

**ATP250**

16.-25.7.2021.

**PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG**

# DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #31ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO6 • 25.07.2021.



# PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

STATUS	NAT	MAIN DRAW SINGLES	
1	ESP	<b>RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert</b>	<b>A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]</b>
2		BYE	
3	ARG	<b>COLLARINI, Andrea</b>	<b>D. AJDUKOVIC</b>
4	WC	<b>CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje</b>	63 62
5	ESP	<b>TABERNER, Carlos</b>	<b>C. TABERNER</b>
6	WC	<b>CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino</b>	62 62
7	ITA	<b>TRAVAGLIA, Stefano</b>	<b>S. TRAVAGLIA</b>
8	6	<b>ESP MUNAR, Jaume</b>	63 76(1)
9	3	<b>SRB KRAJINOVIC, Filip</b>	<b>F. KRAJINOVIC [3]</b>
10		BYE	
11	WC	<b>DEN RUNE, Holger Vitus Nodskov</b>	<b>R. ALBOT</b>
12		<b>MDA ALBOT, Radu</b>	16 63 62
13	LL	<b>ARG OLIVO, Renzo</b>	<b>A. MARTIN</b>
14		<b>SVK MARTIN, Andrej</b>	16 62 76(1)
15	FRA	<b>POUILLE, Lucas</b>	<b>C. ALCARAZ [7]</b>
16	7	<b>ESP ALCARAZ, Carlos</b>	36 62 62
17	5	<b>SLO BEDENE, Aljaz</b>	<b>M. CECCHINATO</b>
18		<b>ITA CECCHINATO, Marco</b>	61 64
19	BIH	<b>DZUMHUR, Damir</b>	<b>D. DZUMHUR</b>
20	Q	<b>SVK HORANSKY, Filip</b>	64 63
21	Q	<b>ITA GIANNESI, Alessandro</b>	<b>A. GIANNESI</b>
22		<b>CZE VESELY, Jiri</b>	76(4) 75
23		BYE	
24	4	<b>FRA GASQUET, Richard</b>	<b>R. GASQUET [4]</b>
25	8	<b>ITA MAGER, Gianluca</b>	<b>G. MAGER [8]</b>
26		<b>ESP MARTINEZ, Pedro</b>	06 63 63
27	Q	<b>GER ALTMAIER, Daniel</b>	<b>D. ALTMAIER</b>
28		<b>FRA MOUTET, Corentin</b>	46 61 75
29	ESP	<b>ZAPATA MIRALLES, Bernabe</b>	<b>B. ZAPATA MIRALLES</b>
30		<b>URU CUEVAS, Pablo</b>	46 62 64
31		BYE	
32	2	<b>SRB LAJOVIC, Dusan</b>	<b>D. LAJOVIC [2]</b>
			75 64

Player	Score
A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]	75 64
A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]	62 61
C. ALCARAZ [7]	62 76(3)
C. ALCARAZ [7]	76(3) 26 61
R. GASQUET [4]	63 76(7)
R. GASQUET [4]	76(4) 64
R. GASQUET [4]	76(2) 36 63
D. ALTMAIER	62 64

## MOST TITLES TO SPAIN

A third of the titles won at the Umag ATP tournament were won by Spanish tennis players, mostly thanks to Carlos Moya, who was the winner on as many as five occasions. Alberto Berasategui, Tommy Robredo, Felix Mantilla, Fernando Verdasco and Juan Carlos Ferrero also contributed.

Of the other countries, Austria (three times Thomas Muster and once Dominic Thiem), Argentina (Guillermo Coria and

Guillermo Canas), Croatia (Goran Prpić and Marin Čilić), Italy (Fabio Fognini and Marco Cecchinato), Ukraine (Dmitrij Poljakov) had the most success. and Alexander Dolgoplov) and Russia (Nikolai Davidenko and Andrei Rublev).

Will Spain increase the gap even more on Sunday? We will find out the answer after the finals!



