



PLAVA LAGUNA OPEN **UMAG**
CROATIA 24.-30.7.2023.

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #33ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO4 • 26.07.2023.

STAN WAWRINKA'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN!



MAIN DRAW SINGLES



STATUS	NAT			
1	CZE	LEHECKA, Jiri	J. LEHECKA [1]	
2		BYE		
3	AUT	THIEM, Dominic	D. THIEM	
4	Q	ARG BAGNIS, Facundo	64 75	
5	CRO	CILIC, Marin	F. COBOLLI	
6	Q	ITA COBOLLI, Flavio	64 63	
7	Q	NED DE JONG, Jesper	M. ARNALDI [7]	
8	7	ITA ARNALDI, Matteo	63 62	63 76(5)
9	3	AUT OFNER, Sebastian	S. OFNER [3]	
10		BYE		
11	AUS	POPYRIN, Alexei	A. POPYRIN	
12		FRA BONZI, Benjamin	64 75	64 61
13	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	D. PRIZMIC	
14	WC	CRO PRIZMIC, Dino	61 62	
15	HUN	PIROS, Zsombor	Z. PIROS	
16	5	AUS O'CONNELL, Christopher	63 64	62 63
17	6	SUI WAWRINKA, Stan	S. WAWRINKA [6]	
18	Q	AUT MISOLIC, Filip	63 62	
19	SUI	HUESLER, Marc-Andrea	F. CORIA	
20		ARG CORIA, Federico	64 62	
21	JPN	DANIEL, Taro	T. DANIEL	
22	WC	ESP LANDALUCE, Martin	16 75 62	
23		BYE		
24	4	ESP CARBALLE BAENA, Roberto	R. CARBALLE BAENA [4]	
25	8	ESP RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert	J. MUNAR	
26		ESP MUNAR, Jaume	63 36 63	
27	HUN	MAROZSAN, Fabian	F. MAROZSAN	
28		ARG CERUNDOLO, Juan Manuel	63 62	
29	ITA	CECCHINATO, Marco	M. CECCHINATO	
30		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander	46 76(0) 63	
31		BYE		
32	2	ITA SONEGO, Lorenzo	L. SONEGO [2]	

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	GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADION	GRANDSTAND	COURT 1
	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm
1	Jiri LEHEČKA (CZE) vs. Dominic THIEM (AUT)	Taro DANIEL (JPN) vs. Roberto CARBALLE BAENA (ESP)	Nicolas BARRIENTOS (COL) Guillermo DURAN (ARG) vs. Sadio DOUMBIA (FRA) Fabien REBOUL (FRA)
	Not Before 6:00 pm	followed by:	followed by:
2	Stan WAWRINKA (SUI) vs Federico CORIA (ARG)	Blaž ROLA (SLO) Nino SERDARUŠIĆ (CRO) vs. Marco BORTOLOTTI (ITA) Sem VERBEEK (NED)	Francisco CABRAL (POR) Rafael MATOS (BRA) vs. Sander ARENDS (NED) David PEL (NED)
	Not Before 9:00 pm	Not Before 6:30 pm	followed by:
3	Marco CECCHINATO (ITA) vs. Lorenzo SONEGO (ITA)	Jaume MUNAR (ESP) vs. Fabian MAROZSAN (HUN)	Simone BOLELLI (ITA) Andrea VAVASSORI (ITA) vs. Roman JEBAVY (CZE) Jiri LEHEČKA (CZE)
		followed by:	
4		Blaž ROLA (SLO) Nino SERDARUŠIĆ (CRO) ili Marco BORTOLOTTI (ITA) Sem VERBEEK (NED) vs. Gonzalo ESCOBAR (ECU) Aleksandr NEDOVJESOV (KAZ)	

STATUS	NAT.	MAIN DRAW DOUBLES	
1	ITA	BOLELLI, Simone VAVASSORI, Andrea	S. BOLELLI A. VAVASSORI [1] 64 61
2	KAZ	GOLUBEV, Andrey UKR MOLCHANOV, Denys	
3	MON	ARNEODO, Romain AUT WEISSBORN, Sam	R. JEBAVY J. LEHECKA 64 76(4)
4	CZE	JEBAVY, Roman CZE LEHECKA, Jiri	
3	POR	CABRAL, Francisco BRA MATOS, Rafael	F. CABRAL R. MATOS [3] 62 76(5)
6	FRA	OLIVETTI, Albano ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David	
7	NED	ARENDS, Sander NED PEL, David	S. ARENDS D. PEL 36 63 10-5
8	BRA	DEMOLINER, Marcelo AUT OSWALD, Philipp	
9	WC	SLO ROLA, Blaz CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino	
10	ITA	BORTOLOTTI, Marco NED VERBEEK, Sem	
11	ECU	ESCOBAR, Gonzalo KAZ NEDOVYESOV, Aleksandr	G. ESCOBAR A. NEDOVYESOV 63 46 10-3
4	URU	BEHAR, Ariel CZE PAVLASEK, Adam	
13	WC	CRO BABIC, Zvonimir CRO MIKRUT, Luka	N. BARRIENTOS G. DURAN 62 61
14	COL	BARRIENTOS, Nicolas ARG DURAN, Guillermo	
15	IND	BALAJI, N.Sriram IND NEDUNCHEZHIAN, Jeevan	S. DOUMBIA F. REBOUL [2] 60 63
2	FRA	DOUMBIA, Sadio FRA REBOUL, Fabien	

