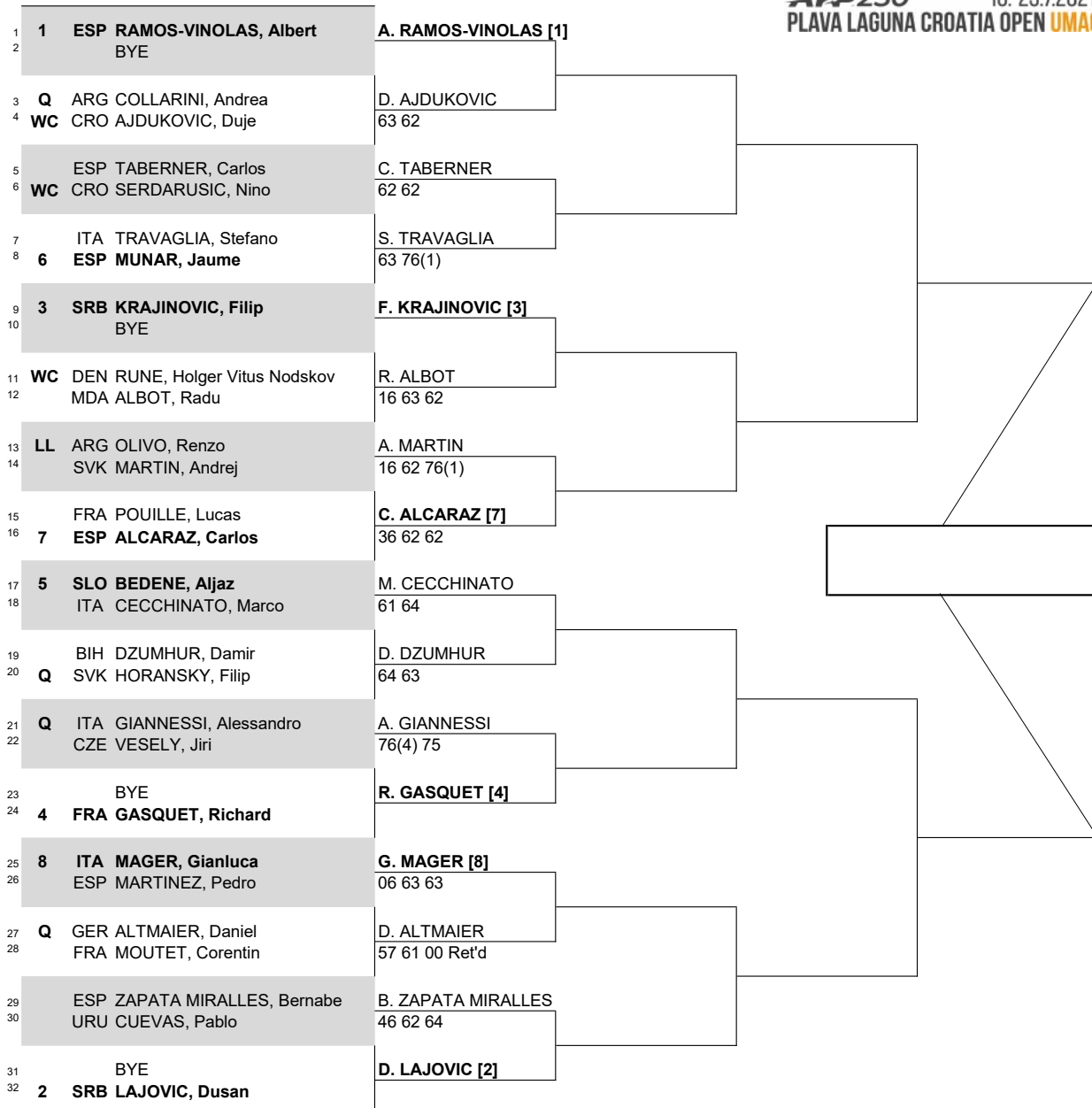


ORDER OF PLAY – WEDNESDAY, JULY 21st 2021.