*„There is something magically attractive in Umag, a gem for tourist in a beautiful corner of our Istria. But to me, a man who has been connected to sports for almost my whole life, for many years the first association with Umag is tennis.*

*If I had to describe the Croatia Open in Umag in a few words, I would immediately say: tradition, spectacle, great tennis, top organization. This is my experience of this great sport event that, to the pride of Istria and the Republic of Croatia, has entered its fourth decade of existence. I would like to emphasize continuity and tradition because they demand respect. The Umag ATP tournament could survive and be held in an elite tennis society only thanks to a clear vision of hardworking and enterprising people who recognized the strength of the synergy of sports and tourism and always strived for the next step in that field. They also yearned to achieve the spectacle, which sport in its essence always brings forth, and the achieved level of the spectacle became independent of how big the tennis stars are who every year play for the prestigious trophy on the courts of Stella Maris. I have no doubt in my mind that great tennis will be played again, and I doubt even less in the new organization of the next edition of the Croatia Open. People of Umag and their friends and partners know no other way than - top notch! ”*

Zlatko Mateša, PhD, President of the Croatian Olympic Committee



# UMAG

Plava Laguna creates unforgettable  
family holidays in Istria, Croatia.

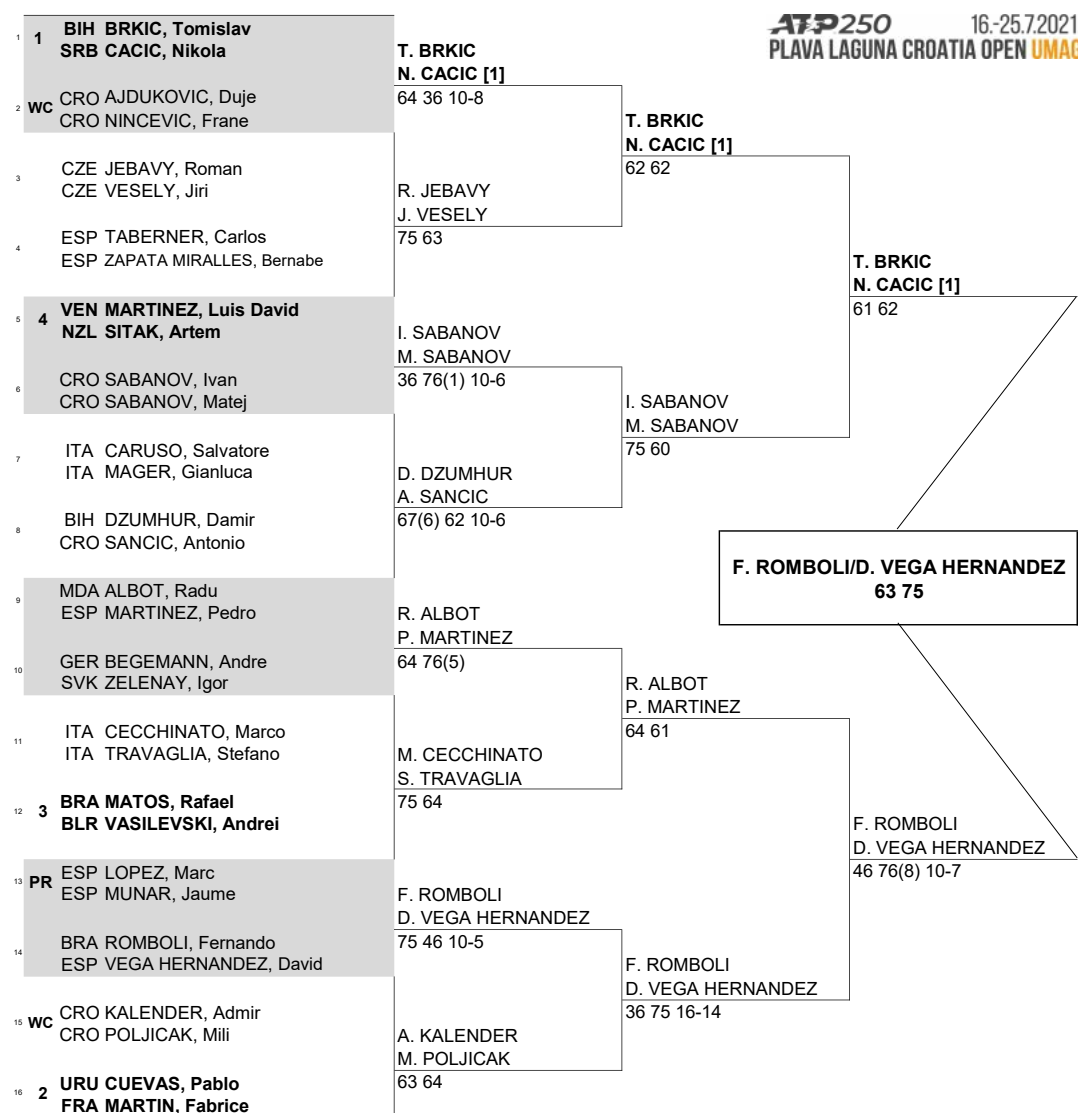
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WHO ARE THE FINALISTS 31. PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPENA UMAG

