

ATP250

16.-25.7.2021.

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**



DAILY NEWS

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ORDER OF PLAY – SATURDAY, JULY 24TH 2021

<p>STADION GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ</p> <p>18:00 Richard Gasquet (FRA) vs. Daniel Altmaier (GER)</p> <p>not before 20:00 Albert Ramos-Vinolas (ESP) vs. Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)</p>	<p>followed by Tomislav Brkić (BIH) Nikola Ćaćić (SRB) vs. Fernando Romboli (BRA) David Vega Hernandez (ESP)</p>
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STATUS	NAT	MAIN DRAW SINGLES	
		 16.-25.7.2021. PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN 	
1		1 ESP RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert	A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]
2		BYE	A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1] 75 64
3	Q	ARG COLLARINI, Andrea	D. AJDUKOVIC
4	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	63 62
5		ESP TABERNER, Carlos	C. TABERNER
6	WC	CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino	62 62
7		ITA TRAVAGLIA, Stefano	S. TRAVAGLIA
8	6	ESP MUNAR, Jaume	64 63
9		3 SRB KRAJINOVIC, Filip	F. KRAJINOVIC [3]
10		BYE	F. KRAJINOVIC [3] 64 62
11	WC	DEN RUNE, Holger Vitus Nodskov	R. ALBOT
12		MDA ALBOT, Radu	16 63 62
13	LL	ARG OLIVO, Renzo	A. MARTIN
14		SVK MARTIN, Andrej	16 62 76(1)
15		FRA POUILLE, Lucas	C. ALCARAZ [7]
16	7	ESP ALCARAZ, Carlos	36 62 62
17		5 SLO BEDENE, Aljaz	M. CECCHINATO
18		ITA CECCHINATO, Marco	61 64
19		BIH DZUMHUR, Damir	D. DZUMHUR
20	Q	SVK HORANSKY, Filip	64 63
21	Q	ITA GIANNESI, Alessandro	A. GIANNESI
22		CZE VESELY, Jiri	76(4) 75
23		BYE	R. GASQUET [4] 76(4) 64
24	4	FRA GASQUET, Richard	
25		8 ITA MAGER, Gianluca	G. MAGER [8]
26		ESP MARTINEZ, Pedro	06 63 63
27	Q	GER ALTMAIER, Daniel	D. ALTMAIER
28		FRA MOUTET, Corentin	57 61 00 Ret'd
29		ESP ZAPATA MIRALLES, Bernabe	B. ZAPATA MIRALLES
30		URU CUEVAS, Pablo	46 62 64
31		BYE	D. LAJOVIC [2] 75 64
32	2	SRB LAJOVIC, Dusan	

THE YOUNGEST SEMIFINALISTS OF UMAG

Although only 18 years old, Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz is not the youngest participant in the semifinalists in Umag. Primacy is held by his compatriot Rafael Nadal.

Rafael Nadal	2003.	17 years
Carlos Alcaraz	2021.	18 years
Goran Ivanišević	1990.	18 years
Alberto Martin	1997.	18 years
Novak Đoković	2006.	19 years



„ATP Croatia Open, which after more than 30 years still manages to organize in these challenging and complex, pandemic conditions and finally realize such a big event, simply tells us that the most important sport event in Croatia has reached the world level of well-organized sports events. Umag tournament reputation in the world of tennis speaks best about quality, as well as the fact that much bigger and more famous tennis events in the world, due to those challenging times, simply could not keep up with the times and many challenges.

This year, new hopes in world tennis are appearing at the Umag tournament, and it is generally known that tennis players love this tournament and the great atmosphere around the tournament. The special feature of ATP Umag is that it is an event that has a strong tourist and lifestyle dimension and is one of the most important gatherings of business and social elite. During the tournament you can taste the best that Istria as one of the best gourmet destinations in Europe has to offer. Putting it all together in one place is called an event I have to be at!”