STADION GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ	GRANDSTAND	COURT 1
<p>16:30 Alessandro Giannessi (ITA) vs. Richard Gasquet (FRA)</p> <p>Not before 19:00 Albert Ramos-Vinolas (ESP) vs. Duje Ajduković (CRO)</p> <p>followed by Marco Cecchinato (ITA) vs. Damir Džumhur (BIH)</p>	<p>16:00 Admir Kalender (CRO) Mili Poljičak (CRO) vs. Pablo Cuevas (URU) Fabrice Martin (FRA)</p> <p>not before 18:00 Carlos Taberner (ESP) vs. Stefano Travaglia (ITA)</p> <p>followed by Tomislav Brkić (BIH) Nikola Čačić (SRB) vs. Duje Ajduković (CRO) Frane Ninčević (CRO)</p>	<p>16:30 Marc LOPEZ (ESP) Jaume Munar (ESP) vs. Fernando Romboli (BRA) David Vega Hernandez (ESP)</p> <p>followed by Radu Albot (MDA) Pedro Martinez (ESP) vs. Andre Begemann (GER) Igor Zelenay (SVK)</p> <p>followed by Ivan Sabanov (CRO) Matej Sabanov (CRO) vs. Damir Džumhur (BIH) Antonio Šančić (CRO)</p>

STATUS NAT MAIN DRAW SINGLES

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PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG





„The most prestigious tennis spectacle in Croatia, ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, continues this year, which is invaluable for our city. As the mayor of Umag, I am extremely proud and pleased that Umag continues with the tournament, which indicates that our city is slowly but surely returning to the game. ATP Croatia Open promotes Umag around the world, raises the quality of sports in Umag - the city of sport - and greatly affects tourist traffic, attracting a large number of domestic and foreign guests, making our city in July one of the most desirable destinations on the Adriatic. Finally, one of the most important ingredients of this successful 'recipe' is the fact that Umag and ATP have been simultaneously developing and growing for three decades, and are an increasingly beautiful destination, and an increasingly attractive event tailored to all citizens and visitors.”

Vili Basanesse, Mayor of the City of Umag





		ATP250 16.-25.7.2021. PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG	
1	BIH BRKIC, Tomislav SRB CACIC, Nikola		
2	WC CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje CRO NINCEVIC, Frane		
3	CZE JEBAVY, Roman CZE VESELY, Jiri	R. JEBAVY J. VESELY 75 63	
4	ESP TABERNER, Carlos ESP ZAPATA MIRALLES, Bernabe		
5	4 VEN MARTINEZ, Luis David NZL SITAK, Artem	I. SABANOV M. SABANOV 36 76(1) 10-6	
6	CRO SABANOV, Ivan CRO SABANOV, Matej		
7	ITA CARUSO, Salvatore ITA MAGER, Gianluca	D. DZUMHUR A. SANCIC 67(6) 62 10-6	
8	BIH DZUMHUR, Damir CRO SANCIC, Antonio		
9	MDA ALBOT, Radu ESP MARTINEZ, Pedro		
10	GER BEGEMANN, Andre SVK ZELENAY, Igor		
11	ITA CECCHINATO, Marco ITA TRAVAGLIA, Stefano	M. CECCHINATO S. TRAVAGLIA 75 64	
12	3 BRA MATOS, Rafael BLR VASILEVSKI, Andrei		
13	PR ESP LOPEZ, Marc ESP MUNAR, Jaime		
14	BRA ROMBOLI, Fernando ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David		
15	WC CRO KALENDER, Admir CRO POLJICAK, Mili		
16	2 URU CUEVAS, Pablo FRA MARTIN, Fabrice		



KOLUMNA GORANA IVANIŠEVIĆA

AN EXPERIENCE FOR SEVERAL LIFETIMES

The first two days of the main tournament of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open are behind us, many more great matches are to follow, but they still ask me for impressions from Newport and entering the Tennis Hall of Fame. Somehow it seems to me that we have achieved a good connection in that, and maybe it is not bad at all that I fulfill my role of the Umag tournament ambassador in this manner as well. I played here in the final of the premiere edition, in recent years I have been actively involved in the organization and promotion, so I am glad to experience this together.