RICHARD GASQUET (FRA)	CARLOS ALCARAZ (ESP)
<p><b>Date and place of birth:</b> June 18, 2003 Béziers  <b>Residence:</b> Neuchâtel (Switzerland)  <b>Current placement on the ATP list:</b> 59th place  <b>Best placement on the ATP list:</b> 7th place (July 9, 2007)  <b>Number of ATP tournament titles:</b> 15  <b>Number of defeats at ATP tournaments:</b> 16  <b>Umagu ratio:</b> 3:1</p> <p><b>In addition:</b> In the 31-year history of the Umag tournament, Gasquet is the second oldest finalist at the age of 31, after the 35-year-old Italian Paolo Lorenzi 2017. Since the establishment of the ATP, he is the youngest player to win an ATP tournament, after defeating the Argentinian Squillari as a 15-year-old in Monte Carlo in 2002. This is his second appearance in Umag, including elimination at the start of 2013.</p>	<p><b>Date and place of birth:</b> May 5, 2003 El Palmar, Murcia  <b>Residence:</b> El Palmar, Murcia  <b>Current placement on the ATP list:</b> 73rd place  <b>Best placement on the ATP list:</b> 72nd place (June 21, 2021)  <b>Number of ATP tournament titles:</b> -  <b>Number of defeats at ATP tournaments:</b> -  <b>Umagu ratio:</b> 4:0</p> <p><b>In addition:</b> By entering the finals in Umag, Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest finalist in an ATP tournament since the Japanese Nishikori in Delray Beach in 2008. He reached the 3rd round at Roland Garros this year as an 18-year-old qualifier and became the youngest player in that phase at the French Open since Ukrainian Medvedev in 1992. This is his first appearance in Umag and therefore he currently has a perfect 4-0 win-loss ratio</p>





**COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ**

## THIS TOURNAMENT HAS A GREAT HISTORY

I saw the list of the five youngest semifinalists of this tournament, during the 31 years it has been held: Rafael Nadal, Carlos Alcaraz, myself, Alberto Martin and Novak Đoković. Some good names, aren't they? There are different ways for a tournament to highlight its history, and it seems to me that this list is a pretty good indicator of how many top players have gone through here.

For some reason, however, there are those who do not respect this tournament, especially among our people. I wouldn't say that they are belittling, but it's like saying "oh, Umag." But look at the history, look at all the players who played in Umag, and were at the top of the tennis world. This tournament has a great history, but it is constantly being written further in an equally successful way and it also gives a lot of opportunities to our young players to break into the world of professional tennis.

This year will not be an exception, although it has been made even more difficult for us due to the Olympic Games. I remind you once again that Fabio Fognini,

Jannik Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti were supposed to be here. Still, we will have a final where probably the greatest hope of world tennis and a player who was among the top ten will meet. So how can we not be satisfied?