Denis Ivosevic

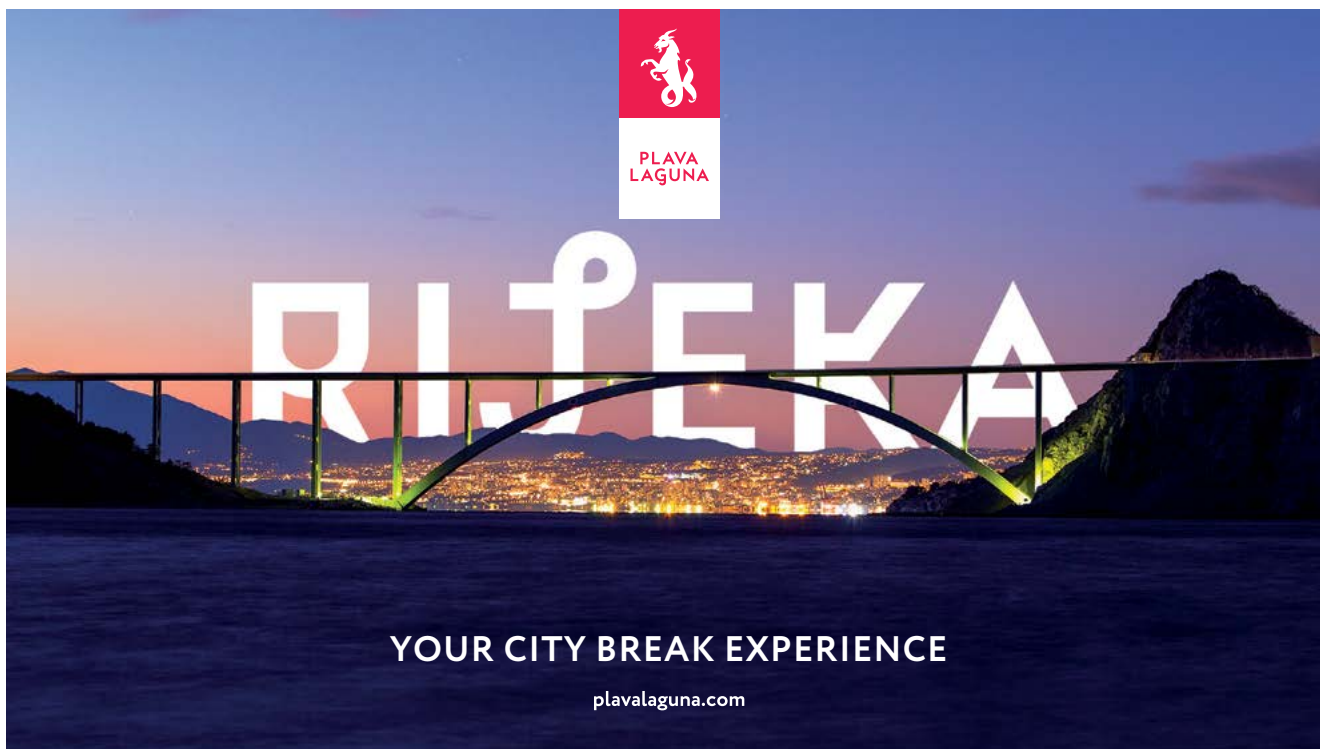
MET THE AMAZING VIRGINS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The production of olive oil in Istria began several thousands of years ago. Brijuni, Barbariga, and Poreč have since antiquity been famous as locations with ancient oil mills and workshops for the production of amphorae that were used to transport olive oil. Some of the most well-known indigenous varieties of olives are the Buža, Istrian Bjelica, Oblica, Črnica, Rošinjola, Buža Puntoža, and many others. Today, Istria produces one of the most esteemed and top olive oils in the world, all thanks to its perfect taste, fragrance, and colour. This is corroborated by the Flos Olei – the most comprehensive guide to the world’s best extra virgin olive oils, which pronounced Istria as this year’s best olive region in the world. Whether on your skin, hair, or taste buds – Istrian olives will give you a royal treatment!