On Tuesday we held a virtual press conference on this occasion, there were interesting questions and of course I again remembered last week, the experience of how big this institution is and that we don't even know what Hall of Fame project entails.

It is an interesting experience, you go through a museum, start from the beginnings of tennis and at one point you see your stuff. Only then do you become aware that you are a part of it. The best I could describe the feelings is that I was

accepted into a big family, then you see that you have done something with tennis in your life and that you have given it something big. And then, after so many years, for the first time, I was proud of myself.

Well, now... Of course, during my career, there were all kinds of "crazy stuff" that I did, I don't hide from it. Today at the conference I was asked to pick one that was not talked much about, so I will share it here as well. It was at the tournament in Hamburg in 1998, and waited for a match in the quarterfinals against Felix Mantilla. It was at the end of the schedule, I had nothing to do, and since there was a hairdresser at the club, I decided to "bleach" my beard. I inhaled these fumes for about forty minutes, then I was invited to the playground, and after three or four games I didn't know where I was anymore. I surrendered at 0:6, 0:2, they took me off the court, and when coach Vedran Martić heard the real reason behind it, he went "ballistic."

Basically, there was everything, big wins and weird defeats, experiences to fill a few lifetimes. So be it.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, DIREKTOR TURNIRA

THIS IS WHAT INVITATIONS ARE FOR!

I think we watched one of the best matches in Umag in the last few years on Tuesday. What Carlos Alcaraz and Lucas Pouille played, and especially in the first set that eventually went to the Frenchman, was great. Later, Pouille's performance fell a bit, but the Spaniard also showed in the best way why we were so excited about his arrival this year, and in the seasons ahead. I think he showed all the splendor of his talent, the fighting spirit that adorns him, and the tennis was at an incredible level. From aggression, through creativity to physical abilities that are already great, and he is only 18 years old. He really has a "full package" of opportunities and I think it will be very difficult to beat him in the tournament.

Among other things, of course, a big, big congratulations to Duje Ajduković on his first victory in his debut performance. That's what invitations are for! We have to admit that Andrea Collarini was tired from the marathon second round of qualification he played on Monday, but Duje was just "bombarding" in that

match, he was as aggressive as he usually is, and his "rockets" were landing in the right places, enough that Collarini could not keep up with that pace.

Duje is now going to Ramos-Vinolas and that is our main match of the day on Wednesday, starting not before 7 p.m. Ramos asked me "who is this guy, does he play well?" I don't know if he was worried or just wanted to find out something more that way, but I'm sure it will be interesting. And will Duje have enough concentration to defeat the player who is among the three main favorites in such conditions.

We also watched Aljaž Bedene and Marco Cecchinato in the replay of the match from the first round in 2019, this time with a different outcome. Many thanks to Aljaž for playing, although because of his illness he is not on the level at which he would be competitive. He was gasping for air, because corona left a mark, but also because he was locked in a room in Hamburg for six or seven days. None the less, big respect for trying.

UMAG- THE CITY OF SPORTS



Umag, the first city at the entrance to Istria from the north, easily wins you over with its charm, diversity and richness of offer. Umag is a town that brings together the peculiarities of the entire region through 45 km of coastline and interesting hinterland and is perhaps the best introduction to a different experience of the Mediterranean. This town is known for many things, but in July he lives for the ATP tournament Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. Every year in mid-July, Umag becomes

a large tennis and entertainment stage that can be enjoyed by tennis fans, but also those who enjoy more fun outside the tennis courts. From great music performers to a rich eno- and gastronomic offer - Istrian winemakers and local indigenous spiza (food), all this is part of the offer at the Stella Maris Resort next to the Goran Ivanišević Stadium.

Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tennis tournament, which has been held in Umag since 1990, has made

Umag a recognizable destination all over the world and today it is certainly our most valuable brand.

Matches broadcast in over 120 countries, a large number of accredited journalists who report daily from Umag, top tennis matches and exhibition matches with world tennis legends, are just some of what this top sporting event brings to Umag.

But the special feature of the Umag tournament is added value to the sports meeting, which are the Istria Gourmet Festival and Istria Wine Tasting. These are events where, in addition to promoting the destination itself, Istrian indigenous cuisine and top wines from our region are promoted.

The rich entertainment program perfectly complements the whole story and that is why it is not unusual that every year we record

more and more visitors for whom this event is the prime motive, and why it is not uncommon for vacation to be planned according to this Top event. This is the time when Umag is the center of gathering of business people and people from the public and political life of Croatia and the region.

We are proud that Umag has hosted a tournament of this rank for 31 years, which promotes not only Umag, but Istria and Croatia and confirms that the combination of destination, top services, and tennis infrastructure in our city meets the highest criteria, said Milovan Popovic, director of the Tourist Board of Umag.



WITH THE SAFE STAY LABEL IN CROATIA, YOU TRAVEL SAFER AND MORE RELAXED



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 unspeakably

good dishes, olive oils or wines.

As good hosts, we want you to travel through Istria, but also the rest of Croatia safely and relaxed, without worrying about potential problems or infections. Therefore, we have created a system of labels called Safe stay in Croatia, which you

can look for in accommodation facilities, restaurants and coffee shops, museums and picnic areas, in vehicles and many many other places that interest you. If you notice the signs Safe stay in Croatia & Safe travels, know that the host operates in accordance with the current hygienic and epidemiological recommendations of the Croatian Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Tourism and Sports and World Travel and Tourism Council and takes care of your safety according to world standards.

More than 17,000 buildings in Croatia already have the Safe stay in Croatia label. Visit www.safestayincroatia.hr and

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.



SECOND DAY OF THE MAIN TOURNAMENT 31. PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN

ALCARAZ'S TURNAROUND, AJDUKOVIĆ'S DEBUT



(continued from p. 1)

"The main difference in the game between the first and the remaining two sets was that in the first I constantly played on the opponent's forehand. Later, I played backhand and that made my job much easier," said the Spaniard.

Earlier on Tuesday, Goran Ivanišević told Alcaraz that he

was one of the greatest talents, and many tennis players and tennis experts have expressed such an opinion over the past year. When asked how much pressure it is playing with such expectations, he added:

"It certainly suits me that such great players follow my game and development. Yes, there is pressure, but I try to deal with it in the best way."

Ajduković made the best use of the invitation for the main tournament, defeating Argentine qualifier Andrea Collarini 6:3, 6:2 on Tuesday. Both sought their first career victory in competitions of this rank in that match, and in the end it came to a player nine years younger, although the start was not promising. Colarini, 210th on the ranking list, was the one who took a 2-0 lead in both sets, but Ajduković immediately closed the gap.

"Great! First victory at the ATP, in front of my own people, in Croatia," said Ajduković and added: *"I've already beaten players ranked like him. I didn't do well in both sets, but when I made up for the break, things started to go well."*

The next opponent, already on Wednesday afternoon, will be much harder for him: no less and no more than the first

holder of the tournament, the Spaniard Albert Ramos Vinolas.