One more thing: seven tennis players performed here, who at some point in their careers were first on the individual ATP list. I was second, but again not good enough to be in that company. Seven "numbers 1's!" Umag is a tournament that has a great story, vibe, atmosphere, quality...

In fact, this is from the beginning a tournament with a great "nose" to smell out the future stars and it is incredible how many young talents were invited to come to Umag. Really, we have nothing to complain about. We will have the finals on Sunday one could only wish for, and the parallel tournaments played in Gstaad and Cabo San Lucas, with all due respect to the players who are there in the finals, are nowhere near that. And when we talk about their finances for bringing in players, it's way more than we had at our disposal.



**TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

## WE ARE GIVEN AN IDEAL FINAL

I think we can say that we were given an ideal final. Our biggest name, a tennis player who knows what it's like to be among the top ten players in the world, will play against an opponent almost twice as young. Richard Gasquet against Carlos Alcaraz is a match we can call perfect and we are really looking forward to that final.

In the first semifinal, Gasquet left everything on the field and was rewarded with a victory for that. It seemed after a few games that he would not be able to withstand the pace at which he was playing, but in a match that lasted more than three hours he found a way to success and emerged victorious. He showed how experienced and good he is when he needs it the most, fighting for the finals in Umag. The question is, of course, in what condition he will go out on the field on Sunday, because this has certainly left a mark, but we hope that he will still be in his best.

We certainly expect the same of Carlos Alcaraz, who played another great match and it is

difficult to find new superlatives that would describe his game. Now the Umag audience has got to know him very well, but he is constantly pushing the boundaries. For a set and a half, it seemed that he would easily do the job against Albert Ramos-Vinolas, that everything would last just over an hour, but he lost serve several times and showed some beginner errors. Still, he was the best in the tie-break, when it was most important.

He qualified for his first final at the ATP tournaments in his career and whatever happens in that final will be recorded as the first time he played in the final in Umag. This is that fantastic story of this year's tournament. I believe that Alcaraz will enter that final match as a favorite, both because of what he has shown so far, and because of the probable fatigue of his opponent. Of course, we will not ignore the master of one-handed backhand who has a huge experience behind him, so we are sure that we will have a treat that we will all enjoy.

# GREAT FINALE ON SUNDAY: GASQUET AGAINST ALCARAZ!



Everything is ready for another great final match in Umag: on Sunday, starting at 8 p.m., the Frenchman Richard Gasquet and the Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz will play for the title at the 31st Plava Laguna Croatia Open. Gasquet (pictured) was the first to win, defeating German qualifier Daniel Altmaier 7:6 (2), 3:6, 6:3, after three hours and 11 minutes, and then Alcaraz joined him in the final, defeating his compatriot and

the first seed of the tournament, Albert Ramos-Vinolas, with the result 6:2, 7:6 (3).

*"Of course I'm tired. It was a tough match in tough conditions, heat and humidity. It is good that I won the first set, he was better in the second, and in the third I made a 'break' early, took a 4:2 lead and served well until the end. Now I have to try to recover as much as possible for the finals," said Gasquet. When asked what it feels like to be in the finals again after three years, after five consecutive defeats in the semifinals, he added: "Good! After Bastad in 2018, I had several injuries and it was not easy for me to come back. But I'm glad I made it, and*

*exactly here. Umag is a very nice tournament where I once played and lost early. I wanted to come back, I did it and it's even better that I have the opportunity to win the title."*

Altmaier is only the 152nd player in the world, but he showed quality once again, similar to when he defeated at the time eighth player in the world, the Italian Berettini, in his debut performance at Roland Garros last year. In the last three seasons, Altmaier is already the fourth qualifier to break through to the semifinals of Umag, after Balazs and Caruso did it, and in 2018 Trungelitti.