Photo: Maja Danica Pečanić / CNTB

1	BIH BRKIC, Tomislav SRB CACIC, Nikola	T. BRKIC N. CACIC [1] 64 36 10-8	T. BRKIC N. CACIC [1] 62 62	
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			T. BRKIC N. CACIC [1] 61 62
4	VEN MARTINEZ, Luis David NZL SITAK, Artem	I. SABANOV M. SABANOV 36 76(1) 10-6	I. SABANOV M. SABANOV 75 60	
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	R. ALBOT P. MARTINEZ 64 76(5)	R. ALBOT P. MARTINEZ 64 61	
10	GER BEGEMANN, Andre SVK ZELENAY, Igor			
11	ITA CECCHINATO, Marco ITA TRAVAGLIA, Stefano	M. CECCHINATO S. TRAVAGLIA 75 64		
12	BRA MATOS, Rafael BLR VASILEVSKI, Andrei			F. ROMBOLI D. VEGA HERNANDEZ 46 76(8) 10-7
13	PR ESP LOPEZ, Marc ESP MUNAR, Jaume	F. ROMBOLI D. VEGA HERNANDEZ 75 46 10-5	F. ROMBOLI D. VEGA HERNANDEZ 36 75 16-14	
14	BRA ROMBOLI, Fernando ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David			
15	WC CRO KALENDER, Admir CRO POLJICAK, Mili	A. KALENDER M. POLJICAK 63 64		
16	URU CUEVAS, Pablo FRA MARTIN, Fabrice			





COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

THE TOURNAMENT IS GREAT

We always complain about something, but I said at the beginning and I stand by it now: we have a great tournament this year as well. Although we are in the Olympic Games season and some other tournaments are played now as well, and we had bad luck with the cancellation of great players such as Fabio Fognini, Lorenzo Musetti and Jannik Sinner, there is no room for complaints about the quality of participants or the quality of tennis.

Umag always goes that way, there is a special story. And I am very satisfied with the quality of tennis, we watch several top matches every day. As for the players who entered the finals, Richard Gasquet is the most resounding name according to "old merits," because he is a player who was among the top ten in the world. We know how talented he is. Unfortunately, he was unlucky with injuries, he's aging, but in my opinion, along with Stan Wawrinka, he is the player with the best one-handed backhand in the history of tennis.

We have the young Alcaraz, who will be a big star and it's really great that we brought him to Umag, to be seen playing with us here.

The lineup of players who came by Friday is such that it almost doesn't matter who will play in the semifinals and finals. I invite once again those who are able to come and see the matches live, they will not regret it.

After the matches ended on Thursday night, we talked internally about "Turbo Friday," precisely because of so many great players who are nearing the final. When you see that the first seed and such a great tennis player as Albert Ramos-Vinolas could not play at the stadium, but played at the grandstand, then it is clear between what matches we had to balance to put together a schedule.

In order not to follow the predictions, and victories of the "great ones," we have the German Altmaier who reached the semifinals from the qualifications, but nothing was granted to him along the way. He is far better than his current position, as he is around 150th place, but has had injury problems. If he manages to avoid them in the future, he will be very good. This is his first entry into the semifinals at ATP tournaments in his career, I doubt it will remain on just that.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

WE WATCH THE STAR BEING BORN

It may sound pretentious, but we can say: a star is born! Carlos Alcaraz reached the second semifinal of the ATP tournaments in his career, after a fantastic match. We expected such a great duel, and we won, and I think that the Umag audience will quickly fall in love with the young Spaniard. He is becoming a real tennis star before our eyes.

Filip Krajinović played a great second set, taking advantage of the somewhat slower entry of the opponent into that section, but the way Carlos played the third set is the best indicator of why he is talked about in superlatives. On Saturday, he will face the toughest possible opponent, first seed Albert Ramos-Vinolas, who easily defeated Stefan Travaglia, an Italian who didn't have a bad day. It will be a replay of Carlos Alcaraz's first match at the ATP tournaments, a match in which he also won his first victory in Rio de Janeiro. I think Ramos is a slight favorite in that match, also a favorite to that extent of winning the tournament, but it will be open and Carlos has his chances.

On the other side of the draw, we lost the second seed, because the Umag Daniel Altmaier fairy tale goes on. In all previous matches, he lost the first set and made a turnaround, and now he has passed in two sets. The current defender, Dušan Lajović, could not be competitive, because he is hindered by the blister he fought with in Hamburg last week as well. It was visible that he was suffering on the court.