In other matches, the winner of Umag from 2018, Marco Cecchinato, defeated Slovenian Aljaž Bedene in just over an hour of play. The winner of Umag in 2014, Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas, was not successful, as he was defeated by Bernabe Zapata Miralles, a constantly improving Spanish player, with 4:6, 6:2, 6:4. It was a dramatic match, although it didn't seem like it would be like that after the Spaniard took a 4-0 lead in the deciding set. Cuevas reached 4:4, even had two break points for 5:4, but did not reach a full turnaround.

The program at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open continues on Wednesday, when some of the leading players will take the court: first-placed Albert Ramos Vinolas and fourth-place winner Richard Gasquet.

"THERE IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL STORY IN UMAG"

Ahead of the matches of the third day of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open ATP tournament, Goran Ivanišević, tournament ambassador, shared his thoughts on the 31st edition of the Umag tournament. At the virtual press conference, Goran revealed who should be watched in particular, but also who surprised him in the first days of the tournament.

"Umag is a special tournament because it always has a good story. It has been won by some top tennis players, exciting matches are being played, the final is always interesting and I invite everyone who can come to watch it this year as well."

Special attention should be paid to the young Carlos Alcaraz, he is the future of tennis and the best that Spain has given since Rafael Nadal. I was surprised by the quick knock-out of Holger Rune, I expected more from him. I watched Taberner for the first time, who defeated our Serdarušić, and I really liked him, I think he will be in the top 100 soon," said Goran.

Goran wished all Croatian representatives good luck in Umag, and also commented on the expectations at the Olympic Games:

"We have the best chances for

a medal in tennis, of course, in doubles. Mektić and Pavić should not be overlooked, but there's another double – Ivan Dodig and Marin Čilić. If Marin brings his game from singles in pairs,

then medals can be expected. I hope Donna plays well too. The Olympics are a special mindset, you don't just play for yourself and that's why anything can happen, there are no real favorites."



UMAG'S FEBRA SHONE ONCE AGAIN

The popular local band, Febra, always ensures a great atmosphere in Umag. Our favorite musicians from Febra were again responsible this Tuesday for the great atmosphere in the Stella Maris Resort next to the Goran Ivanišević Stadium. After tense tennis matches, they warmed up the atmosphere in the popular Laguna well and once again showed that they are masters in performing domestic and foreign repertoire. A bit of soul, a handful of blues, jazz at will, pop as desired, all sprinkled with rockabilly, and we got a raide from the 50's and 60's to modern times! Tomorrow, the audience will be able to enjoy something completely different - Cubismo brings a breath of Cuba to our region. The fun will be assured! Enjoy music, responsible to yourself and others!



MARCO CECCHINATO, WINNER OF UMAG 2018, COLLECTS OLD DEBTS

BEDENE IS A NIGHTMARE NO MORE



For a while, Slovenian Aljaž Bedene was a real nightmare for Marco Cecchinato. Up until this season they have met seven times, both in ATP tournaments and in ATP Challengers, and each time the Italian was defeated. One of those matches took place in

Umag, two years ago, when Cecchinato was defending the title he won the season before. For the tradition of their matches, it meant nothing, again Bedene was the winner, again without losing a set: the ratio then rose to 7:0, and 14:0 in sets.

Still, the wheel of fortune is turning. First, earlier this year in Parma, he celebrated his first victory in mutual matches, and on Tuesday at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open he added his second, defeating Bedene 6:1, 6:4, and it seems that the time of the Slovenian player's dominance in their matches is over. However, it should be said that Bedene was ill (corona virus) up until a few days ago, so he was certainly not the most prepared.

In the world of tennis, the legendary statement of the American Vitas Gerulaitis, who lost 16 times in a row against his compatriot Jimmy Connors, and then, after celebrating the next match, said "no one beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row." We don't know if Cecchinato said something similar in Parma, but there is no doubt that he started collecting old debts.

OSKAROV KUTAK

Today was exciting on the central court, because the 21-year-old Croatian tennis player Duje Ajduković defeated the Argentine qualifier Andrea Collarini with 6:3, 6:2. It was his first match in Umag ever.