Alcaraz added another win to his winning streak, this time against the first seed. Last year he made his debut at the ATP tournaments in Rio de Janeiro, beating Albert Ramos-Vinolas, and now he has defeated the same opponent to advance to the finals in Umag. So far, his best result in ATP tournaments was the Marbella semifinals this spring, and now he has taken it a step further.

*"I am just happy for this result. The first final is a big thing," said Alcaraz, who could have won easier, because he was leading 6:2, 3:1, and at 6:5 he served for the match. In the tie-break, however, he lost only one more point after the initial 0:2.*

# ROMBOLI AND VEGA HERNANDEZ WON COUPLES

Although they played together for the first time in ATP tournaments, Brazilian Fernando Romboli and Spaniard David Vega Hernandez reached the title in Umag, after a 6:3, 7:5 victory over the first seed players, Tomislav Brkić from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Nikola Ćaćić from Serbia. They completed a great week during which they were on the verge of elimination on two occasions, because they saved four match points against the double Kalender, Poljičak, and three match points against the double Albot, Martinez. Looking at their joint performances, this is their biggest success since the ATP Challenger finals in Prague 2018, and for both this was the first final at the ATP tournaments.

Brkić and Ćaćić, the 17th pair in the world according to the results this year, remained one step too short from the second title at the ATP tournaments this season.





# Full of adventures

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

  
*Full of life*



# THE VIP TOURNAMENT HAS STARTED



The VIP tournament, a recreational tennis tournament for VIP guests, sponsors, and friends of the tournament, has started at the Umag Tennis Academy. The first matches were played today, and the semifinals and finals are scheduled for tomorrow.

Among the VIP recreational tennis players were magician Luka Vidović, former water polo player Dubravko Šimenc, CNB governor Boris Vujčić, grandmaster chess player Alojzije Janković, and many others.

*"We have 24 participants, 12 seeds, the tournament is already a tradition. We expect that we will all have a good time, and after all, that is the reason why we organize the tournament. Victors will move on, and everyone will surely be well prepared for the semifinals tomorrow. The participants are mostly business people, friends of Plava Laguna, and friends of the partners of Plava Laguna,"* said Jadran Mimica, the tournament organizer.



# UMAG STARS OPEN IN STELLA MARIS

Umag Stars Open, a recreational tournament organized by former Dinamo legend Silviije Marić, is played as an accompanying tournament on Stella Maris.

Silvio Marić talks about the course of the tournament: *"The tournament is going great, we have a few top names, even some juniors playing in dou-*

*bles. Good recreational tennis is played, in a way this is a mini-championship of Croatia of this type of tennis and one of the strongest in the country. The impressions of the players are fantastic, everything is arranged perfectly and Umag is a great host. It's beautiful and I'm glad we're coming back to life after the pandemic."*

96 singles and 64 doubles tennis players are competing. The tournament brings together professional athletes, former athletes, people from showbiz and Croatian business. The finals will take place on Sunday and will be a great intro into the finals of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.

## OSCAR'S CORNER

The first semi-final match offered us a duel on the central court between the Frenchman Richard Gasquet and the German qualifier Daniel Altmaier. The French tennis player reached the victory with a phenomenal game after a great fight.

In the second semifinal, we followed the Spanish clash between Carlos Alcaraz and Alberto Ramos-Viñolas. My favorite was the first seed, but in the end 18-year-old Alcaraz won, who will have a great career from what we've seen. He plays great and I think he will win the tournament.

*Written by Oskar Visintin*





# DETOUR EXCITED THE DANCE ARENA

The sound of Detour has changed throughout history, from electro and baroque pop, with the influences of funk and jazz. All of these musical influences resonated on Saturday at the Dance Arena in Stella Maris. A great audience was delighted with the Croatian pop band that played until 2 in the morning.

The grand finale on Sunday will also end in a music program with Disco & funk classics.