Altmaier will not be an easy ride for Richard Gasquet, who passed Damir Džumhur. Gasquet and Altmaier recently met in Switzerland, the Frenchman won, but anything can happen on Saturday.

As for doubles, we were left without Croatian representatives. Ivan and Matej Sabanov had almost no chance, Brkić and Čačić were too good. In the second match, we got probably the greatest tragedy of this tournament, because Radu Albot and Pedro Martinez led 6:4, 5:1 and still lost to the Brazilian-Spanish double Romboli, Vega Hernandez.

GALA PARTY HELD AT THE MELIÁ CORAL HOTEL FOR PLAVA LAGUNA



A Gala Party for friends and sponsors of the tournament was organized in the Umag Kator in the Hotel Meliá Coral for Plava Laguna. It was a way to mark the 31st anniversary of the tournament and the entry into the final weekend. The audience was, as always, delighted by the great Ana Rucner, who promotes Croatia with her music on the world stage. In addition to the extraordinary cellist, the guests were entertained by Umag's Febra, and they were greeted and welcomed by Dragan Pu-

jas, President of the Board of Directors of Plava Laguna.

There were celebrities and famous people from the world of sports, politics, show business - from Nikola Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Dubravko Šimenac, a famous former water polo player, currently the Head of sports tourism in the Croatian Tourist Board, Vilija Basanesse, Mayor of Umag, Valter Flego, Istrian MEP and former Istrian County Governor and many others.



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Don't fill your life with days, fill your days with life.


Full of life

ALCARAZ GREAT AGAIN, DEFENDER OF THE TITLE WITHOUT SEMIFINALS



Ramos-Vinolas against Alcaraz and Gasquet against Altmaier - these are the semifinal pairs at the 31st edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open! Great tennis was on show on Friday, and Saturday should be just as good, given the game demonstrated by the winning four.

The most attractive clash of the day was, as expected, a duel between 18-year-old Carlos Alca-

raz (pictured) and 29-year-old Filip Krajinović, from which one of the most talented young players of today emerged as the winner. He won 7:6 (3), 2:6, 6:1 and so for the second time this season (and for the second time in his career) he reached the semifinals of an ATP tournament, after he managed to do so earlier in Marbella, Spain.

On Saturday, compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas awaits him, whom

he defeated in Rio de Janeiro last year in his debut appearance at the ATP tournaments, when he was only 16 years old. Unlike Alcaraz, Ramos-Vinolas easily moved through the quarterfinals, as he lost only three games against the Italian Travaglia (6: 2, 6: 1). After two setbacks in the Umag quarterfinals, he finally took a step further, and it is interesting that both of them played in the quarterfinals of an ATP tournament for the first time in their careers in Umag: Ramos-Vinolas 2011, and Travaglia 2019.

In the second semifinal, Frenchman Richard Gasquet, once the seventh player in the world, will try to stop the excellent series of German Daniel Altmaier, who surprised the defending champion, Dušan Lajović from Serbia, with 6:2, 6:4 on Friday Altmaier came to the main tournament from the

qualifications, where in the decisive round he was a set and a break point behind the Croatian tennis player Matija Pecotić, but now he has made it all the way to the semifinals. He is awaited by Richard Gasquet, who led 6:3, 4:2 against Damir Džumhur from Bosnia and Herzegovina with three break points for 5:2, before the situation became complicated. Still, he won with 6:3, 7:6.

"If I had taken a 5: 2 lead, the match would probably be over quickly. I didn't succeed, then I got a little stuck on the serve, but I fought to the maximum to win the tie-break," said Gasquet, and when asked if he could go to the end and win the tournament, he added: "I will definitely try to do that. It's a great thing to enter the semifinals with these good players."

DOUBLES FINALS ON SATURDAY

Tomislav Brkić from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Nikola Čačić from Serbia stopped Ivan and Matej Sabanov, thereby preventing the Croatian duo from playing in the finals of an ATP

tournament for the second time this year. They won 6:1, 6:2 and entered the final, where they will play against Brazilian-Spanish double Fernando Romboli, David Vega Hernandez, on Saturday.

Brkić and Čačić are the first seed of the tournament, and this season, among others, they were quarterfinalists in Roland Garros, winners in Buenos Aires and finalists in Marbella.