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UMAG 22.7. **JELENA ROZGA** 23.7. **MAMBO KINGS** 24.7. **LET 3**

25.7. **CRVENA JABUKA** 26.7. **VIDA LOCA** 27.7. **FEDDE LE GRAND**

28.7. **NERVO** 29.7. **LUDOVICA PAGANI** **RESIDENT DJ ANTONIO PREN**

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG** **ATP 250** OFFICIAL EVENT

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EXCELLENT PRIŽMIĆ TAKES ANOTHER VICTORY

Dino Prižmić, a few days shy of his 18th birthday, will be playing in the quarter-finals of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ATP tournament on Friday! He won 6:2, 6:3 against Hungary's Zsombor Piros, the second victory at an ATP tournament in his career, after his first one taking place this past Monday against Duje Ajduković. "This is a very big deal. I had to play well, and I did it. I tried to score as many short points, my plan was to be as offensive as possible. I'm happy with how I played," said Prižmić.

Dino dominated against the 124th best player in the world from the very start. He took a 3:0 lead, and after saving a break point at 3:1, he gave no further chances to his opponent. In the second set, he won a game at his opponents serve, taking a 3:1 lead, and then safely brought the match to an end. With the points he's won thus far, he will climb from the 287th spot in ATP rankings to somewhere around the 250th spot.

After this victory, this year's junior Roland Garros champion is to face Australian Alexei Popyrin, 90th in the ATP rankings, who won a commanding victory (6:4, 6:1) against third-seeded Austrian, Ofner. It's interesting to note that Popyrin is also a Junior Roland Garros champion, from 2017. "I watched Prižmić in Banja Luka this year, when he played against Richard Gasquet. This will be a difficult match," said Popyrin, who has already taken three victories this year against players who were at the time among the ten best ranked in the world. He won against Canadian Auger-Aliassime twice, and

against American Taylor Fritz once. Winner of the 2018 Umag tournament, Italian Marco Cecchinato, played another successful match, but only after turning it around against Alexander Shevchenko, who had won a set and had a break advantage (6:4, 4:3 with a serve). In the tie-break, Cecchinato didn't lose a single point and in the end, he won 4:6, 7:6 (0), 6:3. On Thursday, he faces his fellow Italian Lorenzo Sonego who, as the second-seeded player, joins the tournament in the second round.

Another Italian, Matteo Arnaldi, was also successful on Wednesday, winning against another Italian player, Flavio Cobolli (6:4, 6:3). He now faces the winner of the match between Lehečka and Thiem, which was interrupted due to rain while the players were warming up, before a single point was played. The match continues at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.





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WAWRINKA: IT FELT SO SPECIAL AND I LOVED IT

Almost two decades have passed since Stan Wawrinka won his first title at an ATP tournament. It was 2006, here in Umag, when Novak Đoković had to forfeit the final match in the tie break of the first set due to breathing issues. On Wednesday, Wawrinka was back at Stella Maris, and he was once again successful. This time, he defeated Austria's Filip Misolic 6:3, 6:2.

"I'm very happy with how I played my first match. The conditions were great, and I'm glad to be back at this tournament after so many years. This is why I knew it would be a special kind of feeling today, and I enjoyed every minute at the court", said Wawrinka.

The Swiss player has won a total of 16 big titles, 3 of them at Grand Slam tournaments. He's won Australian Open, Roland Garros and US Open. He won his most recent title in 2017, and then the injuries started. He had to have four operations, which slowed him down on the road to new success. "When I played in Umag for the first time, I was very young and this was all so new to me. Many years have passed since, but I'm trying to enjoy everything just like I did then. I'm glad that there were so many spectators at the match, cheering us on. It's one of the reasons I play – the audience gives us energy and provides an amazing atmosphere."

At one point in his career, Wawrinka was the 3rd best player in the world, and he arrived to this year's tournament in Umag holding the 70th place in the ATP rankings. However, he's already had some very good results and high-profile victories this year, like the one in Indian Wells, where he defeated Holger Rune, who was the 8th best player in the world at the time. Recently, he made it to the third round in Wimbledon before losing to Novak Đoković.