&



# PARENZANA — HOP ON THE CYCLING TRAIN

A decision to reawaken the potential of the defunct Parenzana rail line from Poreč to Trieste was made, and the initiative began on the 100th anniversary of the short-lived rail line, breathed new life, EU funds and a wonderful cross-border initiative to benefit walkers, hikers and cyclists alike. Various combinations are possible to explore inland Istria, with Buje a popular starting point.



# GREAT FOOD AND BEVERAGE OFFER IN THE ATP ZONE



In addition to the great offer of wine, this year the audience can also enjoy the offer of other beverages that deserve to be on the top of the list of the “summer refreshing drinks” offer.

The Aura distillery has been producing naturally flavored brandies since 2007 on the basis of wild herbs and wild fruits. Their most famous products are the multi-award winning Karbun gin and Teranino. Gin Carbus is based on wheat distillate and 21 spices such as anise, basil, thyme, lavender, citrus fruits and other. It is packed in a terracotta bottle and the label is written in charcoal. Mateo Žiković told us that the

sailors put gunpowder in barrels of gin, set the gunpowder on fire and if everything was burnt up it was an indicator that the gin was good. “We no longer examine the quality of gin this way, but it is certainly top quality. We were the first in Croatia to produce Teranino, which you all heard about and everyone wants to try. We are an unavoidable point for all visitors to the Umag tournament because we have a very active stand. We brought a SUV with a trailer and equipment for distillation, boilers, barrels and a mega-advertising deck chair that becomes a real photo point. For this edition of the tournament, we tried one experiment, we mixed gin and tonic, and Teranino, and got Ginino, which became a hit in the zone,” said Mateo Žiković from Aura Distillery.

*“Our visit to the PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN is already becoming a tradition. We saw*

*an opportunity to present our modern and specific offer that perfectly matches the event of this significance, right here at this top event. Considering the conditions, we are satisfied with the number of visitors, and we offer them pulled pork, burgers, skewers, sweet potatoes, and more. We noticed that the ATP audience especially appreciates pulled pork,”* said Luka Bilanović about Rougemarin's offer.

Gin tonic is an unavoidable hit of the season this year as well. The audience of the Umag tournament prefers gin-tonic with our gin because it is refreshing, youthful, exciting, and fitting to a summer, just like this event,” says Ivana Todorovski, representative of Beefeater gin.

*“I regularly open my stand at the ATP tournament in Umag since 2007. I think that this is the event of the year not only for Umag but*

*also much wider and I want to be present. Summer and barbecue for our visitors combined with tennis and good fun are a top experience for everyone,”* says Fredi Grozdanić, owner of Fastfood Fredi.

The appealing van we brought attracts the attention of visitors, most of whom know our brand. Jameson is the highest quality Irish whiskey, with a pleasant taste, moderate texture, does not scratch the throat when consumed and it is a great sin to mix it with any other drink. We notice somewhat more experienced gentlemen visit our stand, those familiar with our beverage, and we noticed quite a few on this event,” said Josip Ašić from Jameson Whiskey.



# HOMAGE TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT OF CROATIAN TENNIS, FRANJO DANKIĆ

Before the start of the semifinal matches of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, an emotional homage was held for Franjo Dankić, the guardian spirit of Croatian tennis and the Umag tournament, who passed away in December 2019. Franjo and his work were commemorated by members of his family, friends and acquaintances, as well as

numerous dignitaries of Croatian tennis.

Slavko Rasberger, the first director of the Umag tournament, Tomislav Poljak, the current director, and Franc Regina, vice-president of the Croatian Tennis Association, as well as Goran Ivanišević, the legendary Croatian tennis player, shared their memories of Franjo.