It was equally interesting on court number 2, where the Italian Alessandro Giannessi defeated the Czech Jiry Vesely with a score of 7:5, 7:6. Marco Cecchinato defeated Aljaž Bedene with 6:1, 6:4 in just over an hour.

At the Grandstand, Spanish tennis player Bernabe Zapata Miralles surprised Pablo Cuevas and advanced to the 2nd round with the result of 4:6, 6:2, 6:4.

Written by Oskar Visintin



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ACCOMPANYING TOURNAMENTS BRING UMAG EVEN MORE EXCITEMENT



UMAG STARS OPEN

The Umag Stars Open will be played on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am in Stella Maris. It is a recreational tennis tournament for Croatian professional athletes, former professional athletes and people from the sports world. One of the founders of the Umag Stars Open is Silvio Marić, a former member of the Croatian national football team. This year, 250 participants have registered.

ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP

A very important ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG by HEP tournament will be played on Friday at Umag Tennis Academy.

This is a wheelchair tennis tournament that is being held for the second time this year during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open. Wheelchair tennis is one of the most developed and fastest growing sports for people with disabilities in the world, and during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag visitors will have the opportunity to watch some of the best tennis players in the world.

The organizer of this tournament is Anto Joskić, the best Croatian wheelchair tennis player, who stated on this occasion: *“It all started in 2018 when I participated in one of the Conversations about Sports forums, after which the director of the executive board of the tournament Arlen Brozić and our sponsor HEP proposed*

holding this tournament. I hope that this tournament of ours will become part of the tradition of the Umag tournament.”

VIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On Saturday and Sunday, the VIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT is played on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy. It is a recreational tennis tournament of VIP guests, sponsors and friends of the tournament who participate with an invitation.

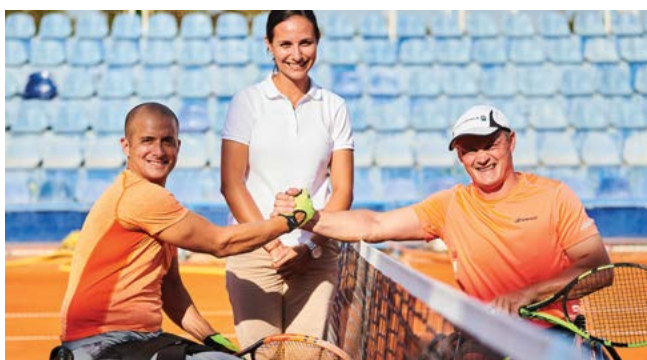
HUMANITARIAN SIDE OF PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG AS ZA SPAS (ACE FOR HELP)

The 31st Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag will be held in Umag until July 25. The most famous tennis tournament in Croatia has its humanitarian part this year as well. The humanitarian action “As za spas” in cooperation with HEP as a sponsor and partner of the Umag ATP tournament will again this year raise funds for humanitarian purposes. During the tournament, as part of the

schedule, all the aces achieved in tennis matches are added up, so we are looking forward to quality serves this year as well.