OSCAR'S CORNER

The quarterfinal program on Friday was marked by a duel between Carlos Alcaraz and Filip Krajinović, from which the Spaniard emerged as the winner.

Dušan Lajović did not make it to the semifinals, because he was eliminated in two sets.

On Saturday, we will follow the last four remaining participants in the fight for placement in the finals in Umag: Alcaraz, Altmaier, Ramos-Vinolas and Gasquet.

Written by Oskar Visintin



THE TRIUMPH IN UMAG IS ONE OF MY THREE GREATEST SUCCESSES

The first edition of the Umag ATP tournament was held in the spring of 1990, and the title of winner was Goran Prpić, defeating Goran Ivanišević in the final. Today, more than thirty years later, "Prpa" at the Stella Maris resort remembered those moments:

"Those memories will always be fresh. Especially since it's my only ATP tournament won. It was a great week, I played great tennis and I enjoyed the matches and the new tournament equally. It is also a fact that it's the first one to make it that is remembered. In this case, I am not 'one of the winners,' but the first winner, and that has extra weight. Umag is one of my three biggest successes in my career, so when I say that, it is clear how much winning the title meant to me."

And those three moments are, with the triumph in Umag, winning the Olympic medal in Barcelona in

1992 and placement in the quarter-finals at Roland Garros. In ten days, it will be the 29th anniversary that two Gorans, Prpić and Ivanišević, secured the bronze medal.

"The first moment that stuck in my memory was when we used the match point against Krishnan and Paes and entered the semi-finals, which automatically brought a medal. I thought to myself, 'that's it we've made it.' The second moment was the awarding of medals. We don't have podiums in tennis, we don't climb anywhere, but it's different at the Olympics. And that moment, when you take a step to stand on the podium, is something special."

Croatian tennis so far has three medals from the Olympic Games: two from Barcelona (Goran Ivanišević individually, Goran Ivanišević and Goran Prpić in doubles), and one from Athens (Mario Ančić and Ivan Ljubičić in doubles). What

are the chances of the collection expanding in Tokyo?

"Nothing is necessary, but Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić 'must' win a medal in Tokyo, if I may say so. The way they play, it is clear that gold is expected of them and I am sure that they are not running away

from it either. But that imposes the pressure they will have to deal with, so if they succeed with such a burden, the medal will be even more valuable. They were not left without a chance, Marin Čilić both individually and in a doubles with Dodig above all, but the road is difficult," said Prpić.



ANA RUCNER EXCITED THE AUDIENCE!

Our fantastic cellist performed for the audience in Stella Maris and with her extravagant performance introduced us to the final weekend of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. The world-famous and beautiful Ana Rucner is truly a cello virtuoso, which she showed tonight, leaving the audience breathless.

Tomorrow, Detour will try to do the same, bringing modern electro-acoustic pop sound, a slightly faster and more danceable rhythm spiced with the atmosphere of the French Riviera of the 50s and 60s.