"I think I've been playing well in the last few months. I've had some good victories, I'm feeling good physically, and I'm playing well. I need a few more victories to get my confidence up, but I'm training for it and I hope I continue playing like this. Last week's doubles title in Gstaad was also very welcome," said Wawrinka. When asked if he could pull another 2006 and win the title again, he added: "When I'm playing well, I can still go toe to toe with the best of them, but the road there is long. Every tournament is special, the matches are difficult, and all of the opponents are serious." His next opponent, this Thursday, will be Argentinian Federico Coria, currently holding the 108th spot in the ATP rankings.

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ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP: UMAG IS THE FIRST CHANCE TO COLLECT POINTS FOR QUALIFYING FOR THE PARIS PARALYMPICS

The stars of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag will once again be joined by some of the world's greatest wheelchair players. The fourth edition of the ITF Croatia Open Umag by HEP will take place from Friday, 28 July, to Sunday, 30 July, on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy and Stella Maris.

"This will be another high-quality and interesting tournament as we host some amazing players, namely 16 participants from six countries, including several players who hold high spots in the ITF rankings", said Anto Joskić, Croatia's best ranked wheelchair player (68th), a participant in and organiser of the Umag tournament.



The player with the highest ranking at the tournament will be Austrian Josef Riegler, winner of the 2021 tournament, currently the 41st player in the world.

Croatia will have six representatives, the most yet at the Umag tournament, as Joskić will be joined by Sven Maretić, Ante Kolundžija, Dražen Mikšić, Antonio Arambašić and Željko Kladarić.

"Our tournament will have even more importance this year, as it begins the qualifying cycle for the Paris Paralympics next year, so Umag is the place to be if you want to win your first points towards that goal. Although this qualifying period will last only a year (until 16 July 2024), and there are many scheduled tournaments until then, I'm sure everyone wants to kick it off well. The winner of our tournament gets 55 points for the Paralympics, for which a total of 48 players will qualify," added Joskić, another player with a goal of placing in the Paralympics, as Croatia has never had a representative in wheelchair tennis there.

One of the legends of wheelchair tennis will also participate at the ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag by HEP.

Martin Legner, 61-year-old player from Austria, has played in all of the Games since Barcelona 1992, so his CV includes 8 Olympic Games. Legner has also won 2 Grand Slam tournaments in singles, and 8 in doubles. Should he win the tournament in either of the two categories (singles or doubles) in Umag, it will be his 350th title at an ITF tournament.

This would be another reason for the legendary Austrian to remember Umag fondly, like many before him did. "Umag quickly became popular, everyone knows about our tournament, how good the conditions are here, and that's why everyone likes to play here. What makes us special is that the tournament is held at the same time as the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, using the same infrastructure. There aren't many tournaments like that in the world, maybe just one or two. We are very grateful to our sponsor HEP and the organisers of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag on their cooperation and assistance, and we are extremely happy and honoured to be a part of this tennis story where we can present our sport at a big stage, granting us more visibility and a chance to grow our sport further," concludes Anto Joskić.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

WE'D LIKE TO THANK HRT AND THE MEDIA FOR MAKING UMAG VISIBLE ON ALL CONTINENTS



As any other large sporting event, Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag wouldn't exist without those who send images from the tournament all over the world. That's why we need to and are very glad to express our gratitude to all of our partners in this project, who ensure our amazing visibility. Croatian Radiotelevision (HTV) has been continuously producing the Umag matches for 33 years now, we are visible in 140 countries worldwide, and everything that the hard-working HTV team films in Umag can be seen on all continents.

We are glad and satisfied that a large number of highly relevant world media follows us. In the recent years, Umag has been host to Gazzeta dello Sport, Sky, Washington Post, New York Times, L'Equipe, Tennis Chanell, and many more. These are all important and renowned establishments and publications. We are happy and honoured that they decided to give some media space to our tournament.

Of course, there are other types of media presence at the tournament. Earlier on, the only ways to present a tournament were the TV, radio and press, but now the possibilities are endless. We are trying to keep up with the trends as much as possible, because it's the only way to stay relevant.

This is particularly true when it comes to younger generations, whose habits are completely different. What would have been revolutionary 10 or 15 years ago has been overshadowed by certain platforms nowadays. This is why we've focused a lot on social media, where we have excellent visibility and interaction. There are many followers, many interested users on these platforms, which is very important, starting from the tournament promotion and announcement of what's to come and what's being prepared, all the way to the week when the tournament actually takes place.