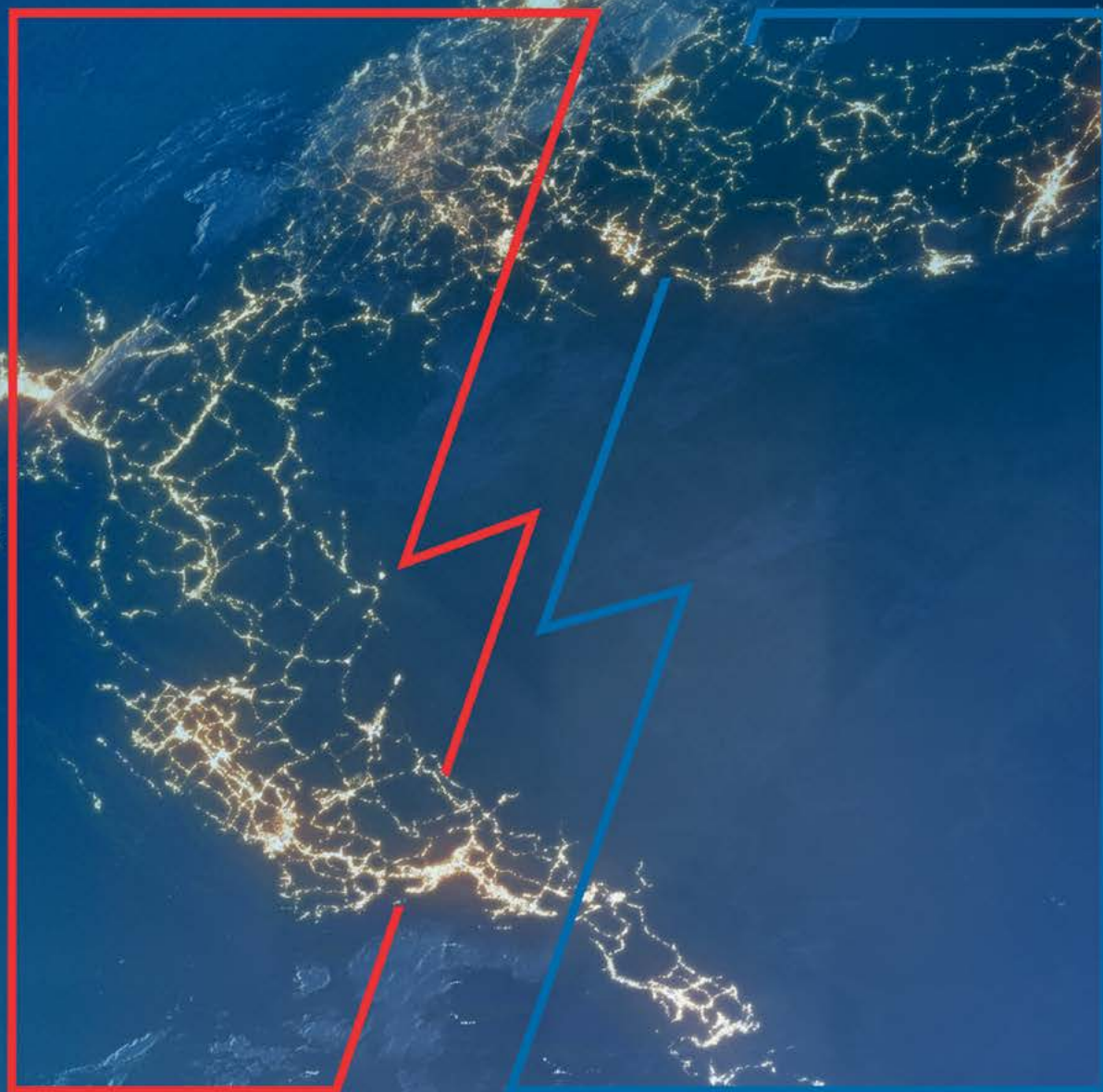
HEP donated funds to the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Association as part of the Umag ATP tournament last year as well, and once again emphasized the importance of raising funds to improve the community in which they operate. The “As za spas” campaign is part of the “Aces for Charity” global initiative, which aims to connect tennis players and humanitarian work and help the community in which the tournaments are held.

Famous tennis players, such as Richard Gasquet, Dušan Lajović, Aljaž Bedene, Marco Cecchinato, Carlos Alcaraz and many others, will perform in Umag this year as well, and the off-court entertainment will be performed by Neno Belan and Fiumensi, Ana Rucner and Detour. Entry into the ATP zone as well as the Goran Ivanišević Stadium is allowed only with a green COVID certificate, and it is also possible to do a test at the entrance.



Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

HEP Više od
struje



ATP 250

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PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG



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