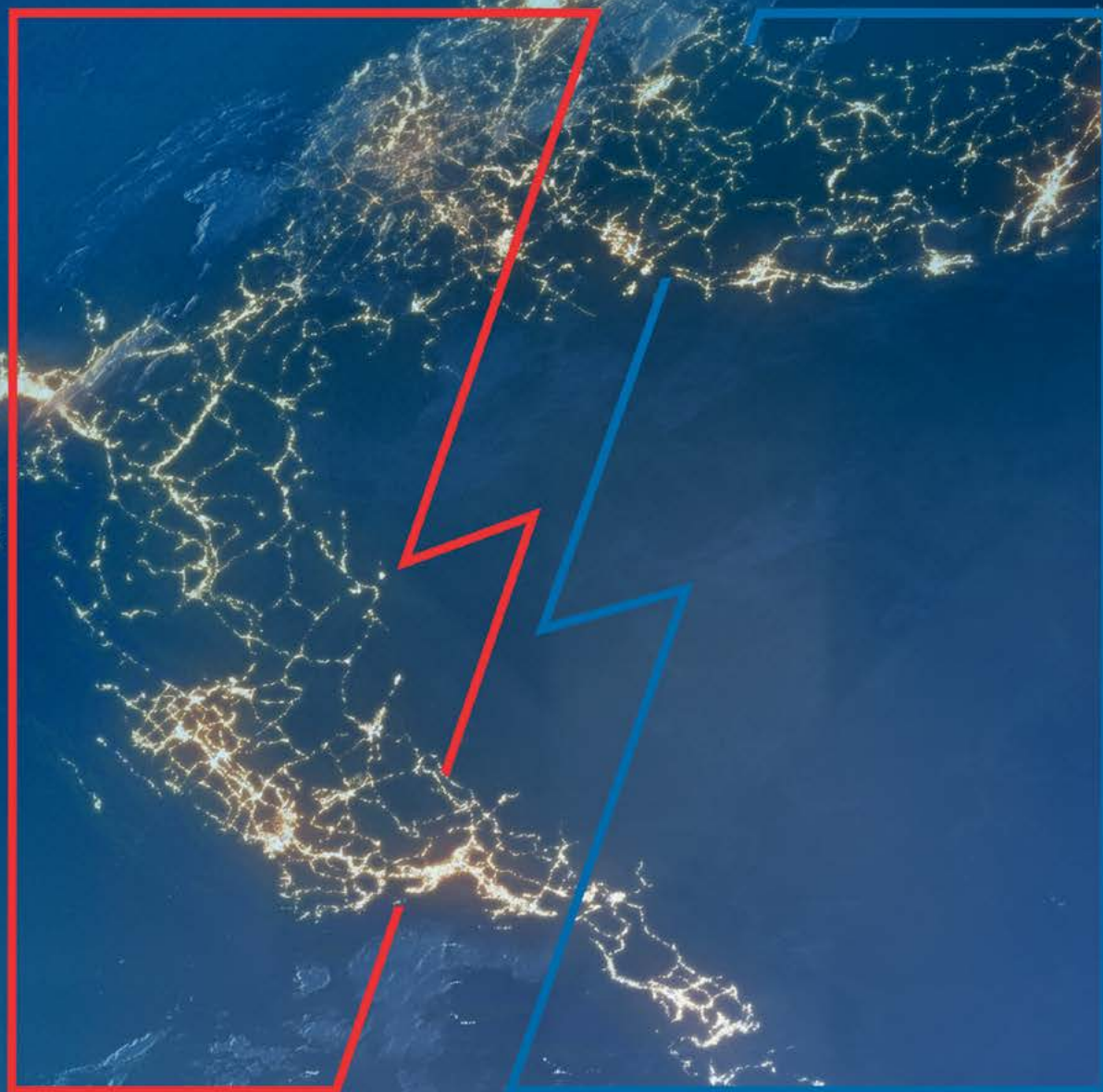
231 ACES ACHIEVED AS PART OF THE AS ZA SPAS CAMPAIGN

The entire Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag has an additional humanitarian element. In cooperation with HEP, funds will be raised for the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Association this year as well. During the tournament as part of the "As za spas" campaign, all aces achieved in tennis matches are added up, and HEP will pay funds for the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Association based on the aces achieved. Until today there were 231 aces achieved in tennis matches. "Sponsorship from HEP is very important to us, without them we would not be able to organize the tournament, so I thank them from the bottom of my heart once again, and of course we are looking forward to great serves this year as well," emphasized Joskić.



Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

HEP Više od
struje



ATP 250

16.-25.7.2021.

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG



NASLOVNI SPONZOR
PLAVA LAGUNA

triglav **HEP** **STELLA ARTOIS** **INA** **Emirates** **Podravka** **Tranck** **ZAGREB** **Emirates** **INA** **Podravka** **Tranck** **ZAGREB** **Emirates** **INA** **Podravka** **Tranck** **ZAGREB**

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ALARM AUTOMATIKA - ATEST KONTROLA BANKO - C.A.M. - DLS RIJEKA - GRADNJA UMAG - INSTITUT ZA SIGURNOST LIGHT ON - SEKUNDAR USLUGE - VALLIS - VODOINSTALACIJE ČATIĆ - METIS KAIROS - DENO STOLARSKI OBRT

PARTNERI

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