We are investing a lot into this aspect, and will probably be investing even more, and I am grateful to the entire team tasked with it, as they are an important cog in the overall tournament machine.

While I'm mentioning all of the platforms, I can't leave this one out, as it publishes my column. Daily News proved to be a slam dunk years ago, and once it went digital, it became available at any place and any time. It is an important source of information to many readers, not only when it comes to tennis, but also for everything related to the tournament which is, of course, very important to us.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

I WASN'T SURPRISED BY DINO, HE HAS SHOWN HOW GOOD HE IS



Another great victory for Dino Prižmić. I wasn't surprised, but we can't say that it was a sure thing. Zsombor Piros was the favourite because he is ranked higher, but that was about it. Once you hit the court, rankings fly out of the picture and some other rules apply.

We had another chance to see how good Dino is, and that all of the progress he made wasn't a fluke. Last year, when he also got here with an invitation to the main tournament, he was sidelined by an injury, but now we get to see him in all his glory. He has made tremendous progress over the past 12 months. I didn't expect him to be this impressive, but he played very well and showed everyone what he's capable of. I'm glad this happened, he's been saying it for a long time now, and I'm happy that he displays such an attitude.

Placing in the quarter-finals is a great achievement. This is a real, big tournament, and placing in the quarter-finals at an ATP tournament is not a random thing. Next, he faces Australian Popyrin, who's had some good results this year,

and has beaten some amazing players, making him a very, very good player. But still, I believe

Prižmić can handle him. Of course, if he plays to the best of his abilities. It wouldn't be the first time something like that happens.

I always enjoy watching Stan Wawrinka, and this time was no exception. He played very convincingly, but truth be told, it was like Misolic wasn't even at the court. He would show up now and then, show some resistance, but it wasn't nearly enough. He might have had too much respect for his opponent and once things took a turn for the worse there was no recovering. At that point, it's too late. When you're playing against someone like Wawrinka, you can't allow yourself to fall that much behind and then hope Santa Claus shows up and brings back all you've lost. There's always something to learn from a painful experience, so Misolic is sure to remember this and know how to react better next time. I have to mention Matteo Arnaldi again, who is my dark horse for this tournament. I have already said he was a player no one talks about, but who can go very far. His play is improving day in, day out, and he made it to the quarter-finals, I'm looking forward to watching him on Friday.



ANOTHER WONDERFUL DAY AT THE KIDS' WEEK

The young players participating in the Kids' Week were thrilled to meet Taro Daniel yesterday. About fifty boys and girls welcomed him to the court, ready to present their tennis skills and show him what they can do. Of course, the player took some photos with his young fans, while Babolat and Podravka gave the fans gifts and sweet treats. Podravka's mascot Lino was also there, having fun with his colleague, Plava Laguna's mascot Pepi.

Kids Week events take place every work day during the 33rd Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, and it is open to all children interested in tennis.

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG | ATP 250 OFFICIAL EVENT

UMAG 21.-30.7.2023.

Logos at the bottom include: HEP, Stella Artois, umag, triglav, PLAVA LAGUNA, Emirates, Jana, SPOROVNA, Franck, T, CROATIA Full of life, Croatia Open Umag, Istra, and ZAGREB.

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IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE FOOD: WITH OUR AMAZING MUSIC PROGRAMME, FUN IN THE TASTE ISTRIA ZONE LASTS UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING

It's clear to see how much thought was put into choosing the impressive line-up of DJs and bands who will make sure you dance the night away.

The romantic atmosphere in the Taste Istria zone was rounded up by the sets of vinyl-loving DJs who play music exclusively from their own records.

These past few days we've had the chance to enjoy the beats of the Gram Zvuka DJ collective, DJ Dazz, Alma Creep band, DJ Neeksha, DJ Šugar ft. Saxophone, and tomorrow we'll listen to The Mystic Rose Ensemble and the Tom Benzon trio.

The weekend is reserved for phonophiles and fans of retro sounds...





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AGED REFOSCO – THE STAR OF LAST NIGHT’S TASTING AT THE HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE



The third night at the Hidden charm of Istrian wine was dedicated to aged refosco.

Neighbouring countries have been feuding over refosco for years, and last night, in the wonderful atmosphere as moderated by Lucija Matijević, a sommelier from the Croatian Sommelier Club, the battle was fought between the Degrassi winery with their 2015 refosco, Brič winery with their 2018 Vinagra refosco, and the Prelac winery who showcased their

2020 refosco.

Visitors are showing more and more interest with each passing day, and just like in the previous day, they chose sample B as the winner, opening its door to the Grand Finale to be held on Saturday.

The fourth blind tasting is tonight, and it will be dedicated to red coupage, and visitors will get the chance to taste wines from the Zigante, Cattunar and Laguna wineries.



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