Franjo Dankić was the exclusive representative of Babolat for Croatia and BiH, and Babolat recognized his contribution by naming the award for the best distributor in the world after Franjo. Franjo was a member of the Board of Directors and the Assembly of the Croatian Tennis Association and a sponsor of the Umag tournament,

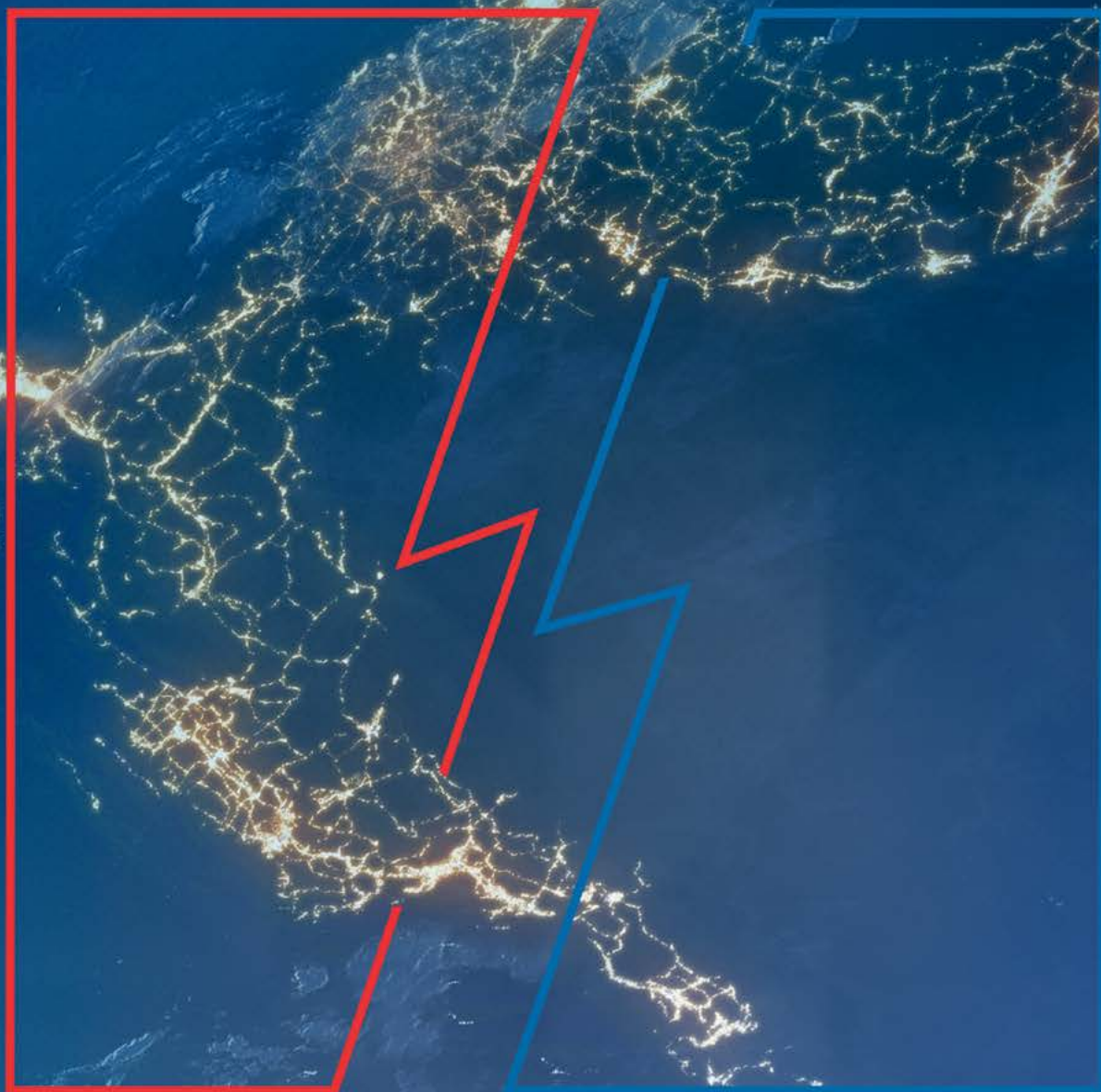
where he organized Kids' Week for children. More than anything, Franjo was a good man who was happy to help and a true friend of Croatian tennis who will remember him for a long time, just like Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag





# Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

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# ATP 250

# 16.-25.7.2021.

# PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG



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